

# Voices of Earth

Ruth Watson Henderson  
Chamber Choir ~ *Choir 1*  
Large Choir ~ *Choir 2*  
Children's Choir  
Two Pianos  
Percussion [ optional ]  
*Duration: ca. 25 minutes*

*The text is taken from "Canticle of the Sun" by St. Francis of Assisi, translated by Matthew Arnold, and from poetry by Archibald Lampman*

|          |         |                                                                                                    |                                                        |
|----------|---------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| Prologue | page 7  | Canticle of the Sun : verse 1                                                                      | <i>3 Choirs</i>                                        |
| I        | page 5  | Canticle of the Sun : verse 2<br>" <i>The Sun Cup</i> " verses 1 & 2<br>by Archibald Lampman       | <i>Choirs 1 &amp; 2</i><br><br><i>Choirs 1 &amp; 2</i> |
| II       | page 15 | Canticle of the Sun : verse 3<br>" <i>The Moon - Path</i> " verses 1, 2, 5<br>by Archibald Lampman | <i>3 Choirs</i><br><br><i>Choirs 1 &amp; 2</i>         |
| III      | page 38 | Canticle of the Sun : verse 4<br>" <i>The Wind's Word</i> "<br>by Archibald Lampman                | <i>Choirs 1 &amp; 2</i><br><br><i>Choir 1</i>          |
| IV       | page 52 | Canticle of the Sun : verse 5<br>" <i>Winter - Store</i> "<br>by Archibald Lampman                 | <i>3 Choirs</i><br><br><i>Children's Choir</i>         |
| V        | page 70 | Canticle of the Sun : verse 7<br>" <i>May</i> "<br>by Archibald Lampman                            | <i>Choirs 1 &amp; 2</i><br><br><i>Choirs 1 &amp; 2</i> |
| Epilogue | page 86 | " <i>Voices of Earth</i> "<br>by Archibald Lampman                                                 | <i>Choirs 1 &amp; 2</i>                                |

*Dedicated to Lydia Adams and the Amadeus Choir of Scarborough who commissioned the work with the assistance of the Ontario Arts Council for performance on April 14th, 1991 with the Elmer Iseler Singers and The Bach Children's Chorus of Scarborough.*

# Voices of Earth

## Prologue

### Canticle of the Sun : verse 1

*O most high, almighty, good Lord God, to Thee belong praise, glory, honour, and all blessing!*

## I

### Canticle of the Sun : verse 2

*Praised be my Lord God with all His creatures; and specially our brother the sun, who brings us the day, and who brings us the light; fair is he, and shining with a very great splendour: O Lord, to us he signifies Thee!*

### The Sun Cup from *Lyrics of Earth* by Archibald Lampman

The earth is the cup of the sun,  
That he filleth at morning with wine,  
With the warm, strong wine of his might  
From the vintage of gold and of light,  
Fills it, and makes it divine.

And at night when his journey is done,  
At the gate of his radiant hall,  
He setteth his lips to the brim,  
With a long last look of his eye,  
And lifts it and draineth it dry,  
Drains 'till he leaveth it all  
Empty and hollow and dim.

## II

### Canticle of the Sun : verse 3

*Praised be my Lord for our sister the moon, and for the stars, which He has set clear and lovely in heaven.*

### The Moon - Path from *Lyrics of Earth* by Archibald Lampman

The full, clear moon uprose and spread  
Her cold, pale splendour o'er the sea;  
A light- strewn path that seemed to lead  
Outward into eternity.  
Between the darkness and the gleam  
An old- world spell encompassed me:  
Methought that in a godlike dream  
I trod upon the sea.

And lo! upon that glimmering road,  
In shining companies unfurled,  
The trains of many a primal god,  
The monsters of the elder world;  
Strange creatures that, with silver wings,  
Scarce touched the ocean's thronging floor,  
The phantoms of old tales, and things  
Whose shapes are known no more.

As if I had been dead indeed,  
And come into some after- land,  
I saw them pass me, and take heed,  
And touch me with each mighty hand;  
And evermore a murmurous stream,  
So beautiful they seemed to me,  
Not less that in a godlike dream  
I trod the shining sea.

## III

### Canticle of the Sun : verse 4

*Praised be my Lord for our brother the wind, and for air and cloud, calms and all weather, by which Thou upholdest in life all creatures.*

### The Wind's Word by Archibald Lampman

The wind charged every way and fled  
Across the meadows and the wheat;  
It whirled the swallows overhead,  
And swung the daisies at my feet.

