

Preview

Grand Grand Mother is returning

**by Pamela J. Marshall
for SATB chorus & piano**



from the cantata *The Future of Life*

Spindrift
Music Company

Bee-Song

words by Anne Baring

Grand Grand Mother is returning

words by Judy Grahn

music by Pamela J. Marshall

The choral pieces “Bee-Song” and “Grand Grand Mother is returning” are the last movements of *The Future of Life*, a 30-minute, 8-movement choral piece for SATB chorus, trombone and piano. The theme of the larger piece is concern for and celebration of biodiversity, with texts from the book *The Future of Life* by Edward O. Wilson, in addition to these two poems.

I’ve made standalone versions of these two pieces for either SSAA or SATB chorus and piano. In these versions, the piano introduction to “Bee-Song” is shortened, and the trombone part in “Grand Grand Mother” is incorporated into the piano. The original version of “Bee-Song” doesn’t include trombone.

Notes

My take on the state of the Earth, seen through these texts...

Bee-Song

The condition of the environment may seem dire, but there is much cause for hope. As Thoreau taught us, many people know there is much to value in the natural world, including the nourishment it brings our spirit. “Bee-Song” with text by Anne Baring is a beautiful hymn to this nurturing. The hive, the Earth, is our Mother, protecting and sustaining us.

Grand Grand Mother is returning

I am hopeful that we will achieve a balance so that the natural world will remain rich and beautiful, to sustain us and enrich our spirits. “Grand Grand Mother is returning” celebrates that continuity of natural processes — “the egg is always getting laid and laying” and human concepts too — “truth is being found and finding”. I believe in this energetic, rhythmic text and music to propel us forward from dire warnings of an ominous future to hope and positive action.

I’m excited to have created this piece of music with such strong, emotionally compelling texts, but that isn’t the end of it. The complete book *The Future of Life* by Edward O. Wilson has detailed information about why we need to protect life on Earth and conserve its grand diversity.

Please read the book! Let others know about its message!

Cover art credits: Decorative floral background designed by Harryarts / Freepik. Silhouettes designed by Kjpargeter / Freepik. Adapted, recolored and laid out by Pamela Marshall.

Bee-Song

By Anne Baring, titled "The Song"

Beehive source
Trellised womb
Mother of all beginnings

Hold me
Gather me
Feed me
With the honey-nectar
From the hive.

Nourished
I will sing
The Bee-song
The long-forgotten threnody
Of praise to thee.

Grand Grand Mother is returning

By Judy Grahn

The egg is always being made
and making,
always getting laid
and laying;
thread is being spun
and spinning,
truth is being found
and finding,
getting all unwound
and winding,
being all unsnarled
and snarling,
and the Grand Grand
Mother is returning

that's all I know

Don't suppose it will be
as it is remembered
in time past

time present is a different
unpredicted picture

time future happens
only in the mind

Worlds are always ending
and beginning,
tales are getting learned
and learning,
birds are always taking off
and landing;
the sky is ever being turned
around, and turning;
the tree is ever being stood upon
and standing;
and the flame is getting burned
and burning

Grand Mother is returning
don't expect
the past, expect
whatever happens,
men are moving, more
than ever women are
just waking;
Grand Grand Mother
is returning

that's all I know

Grand Grand Mother is returning

Allegretto giubilante ♩ = 110

SOPRANO *mp* The egg

ALTO *mp* The egg

TENOR *mp* The egg

BASS *mp* The egg

PIANO *mp*

Allegretto giubilante ♩ = 110

6 **A**

S. *p* The egg is al - ways

A. *p* is al - ways

T. *p* is al - ways

B. *p* is al - ways

A

Pno. *p* *mp*

Grand Grand Mother is returning - SATB

11

S. *mp*
be-ing made and mak - ing, al - ways get-ting laid and

A. *mp*
be-ing made and mak - ing, al - ways get-ting laid and

T. *mp*
be-ing made and mak - ing,

B. *mp*
be-ing made and mak - ing,

Pno. *p* *mp*

18

S. *mf*
lay-ing, truth, truth is be-ing

A. *mp* *mf*
lay-ing, thread is be-ing spun and spin-ning, truth is be-ing

T. *mf*
truth, truth is be-ing

B. *mp*
thread is be-ing spun and spin-ning,

Pno. *mf* *mp*

Grand Grand Mother is returning - SATB

25

S. found_ and_ find - ing,

A. found and find - ing, *mf* get-ting all un-wound and wind - ing,

T. found and find - ing, *mf* get-ting all un - wound_ and wind - ing,

B.

