

Notes on *Hollering Sun*

Alice Parker

These five choruses are settings of poems by Nancy Wood, published in a picture book of the same title that honors the Taos Indians in their pueblos in New Mexico. Ms. Wood's Note reads: "The thoughts presented in this book are those of the Taos Indians. They were passed on over a period of ten years to the author, who wrote them down as poems, aphorisms and sayings. From her long friendship with these people has come a unique opportunity to capture the Indian way of looking at life. Except for the legends, the philosophy is universal."

The music was commissioned by the Heidelberg (OH) College Choir, and first performed by them in 1993, conducted by the composer. The suite of poems was chosen to represent different moods and ceremonies. The music is not based on any native themes; rather it tries to give a context in which the words can sing with their full resonance. The choir that understands the words will perform the music well.

- I. Oh my gentle village fierce/Oh my powerful people weak . . . We must pray to the whispering moon/Pray to the tiptoeing stars/And to the hollering sun.
- II. Earth woman with hands/That shape the bread of time . . . Your children are the crops of all good seasons . . . Growing strong/In the house of earth woman /Who weaves the thread of life.
- III. It is our quiet time./We do not speak because the voices are within us. . . We rest with all of nature./We wake when the seven sisters wake. . .
- IV. My brother the star, my mother the earth, my father the sun, my sister the moon, to my life give beauty . . . to my spirit give truth, to my elders give wisdom.
- V. We shall live together./We shall walk with you./We shall find in each new day what hides inside of you./We shall wait together./We shall see the day when we go hand in hand/To the fire in the mountain./To the water in the sand.

Hollering Sun

LG52731 Prayer

LG52737 Earth Woman

LG52738 Quiet

LG52739 Sky Family

LG52740 Together

Hollering Sun

I Prayer

Nancy Wood

For Four-Part Chorus of Mixed Voices
a cappella

Alice Parker

Declamatory $\text{♩} = 76$

Soprano *f* *p*
O,
Alto *mp* *mf*
My gen-tle vil-lage fierce!
Tenor *f*
Bass

Declamatory $\text{♩} = 76$

f *mp* *mf*
Bass

f *p*
O,
mp
My fer-tile fields so

mp
my pow-er-ful peo-ple weak!
my pow-er-ful peo-ple weak!

f *mp*

LG52731

8

Slower *mp*

We must pray for

p *mp*

dry! We must pray for

f *p* *mp*

O, We must pray for strength.—

mp *mf* *mp*

My peace-ful house dis-turbed! We must pray for strength.—

f *mp* *mp*

Slower

12

A tempo (lyrically)

mf *mf*

strength.— We must pray to come to- geth - er. Pray — to the weep - ing

mf *p*

strength.— Pray —

(lyrically) *mp* *mf*

We must pray — to come to- geth - er: — Pray to the weep - ing

mp *mf* *p*

We must pray, — Pray —

A tempo (lyrically)

mf *mf*

mp

16 *mf* earth, Pray to the trem - bling - wa - ters,
mf to the weep - ing earth, Pray to the trem - bling - wa - ters, -
 earth, Pray to the
 to the weep - ing earth, Pray to the

19 *mp* And to the wan - der - ing rain. We must pray
mp And to the wan - der - ing rain. We must pray
 trem - bling wa - ters, And to the wan - der - ing rain. We must pray
 trem - bling wa - ters, And to the wan - der - ing rain.

22

to the whis-per-ing moon, Pray to the tip-toe-ing stars,

to the whis-per-ing moon, Pray to the tip-toe-ing stars,

to the whis-per-ing moon, Pray to the tip-toe-ing stars,

Pray to the moon, Pray

mp (*gently*) *poco stacc.*

mp *poco stacc.*

mp *poco stacc.*

mp (*firmly*) *mp*

26

Slower

And to the hol-ler-ing sun.

And to the hol-ler-ing sun.

the hol-ler-ing sun.

to the sun, the hol-ler-ing sun.

Slower

f *cresc.* *f*

29 *f* *mf* *mp* *mp*

O, O, O, my gen-tle vil-lage fierce,

O, O, my gen-tle vil-lage fierce,

O, O, my gen-tle vil-lage fierce,

f *mf* *mp*

f *mf* *mp*

f *mf* *mp*

33 *p* *p* *p* *p*

We must come to- geth- er.

O, to- geth- er.

mp *p* *p* *p*

my pow-er- ful peo- ple weak: We must come to- geth- er.

mp *p* *p* *p*

my pow-er- ful peo- ple weak: We must come to- geth- er.

p *p* *p* *p*

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