Took all the maples by surprise,  
And made the poplars clash and shiver,  
And flung my hair about my eyes,  
And sprang and blackened on the river.

Behold how grand I am, how free!  
And all the forest bends my way!  
I roam the earth, I stalk the sea,  
And make my labour but a play.

As if in mockery of me,  
And all the deadness of my thought,  
It mounted to the largest glee,  
And, like a lord that laughed and fought,

And through the elm-tree tops, and round  
The city steeples wild and high,  
It floundered with a mighty sound,  
A buoyant voice that seemed to cry:

## IV

### Canticle of the Sun : verse 5

*Praised be my Lord for our sister water, who is very serviceable unto us, and humble, and precious, and clean.*

### Winter - Store from *Lyrics of Earth* by Archibald Lampman

I shall stray by many a stream,  
Where the half-shut lilies gleam,  
Napping out the sultry days  
In the quiet secluded bays;  
Where the tassled rushes tower  
O'er the purple pickerel-flower,  
And the floating dragon-fly-  
Azure glint and crystal gleam-  
Watches o'er the burnished stream  
With his eye of ebony;

Where the bull-frog lolls at rest  
On his float of lily-leaves,  
That the swaying water weaves,  
And distends his yellow breast,  
Lowing out from shore to shore  
With a hollow, vibrant roar;  
Where the softest wind that blows,  
As it lightly comes and goes,  
O'er the jungled river meads,  
Stirs a whisper in the reeds,

And wakes the crowded bull-rushes  
From their stately reveries,  
Flashing through their long-leaved hordes  
Like a brandishing of swords;  
There, too, the frost-like arrow flowers  
Tremble to the golden core,  
Children of enchanted hours,  
Whom the rustling rive bore  
In the night's bewildered noon,  
Woven of water and the moon.

## V

### Canticle of the Sun : verse 7

*Praised be my Lord for our mother the earth, the which doth sustain us and keep us, and bringeth forth divers fruits, and flowers of many colours, and grass.*

### May by Archibald Lampman

The broad earth smiles in open benison,  
An emerald sea, whose waves of leaf and shade  
On far-off shores of misty turquoise fade;  
And all the host of life steers blithely on,  
With joy for captain, fancy at the helm:  
The woodpecker taps roundly at his tree,  
The vaulting heigh-ho flings abroad his glee  
In fluty laughter from the towering elm.

Here at my feet are violets, and below-  
A gracile spirit tremulously alive-  
Spring water fills a little greenish pool,  
Paved all with mottled leaves and crystal cool.  
Beyond it stands a plum-tree in full blow,  
Creamy with bloom, and humming like a hive.

## Epilogue

### Voices of Earth from *Alcyone* by Archibald Lampman

We have not heard the music of the spheres,  
The song of star to star, but there are sounds  
More deep than human joy and human tears,  
That Nature uses in her common rounds;  
The fall of streams, the cry of winds that strain  
The oak, the roaring of the sea's surge, might  
Of thunder breaking afar off, or rain  
That falls by minutes in the summer night.  
These are the voices of earth's secret soul,  
Uttering the mystery from which she came.  
To him who hears them grief beyond control,  
Or joy inscrutable without a name,  
Wakes in his heart thoughts bedded there, impearled,  
Before the birth and making of the world.

# Notes

A separate score is available for the Children's Choir containing only the sections in which they sing.

*Voices of the Earth* is arranged for a number of accompaniments:

A. Full Orchestra

Parts available on rental

B. Two Pianos, with optional Timpani and Four Percussion

Score, to be purchased for conductor and pianists, contains full size piano parts

Percussion parts available on rental

C. Winter - Store [ from Movement IV ]

Arranged for Children's Choir, Piano Duet and optional Glockenspiel part.

Optional Harp part available on rental, may be substituted for Piano I

## Performance Notes for Piano Parts in Section III

All glissandi on the strings should be played as smoothly and evenly as possible. They may be done with the fingernails but if a louder sound is needed, a flat rubber surface like a kitchen spatula will give a richer sound. Do not use anything hard like a guitar pick which produces a metallic, clicking sound. Owing to the structural differences in various grand pianos, it may be necessary to adjust the position of the chords in this section up or down. Between m. 136 and 146, the sound should flow up and down continuously with the pedal remaining down until the next chord begins. If the pianos do not have a two octave range available on the strings for glissandi, player II may play all the bass clef chords of both piano parts up an octave, depressing the keys silently with one hand while playing glissandi upwards on beats 1 and 3, while player I does similar glissandi on all treble clef chords of both piano parts downwards on beats 2 and 4. If grand pianos are not available, a synthesizer [ i.e. DX-7 ] with a suitable *celeste* patch could be used for all notes marked as plucked strings and all chords marked ' *glissandi on strings* '. Chords from m. 136 to 146 would then be played on the keyboard as evenly arpeggiated chords, moving up and down as indicated.