Pno. *mf*

30

S. *mf* be-ing all un snarled and_ snarl - ing, *p* The

A. *mf* be-ing all un snarled and_ snarl - ing,

T. *mf* be-ing all un snarled and_ snarl - ing,

B. *mf* be-ing all un snarled and_ snarl - ing,

Pno. *f*

Grand Grand Mother is returning - SATB

35 **B**

S. egg is al-ways be-ing laid and lay - ing,

A. *p* al - ways get-ting laid and lay - ing

T. *mp* truth is be - ing found and find - ing,

B.

Pno. *pp* *p*

40 **B**

S. *mp* be - ing all un - snarled and snarl - ing, and the *f*

A. *mp* get-ting all un-wound and wind - ing,

T. *mf* be - ing all un-snarled and snarl - ing, and the *f*

B. *mf* get-ting all un-wound and wind - ing, and the *f*

Pno.

Grand Grand Mother is returning - SATB

44

S. Grand_ Grand Mo-ther is re - turn - ing Grand_ Grand_ Mo-ther is re -

A. Grand_ Grand Mo-ther is re - turn - ing

T. 8 Grand Grand Mo-ther is re - turn - ing, Grand Grand Mo-ther is - re -

B. Grand Grand Mo-ther is re - turn - ing, Grand Grand Mo-ther is re -

Pno. *f*

47

S. turn - ing *ff* Grand Grand Mo-ther is re - turn - ing *mp* that's all I know

A. Grand Grand Mo-ther is re - turn - ing *ff* Mo-ther is re - turn ing *mp* that's all I know

T. 8 turn - ing, *ff* Grand Grand Mo-ther is re - turn - ing, re - turn ing *mp* that's all I know

B. turn - ing, *ff* Grand Grand Mo-ther is re - turn ing *mp* that's all I know

Pno. *meno mosso*

Grand Grand Mother is returning - SATB

52 **C** a tempo rit. . .

S.

A.

T.

B.

Pno.

58 **C** a tempo rit. . .

Meno mosso ♩ = 86

S. Don't sup-pose_ it will_ be_

A. Don't sup-pose_ it will_ be_

T. Don't sup-pose_

B. Don't sup-pose_

Meno mosso ♩ = 86

Pno.

Grand Grand Mother is returning - SATB

65

S. *2/4* as it is re - mem - bered in time past *2/4* *3/4*

A. *2/4* as it is re - mem - bered in time past *2/4* *3/4*

T. *2/4* *3/4*

B. *2/4* *3/4*

Pno. *2/4* *3/4* *p* *f*

72

S. *3/4* *2/4*

A. *3/4* *2/4*

T. *mf* *3/4* time pres - ent is a dif - fer - ent un - pre - dic - ted pic - ture *2/4*

B. *mf* *3/4* time pres - ent is a dif - fer - ent un - pre - dic - ted pic - ture *2/4*

Pno. *mf* *3/4* *2/4* *mf*

Grand Grand Mother is returning - SATB

D Tempo primo ♩ = 110

79 *mf* *pp*

S. time fu-ture hap - pens on-ly in the mind

A.

T. *mf* *pp*
8 time fu-ture hap - pens on - ly in the mind

B.

Pno. *p* *f*

D Tempo primo ♩ = 110

87 *f* *mf*

S. Worlds

A. Worlds

T. *f*
8 Worlds

B.

