

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

IV Sky Family

Nancy Wood

For Four-Part Chorus of Mixed Voices
a cappella

Alice Parker

Dramatically $\text{♩} = 88$

Soprano *p* My moth-er, — my moth-er —

Alto *p* My moth-er, — my moth-er —

Tenor *mp* My broth-er, my broth-er — the star, *sfz*

Bass *mp* My broth-er, my broth-er — the star *sfz*

Piano (for rehearsal only) *mp* *sfz* *p*

5 *sfz* — the earth, *p* My sis-ter, —

sfz the earth, *p* My

mp My fa-ther, — my fa-ther — the sun, *sfz*

mp My fa-ther, — my fa-ther sun, *sfz* *p*

sfz *mp* *sfz* *p*

The musical score is written for a four-part chorus and piano accompaniment. It is in 4/4 time with a tempo of 88 beats per minute. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The score is divided into two systems. The first system covers measures 1-4, and the second system covers measures 5-8. The vocal parts (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) have lyrics written below their staves. The piano part is marked '(for rehearsal only)'. Performance markings include dynamics such as *p* (piano), *mp* (mezzo-piano), and *sfz* (sforzando), along with accents and slurs. A large red watermark 'Preview Only' is overlaid diagonally across the score.

9

my sis-ter the moon: To my life give beau -
sis-ter, my sis-ter the moon: To my life give beau -
To my life give beau -
To my life give beau -

13

ty; Moth-er, my
ty; Sis-ter, to my bod-y give strength,
ty; Broth-er, to my bod-y give strength,
ty; Fa-ther,

17

cresc. *mf* *mf*

moth-er, _____ to my corn give good-ness; Moth-er, _____

mp *cresc.* *mf* *mf*

My sis-ter, _____ to my corn give good-ness; Broth-er, _____

mp *mf*

My fa-ther, _____ Sis-ter, _____

mp *mf*

My broth-er, _____ Fa-ther, _____

mp *cresc.* *mf*

21

sub. p *mp*

_____ to my house give peace; fa-ther, _____

sub. p *mp*

_____ to my house give peace; My sis-ter, _____

sub. p *mp*

_____ to my house give peace; My broth-er, _____

mp

_____ My moth-er, _____

sub. p *mp*

25

poco rit. *mf a tempo* *cresc.* *div.* *f*

To my eld - ers give wis - dom.

poco rit. *f* *mf a tempo* *cresc.* *f*

— to my spir - it give truth; To my eld - ers give wis - dom.

poco rit. *f* *mf a tempo* *cresc.* *div.* *f*

— to my spir - it give truth; To my eld - ers give wis - dom.

poco rit. *f* *mf a tempo* *cresc.* *f*

— to my spir - it give truth; To my eld - ers give wis - dom.

29

p *poco rit.*

To my life give beau - ty. —

p *poco rit.*

To my life give beau - ty. —

Fa - ther sun. —

pp *poco rit.*

p

Moth - er earth. —

Broth - er star. —

div. *p*

pp *poco rit.*

p

Sis - ter moon. —

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