In the arrangement with percussion, any bars marked [ *celeste* ] should be omitted from the piano part.

# Voices of Earth

## Prologue

Canticle of the Sun : verse 1

*Allegro* ♩ = 120

Children's Choir & S

A

Choirs 1 & 2 T

B

*Allegro* ♩ = 120

Piano 1

*p*

cresc.

*Allegro* ♩ = 120

Piano 2

*p*

cresc.

Children's  
Choir &

5

A

Choirs 1 & 2

T

B

Piano 1

5

Piano 2

5

*f* *cresc.*

*f* *cresc.*

Children's  
Choir &

Choirs 1 &amp; 2

Piano 1

Piano 2

9

*ff*

O most high, al-

*ff*

*ff*

O most high, al-

*ff*

*ff*

*loco*

*Children's Choir & Choirs 1 & 2*

**S** 13 might - y, good Lord God,

**A**

**T** 8 might - y, good Lord God,

**B**

*Piano 1* 13 *8va* *loco*

*Piano 2* 13 *S.P.*

*Choir 1 & 2 Sopranos*

**S** 17 *f* to Thee to Thee - be - long praise, glo - ry,

**A** *f*

**T** 8 *f* to Thee to Thee - be - long praise,

**B** *f*

*Piano 1* 17

*Piano 2* 17 *mf* *cresc.* *f*

*L'istesso tempo*

Choir 1

S  
A

29

Choir 2

S  
A

29

Piano 1

29

*mp* *legato*

Piano 2

29

*mp* *legato*

Choir 1

S  
A

32

*mp*

Praised be my Lord God with all His

T  
B

*mp*

Choir 2

S  
A

32

Piano 1

32

*p*

Piano 2

32

*p*

Choir 1

S  
A

59

Choir 2

S  
A

59

T  
B

Piano 1

59

*mp*

*poco a poco rit.*

*p*

*Attacca*

Piano 2

59

*mf*

*mp*

*poco a poco rit.*

*Attacca*

## The Sun Cup

*Andante espressivo* ♩ = 60

Choirs 1 & 2

S  
A

63

*mf*

The earth — is the cup of the

T  
B

*Andante espressivo* ♩ = 60

8<sup>va</sup>

Piano 1

63

*mf*

*loco*

*mp*

*Andante espressivo* ♩ = 60

Piano 2

63

*mp*

Choirs 1 & 2

S  
A

90

and hol-low and dim. dim.

T  
B

90

Piano 1

90

mp

p

pp

Piano 2

90

p

rit.

rit.

rit.

## II

## Canticle of the Sun : verse 3

Children's Choir

95

Choirs 1 & 2

S  
A

95

T  
B

95

Piano 1

95

pp

[Celeste]

p

mp

Piano 2

95

pp

p

S.P.

S.P.

Red

ca. 88

Children's Choir enters at m. 108

# The Moon - Path

25

*Andante sostenuto* ♩ = ca.76

122

*p*

*mf*

Choirs 1 & 2

S

A

The full, clear moon up-rose and spread her cold, pale

Piano 1

122

Piano 2

122

*Andante sostenuto* ♩ = ca.76

126

*mp*

*p*

Choirs 1 & 2

S

A

splen — — dour o'er the sea; — — A light-strewn

Piano 1

126

*p*

*8va*

*loco*

*Red.*

*\* Red.*

*\* Red.*

*mp*

*rit.*

The musical score for Piano 1 and Piano 2, measures 195-197, is as follows:

**Piano 1:**

- Measure 195:** Treble and bass staves. Treble staff has a sixteenth-note triplet (G4, A4, B4) beamed together, followed by a quarter rest. Bass staff has a sixteenth-note triplet (F3, E3, D3) beamed together, followed by a quarter rest. A bracket labeled "6" spans the triplet in both staves.
- Measure 196:** Treble staff has a half note G4. Bass staff has a half note F3. A bracket labeled "6" spans the notes in both staves.
- Measure 197:** Treble staff has a half note G4. Bass staff has a half note F3. A bracket labeled "6" spans the notes in both staves.