Pno. *f*

Grand Grand Mother is returning - SATB

93 *mf* *mp*

S. Worlds_ are al - ways end - ing and be - gin - ning, tales are

A. Worlds_ are al - ways end - ing and be - gin - ning, tales are

T. *mf* Worlds_ are al - ways end - ing and be - gin - ning,

B. *mf* Worlds_ are al - ways end - ing and be - gin - ning,

Pno. *mf* *mp*

99 *p* *mp* *mp*

S. get - ting learned and learn - ing, birds _____

A. get - ting learned and learn - ing, birds _____ are al - ways

T. _____ birds _____ are al - ways

B. _____

Pno. *p*

Grand Grand Mother is returning - SATB

104

S. *f* *p*
the sky be-ing turned a-round

A. *p*
tak-ing off and land - ing; the sky is ev-er be-ing turned a-round

T. *p*
tak-ing off and land - ing;

B. *p*
the sky is ev-er be-ing turned a-round

Pno. *mp* *p*

109

S. *f sfp* *sfp* *mf*
and turn - ing; The tree The tree is ev-er be-ing stood

A. *f sfp* *sfp* *mf*
and turn - ing; The tree The tree is ev-er be-ing stood

T. *f sfp* *sfp* *mf*
The tree The tree is ev-er be-ing stood

B. *f sfp* *sfp* *mf*
and turn - ing; The tree is ev-er be-ing stood

Pno. *f* *mf*

Grand Grand Mother is returning - SATB

114

S. *f* *3*
up-on and stand- ing; and the flame

A. *f* *3*
up-on and stand- ing; and the flame

T. *f* *3*
up-on and stand- ing; and the flame

B. *f* *3*
up-on and stand- ing; and the flame

Pno. *f* *3*

121

S. *pp*
is get-ting burned and burn - ing

A. *pp*
is get-ting burned and burn - ing

T. *pp*
is get-ting burned and burn - ing

B. *pp*
is get-ting burned and burn - ing

Pno. *mf* *3*

Grand Grand Mother is returning - SATB

126 **poco rit.** **E** a tempo *pp*

S. *pp* ah

A. *pp* ah, Grand

T. *pp* ah Grand

B.

poco rit. **E** a tempo

Pno. *mp*

132

S. *p* Grand Mo-ther is re - turn - ing, *mp* Grand Mo-ther is re -

A. *p* Mo-ther is re - turn - ing, *mp* Grand Mo-ther is re - turn - ing, *mp* Grand Mo-ther is re -

T. *p* Mo-ther is re - turn - ing, *mp* Grand Mo-ther is re - turn - ing, *mp* Grand Mo-ther is re -

B. *p* ah ah ah ah ah, *mp* Grand Mo-ther is re -

Pno. *p*

Grand Grand Mother is returning - SATB

137

S. *p* rit.
turn - ing, Grand Mo-ther is re - turn - ing, Grand Mo-ther is re -

A. *p*
turn - ing, Grand Mo-ther is re - turn-ing, ah ah

T. *p*
turn - ing, Grand Mo-ther is re - turn - ing, Grand Mo-ther is re -

B. *p*
turn - ing, Grand Mo-ther is re - turn - ing Grand Mo-ther is re -

Pno. *mp* *p* rit.

141

S. *pp*
turn - ing, ah ah

A. *pp*
ah, ah ah ah

T. *pp*
turn - ing, Grand Mo - ther is re - turn - ing

B. *pp*
turn - ing, Grand Mo - ther is re - turn - ing

Pno. *pp*

Grand Grand Mother is returning - SATB

F **Meno mosso** ♩ = 92 **Poco piu mosso** ♩ = 96

145 *mf*

S. don't ex-pect the past, ex - pect what-ev-er hap- pens, _____

A. don't ex-pect the past, ex - pect ex - pect what-ev-er hap- pens, _____

T. don't ex-pect the past, ex - pect, ex - pect what-ev-er hap- pens, _____

B. don't ex-pect the past, ex - pect, ex pect what-ev-er hap- pens, _____

F **Meno mosso** ♩ = 92 **Poco piu mosso** ♩ = 96

Pno. *p* (with accents)

151 *p*

S. men are mov - ing, men are mov - ing, men are mov - ing,

A. men are mov - ing, men are mov - ing,

T. men are mov - ing, men are mov - ing, men are mov - ing,

B. men are mov - ing, men are mov - ing,

Pno.

Grand Grand Mother is returning - SATB

Ancora piu mosso ♩ = 104

156 *mp*

S. more than ev - er wo - men are just wak - en-ing,

A. more than ev - er wo - men are just wak - en-ing, just

T. more than ev - er wo - men are just wak - en-ing,

B. more than ev - er wo - men are just wak - en-ing, just

Ancora piu mosso ♩ = 104

Pno. *mf* *mp*

160 *mf* **accel.**

S. wo - men are just wak - en-ing;

A. wak - en-ing, wo - men are just wak - en-ing;

T. wo - men are just wak - en-ing;

B. wak - en-ing, wo - men are just wak - en-ing;

accel.

