

Ballad of Anthony Porter

50 hours before his scheduled execution in 1998, Anthony Porter was granted to stay by the Illinois Supreme Court. The stay was granted not because he might be innocent, but because he was a bad test taker! He tested low on an IQ test, and the court had to be sure that he understood what was going to happen and why. But the stay had unanticipated consequences. Enter Northwestern University's Innocence Project: a professor, a private Investigator and a group of journalism students provide a videotaped confession from Alstory Simon. Later, Simon said he was coerced to confess. The case against Simon collapsed when his estranged wife confessed on her death bed that she had lied about seeing him pull the trigger. Ultimately, both Black men on death row were exonerated. More info at Wikipedia.

Lyrics by Abe Cáceres

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). It consists of several staves of music with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: "1. An-thon-y Port-er on death row, lived a hell that we'll nev-er know. 2. Ju-ry did-n't buy his a-li-bi, he was sen-tenced to die. 3. A pro-bo-no-re-view, found that Port-er had a low I-Q. C: Keep Your Eyes on the Prize, hold on! Sev-en-teen years in cap-ti-vi-ty based on a false tes-ti-mo-ny. He was poor, he was Black, did-n't have the mo-ney to fight back. Got an ex-e-cu-tion stay just be-fore his fi-nal day. C: Keep Your Eyes on the Prize hold on. 1st verse to Refrain 2nd verse to 3rd verse 3rd verse to Refrain Refrain Hold on! Hold on! 21 Keep Your Eyes on the Prize, hold on!"

4. Northwestern U began to shout, another story began to come out.
Alstory Simon, serving time, was coerced to confess to the crime.

5. Man is not God, God is not man, neither is the government "The Great I Am."
Brothers and Sisters the struggle at hand: ban state murder throughout all the land! Refrain