**Piano 2:**

- Measure 195:** Treble and bass staves. Treble staff has a half note G4. Bass staff has a half note F3. A bracket labeled "6" spans the notes in both staves.
- Measure 196:** Treble staff has a half note G4. Bass staff has a half note F3. A bracket labeled "6" spans the notes in both staves.
- Measure 197:** Treble staff has a half note G4. Bass staff has a half note F3. A bracket labeled "6" spans the notes in both staves.

### Canticle of the Sun : verse 4

### III

Ed.

The musical score is for a choral and piano piece. It features six staves: Soprano (S), Alto (A), Tenor (T), Bass (B), Piano 1, and Piano 2. The lyrics are "Praised be my Lord for our brother the wind, and for". The music is in 4/4 time. The tempo is marked "ca. 92". The dynamics are *p* (piano), *cresc.* (crescendo), and *mf* (mezzo-forte). The Piano 1 and Piano 2 parts have a melodic line in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. The Piano 1 part has a melodic line in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. The Piano 2 part has a melodic line in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. The score includes a rehearsal mark "198" and a tempo marking "ca. 92". The dynamics are *p*, *cresc.*, and *mf*. The Piano 1 and Piano 2 parts have a melodic line in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. The Piano 1 part has a melodic line in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. The Piano 2 part has a melodic line in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand.

207 *f* Attacca

S life all crea - tures.

A life *f*

Choirs 1 & 2

T life in life all crea - tures.

B *mf* *f* Attacca

Piano 1 207 Attacca

Piano 2 207 Attacca

## The Wind's Word

♩ = 132-144 *con anima*

210

S

A

Choir 1

T

B

Piano 1 210 *mp* *cresc.*

Piano 2 210 *p* *mp* *cresc.*

### Canticle of the Sun : verse 5

## IV

The musical score is for the hymn 'The Water of Life'. It is arranged for a children's choir and a piano. The score is in 2/4 time with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The tempo is marked as quarter note = 60. The score is divided into systems. The first system includes the Children's Choir and Soprano/Alto parts. The second system includes the Tenor/Bass parts and Piano 1. The third system includes Piano 2. The lyrics are: 'Praised be my Lord, ——— for our sis - ter wa - ter, ———'. The score includes various musical notations such as treble and bass clefs, time signatures, key signatures, dynamics (f, mf), articulation (accents), and phrasing slurs. The piano part features a prominent triplet in the right hand of the first system and a triplet in the left hand of the second system. The vocal parts are written in a simple, accessible style suitable for children's voices.

**Children's Choir**

**Soprano/Alto**

**Tenor/Bass**

**Piano 1**

**Piano 2**

**Lyrics:** Praised be my Lord, ——— for our sis - ter wa - ter, ———

*Children's Choir*

293 Praised be my Lord,

*Soprano*

293 for our sis - ter wa - ter,

*Alto*

who is ver - y ser - vice a - ble un - to

*Tenor*

*Bass*

(8va) - , loco 8va - - - - -

*Piano 1*

293

*Piano 2*

293

*mf*

*Children's Choir*

297 and hum-ble — and clean. — *Attacca*

*S*

*A*

297 us. — and clean. — *Attacca*

*T*

*B*

*p* and prec-ious —

*Piano 1*

297 *8va* *loco* *m.d.* *m.g.* *p* *Attacca*

*Piano 2*

297 *p* *Attacca*

## Winter - Store

*Andante grazioso*  
♩ = 60 *mf*

*Children's Choir*

303 I shall stray by man - y a stream,

*S*

*A*

*mf*

*Piano 1*

303 *p* *m.g.* *9* *simile* *9* *9* *9* *m.d.*

*Piano 2*

303 *mp* *8va*

Children's Choir

S 371 moon.

A

Piano 1

371

Red.

Piano 2

371

pp

8va

## Canticle of the Sun : verse 7

V

Allegro ♩ = ca. 108

Choir 1

S 373

A

T 373

B

Allegro ♩ = ca. 108

Choir 2

S 373

A

T 373

B

Piano 1

373

mp

mf

Piano 2

373

mf

mf

fruits, *rit. mp*  $\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 88$

Choir 1  
S A 388  
bring-eth forth fruits, *mf* and grass. *rit. mp*  $\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 88$   
T B and flow'rs— of man-y col - ours, — *mp*

Choir 2  
S A 388  
grass. *rit. p*  $\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 88$   
T B

Piano 1  
388 *mf* *rit. p*  $\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 88$

Piano 2  
388 *rit. p*  $\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 88$

# May

*poco a poco accel.*  $\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 104$  *mf*

Choir 1 & 2  
S A 392  
The broad earth *mf*

T B *mf*

Piano 1  
392 *poco a poco accel.* *cresc.*  $\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 104$  *f*