Pno. *mf*

Grand Grand Mother is returning - SATB

G Tempo primo ♩ = 110

165 *f*

S. *f*
Grand Grand Mo-ther is re - turn - ing Grand Grand Mo-ther is re - turn - ing

A. *f*
Grand Grand Mo-ther is re - turn - ing Grand Grand Mo-ther is re - turn - ing

T. *f*
Grand Grand Mo-ther is re - turn - ing Grand Grand Mo-ther is re - turn - ing

B. - - - - -

Pno. *f*

172 *mf*

S. *mf*
GrandGrand Mo theris re - turn - ing, Grand Grand Mo-ther is re - turn - ing,

A. *mf*
Grand Grand Mo theris re - turn - ing, Grand Grand Mo- ther Grand Grand *f*

T. *f*
Grand Grand Mo-ther is re - turn-ing

B. *mf*
Grand Grand Mo theris re - turn - ing, Grand Grand Mo-ther is re - turn - ing,

Pno. *f*

Grand Grand Mother is returning - SATB

179 *f* *ff*

S. Grand Grand Mo - ther is Grand Grand Mo-ther is re - turn - ing

A. Mo-ther is re - turn - ing, re - turn - ing, Mo-ther-is re - turn - ing *ff*

T. *f* Grand Grand Mo - ther is re - turn - ing, Mo-ther is re - turn - ing *ff*

B. *f* Grand Grand Mo - ther is re - turn - ing, Mo-ther is re - turn - ing *ff*

Pno. *f*

185 *p* *meno mosso*

S. that's all I know

A. that's all I know *p*

T. that's all I know *p*

B. that's all I know *p*

Pno. *ad lib.* *mf* *p* *meno mosso*

Spindrift Music Company

38 Dexter Road Lexington MA 02420-3304 USA
781-862-0884
www.spindrift.com info@spindrift.com

Selected Music by Pamela J. Marshall

Orchestra

Triptoe Suite (2222-4221, 1pc, timp, strings) in 4 mvts
Through the Mist (2222-2220, harp, 3pc, timp, strings) in 3 mvts
A chill wind in autumn (solo voice, 2222-4221-3pc, strings)
Traditional Christmas (treble chorus or soloist, 2222-4221, harp, 3pc, timp, strings)
Three Appalachian Carols (2222-4231, harp, 2pc, timp, strings)

Keyboard

Suite for harpsichord or piano
For piano: Daydream, Stomp, Imagine That Time Stops
Wordless Prayer for piano or organ
Playbook (Pacem Student Composing Project) for piano

Vocal

Deepest Shade for SATB chorus
The Future of Life for SATB chorus, trombone, piano
Shepherds and Angels for SATB chorus, violin, harp, tamborine
Weaving the World for SATB chorus, oboe, piano
Windshine for SATB chorus and cello
Wordless Prayer for SATB chorus

The Bee Song for SSAA or SATB chorus, piano
Grand grand mother is returning for SSAA or SATB chorus, piano

Body and Soul Vol.1 for mezzo-soprano and string trio
Body and Soul Vol.2 for soprano, flute, cello, piano
Ariel's Songs for high or medium voice and piano
Remember the Old Songs for high voice and piano
Sky's Mirror for voice and cello
A chill wind in autumn for voice and piano

Strings

Arcanum for solo violin, Soliloquy for solo cello
Elusive Sleep for cello and piano
Pascal's Theorems for cello and doublebass
Truth Becoming for string quartet
Soliloquy for cello
Rising for viola
Quinteto sobre las poemas de Carlos Pintado for violin, viola, cello, doublebass, piano
Through the Mist for flute, violin, harp or guitar

Winds & Brass

Poetry-Inspired solos for flute, oboe, clarinet, bassoon, horn
Enchanted for oboe and chamber orchestra or piano
Wanderer for brass quintet
Resonances for alto saxophone, trumpet, 2 trombones, percussion
Waves and Fountains for oboe, horn, piano
"wild horn whose voice the woodland fills" for 8 horns
Black Bear Dance for horn quartet (or choir) and drums
Zoa for flute and harp

Recordings

Through the Mist, Ravello Records. Chamber music for winds, strings, harp
Visit www.spindrift.com for complete list. Demos available for many titles

Marshall



Grand Grand Mother is returning