Piano 2  
392 *poco a poco accel.* *cresc.*  $\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 104$  *f*

==

# Epilogue

Andante ♩ = 69

472

We have not heard the music of the spheres, The song of star to star

Piano 1

Andante ♩ = 69

472

Piano 2

Andante ♩ = 69

472

*cresc.*

S  
A  
475 star, but there are sounds more deep than hu - man

T  
B

*cresc.*

Piano 1  
475

*cresc.*

Piano 2  
475

(8<sup>va</sup>),

8<sup>va</sup> -

*cresc.*

*mf* *p* *cresc.*

S  
A  
478 joy and hu - man tears, that Na - ture u - ses in her com - mon

T  
B  
*mf* *p* *cresc.*

Piano 1  
478 *mf* *p* *cresc.*

Piano 2  
478 *mf*

(8<sup>va</sup>),

88

*mf* *f* *f*

S  
A

481 rounds; The fall of streams,

Choirs 1 & 2

*mf* *f*

T  
B

her com - mon rounds;

*mf* *f*

Piano 1

481 *f*

*loco*

Piano 2

481 *mf* *f*

*cresc.* *ff* *f*

S  
A

484 - the cry of winds that strain the oak. The roar-ing of the sea's surge,

Choirs 1 & 2

*cresc.* *ff* *f*

T  
B

(8va)

Piano 1

484 *cresc.* *f* *mf*

*cresc.* *f* *mf*

Piano 2

484 *cresc.* *f* *mf*

487 *mf* or rain that falls by

*Choirs 1 & 2*

*S*  
*A*

might of thun - derbreak-ing, — break-ing a-far off,

*T*  
*B*

rain falls

*Piano 1*

487 *f* *mp* *p*

*Piano 2*

487 *f* *p*

min-utes in the sum - mer night.

490

*Choirs 1 & 2*

*S*  
*A*

in the sum - mer night.

*T*  
*B*

*Piano 1*

490 *p* poco a poco cresc.

*Piano 2*

490 *p* poco a poco cresc.

*with Children's Choir [ optional ]* *rit.* *a tempo*

S  
A  
493

Choirs 1 & 2

*ff* These are the voic-es of earth's

T  
B

*rit.* *a tempo* *ff*

Piano 1

493

*8va* *rit.* *f a tempo* *loco*

Piano 2

493

*rit.* *f a tempo*

*Children's Choir [ opt ]* S  
A

Choirs 1 & 2

496 se - cret soul, these are the voi - ces voi - ces of earth's se - cret

T  
B

*f* *dim.* 3

Piano 1

496

*dim.* 3

Piano 2

496

*dim.* 3

*mp* *Children's Choir tacet* *p*

*Choirs 1 & 2*

Soul, Ut-ter-ing the mys-ter-y — from which she came.

*mp* *p* *pp*

*Piano 1*

*mp* *p* *3*

*Piano 2*

*mf*

*Choirs 1 & 2*

503 To him who

*mf* who

To him who hears them —

*mp* *mf*

*Piano 1*

503

*mf*

*Piano 2*

503

*S*  
*A*  
506  
hears them grief be-yond con-trol. —

*T*  
*B*  
hears them grief be-yond con-trol. —

*Piano 1*  
506  
*mp* *cresc.*

*Piano 2*  
506  
*mp* *cresc.*

*Children's Choir [ optional ]*

*S*  
*A*  
509  
*rit.* *Maestoso ff*  
Or joy, joy — in-scru - ta-ble —

*T*  
*B*  
*rit.* *ff*

*Piano 1*  
509  
*rit.* *ff* *Maestoso* *8va*

*Piano 2*  
509  
*rit.* *ff* *Maestoso*

## Children's Choir [ optional ]

512

*cresc.* *ff* *f*

S A  
Choirs 1 & 2  
T B

with- out a name Wakes in his heart thoughts bed- ded there.

joy — without *cresc.* *ff*

Piano 1

512 *cresc.* *ff*

Piano 2

512 *cresc.* *ff* *loco* *dim.*

8va

## Children's Choir [ optional ]

515

*mf* *mp*

S A  
Choirs 1 & 2  
T B

im pearled, — Be- fore the birth and ma - king of the world.

Piano 1

515 [ Glock ] *p*

Piano 2

515 *p*

518

Choirs 1 & 2

S  
A

T  
B

*p* *rit.* *ppp*

the birth — and making of the world. —

[ Piano ]

Piano 1

518

*p* *rit.* *ppp*

Piano 2

518

*rit.* *ppp*

*Ad.* \*