

*Preview*

# **Grand Grand Mother is returning**

**by Pamela J. Marshall  
for SSAA 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**

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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!

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## **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

Poem by  
Judy Grahn

# Grand Grand Mother is returning

for treble chorus (SSAA) and piano

Music by  
Pamela J. Marshall

Allegretto giubilante ♩ = 110

Soprano 1

Soprano 2

Alto 1

Alto 2

Piano

*mp*

The egg

The egg

The egg

S.1

S.2

A.1

A.2

Pno.

*p*

*p*

*p*

*p*

*p*

*mf*

*p*

*mp*

The egg is always

The egg is always

The egg is always

The egg is always

The poem "Grand Grand Mother is returning" is by Judy Grahn from her book-length poem, *The Queen of Wands*, used with permission of the author. It is the eighth movement of "The Future of Life" for SATB chorus, trombone and piano, commissioned in 2007 by The Master Singers, Adam Grossman, Music Director. The subject of the whole work is the preservation of biodiversity, with texts from "The Future of Life" by conservation biologist Edward O. Wilson and poems by Ann Baring and Judy Grahn. I created the treble version, without trombone, for Women of Note, directed by Carla Strandberg. Find out more about "The Future of Life" at [www.spindrifft.com.s](http://www.spindrifft.com.s)

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Grand Grand Mother is returning

11

S.1 *mp* be-ing made and mak - ing, al - ways get-ting laid and

S.2 *mp* be-ing made and mak - ing, al - ways get-ting laid and

A.1 *mp* be-ing made and mak - ing, al - ways get-ting laid and

A.2 *mp* be-ing made and mak - ing, al - ways get-ting laid and

Pno. *p* *mp*

18

S.1 *mp* lay ing, thread is be-ing spun and spin-ning, truth, *mf* truth is be-ing

S.2 *mp* lay ing, thread is be-ing spun and spin-ning, truth is be-ing *mf*

A.1 *mp* lay ing, thread is be-ing spun and spin-ning, truth, *mf* truth is be-ing

A.2 *mp* lay ing, thread is be-ing spun and spin-ning, truth is be-ing *mf*

Pno. *mf* *mp*

Grand Grand Mother is returning

25

S.1 *mf* found and find-ing, get-ting all un-wound and wind-ing, be-ing *mf*

S.2 *mf* found and find-ing, get-ting all un-wound and wind-ing, be-ing *mf*

A.1 *mf* found and find-ing, get-ting all un-wound and wind-ing, be-ing *mf*

A.2 *mf* found and find-ing, get-ting all un-wound and wind-ing, be-ing *mf*

Pno. *mf*

31

S.1 *p* all un snarled and snarl-ing, The egg is al-ways be-ing laid and *p* **A**

S.2 *p* all un snarled and snarl-ing, al-ways *p*

A.1 all un snarled and snarl-ing,

A.2 all un snarled and snarl-ing,

Pno. *f* *pp*

Grand Grand Mother is returning

37

S.1  
lay - ing,

S.2  
get-ting laid and lay - ing *mp* get-ting all un-wound and

A.1  
*mp* truth is be-ing found and find-ing, *mf* be - ing all un-

A.2  
*mf* get-ting all un - wound and wind -

Pno.  
*p* *mp* *mp*

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42 *mp* *f*

S.1  
be ing all un - snarled and snarl-ing, and the Grand Grand Mo-ther is re - turn - ing

S.2  
wind - ing, Grand Grand Mo-ther is re-

A.1  
snarled and snarl - ing. *f* and the Grand Grand Mo-ther is re - turn - ing, Grand Grand

A.2  
ing, *f* and the Grand Grand Mo-ther is re - turn - ing,

Pno.  
*f*

Grand Grand Mother is returning

46

S.1  
Grand Grand Mo - ther is re - turn - ing

S.2  
turn - ing Grand Grand Mo - ther is re -

A.1  
Mo - ther is - re - turn - ing, Grand Grand

A.2  
Grand Grand Mo - ther is re - turn - ing,

Pno.

48

S.1  
Grand Grand Mo-ther is re - turn - ing *ff* that's all I know *mp* **meno mosso**

S.2  
turn - ing Mo-ther is re - turn - ing *ff* that's all I know *mp*

A.1  
Mo-ther is re - turn - ing, re - turn - ing *ff* that's all I know *mp*

A.2  
Grand Grand Mo-ther is re - turn - ing *ff* that's all I know *mp*

Pno.



Grand Grand Mother is returning

52 **B** a tempo rit. . .

S.1

S.2

A.1

A.2

Pno.

58

Meno mosso ♩ = 86

*mf* *mp*

S.1  
Don't sup-pose it will be

S.2  
Don't sup-pose it will be

A.1  
Don't sup-pose

A.2  
Don't sup-pose

Pno.

Grand Grand Mother is returning

65

S.1  
as it is re - mem - bered in time past

S.2  
as it is re - mem - bered in time past

A.1

A.2

Pno.

72

S.1

S.2

A.1  
*mf*  
time pres - ent is a dif - fer - ent un - pre - dic - ted pic - ture

A.2  
*mf*  
time pres - ent is a dif - fer - ent un - pre - dic - ted pic - ture

Pno.

Grand Grand Mother is returning

**C** Tempo primo ♩ = 110

79 *mf* *pp*

S.1 time. fu-ture hap - pens on-ly in the mind

S.2 time. fu-ture hap - pens on-ly

A.1 time. fu-ture hap - pens on - ly in the mind

A.2 time. fu-ture hap - pens on - ly

Pno. *p* *f*

87 *f* *mf* *mf*

S.1 Worlds Worlds Worlds. are

S.2 Worlds Worlds Worlds. are

A.1 Worlds Worlds. are

A.2 Worlds Worlds. are

Pno. *f* *mf*

Grand Grand Mother is returning

94

S.1 *mp*  
al - ways end - ing and be - gin - ning, tales are get - ting learned

S.2 *mp*  
al - ways end - ing and be - gin - ning, tales are get - ting learned

A.1 *mp*  
al - ways end - ing and be - gin - ning, tales are get - ting learned

A.2 *mp*  
al - ways end - ing and be - gin - ning, tales are get - ting learned

Pno. *mp*

100

S.1 *p* and learn - ing, birds *mp* the *f*

S.2 *mp*  
and learn - ing, birds are al - ways tak - ing off and land - ing;

A.1 *mp*  
and learn - ing, birds are al - ways tak - ing off and land - ing;

A.2 *mp*  
and learn - ing, birds are al - ways tak - ing off and land - ing;

Pno. *p* *mp*

Grand Grand Mother is returning

106 *p*

S.1 sky be-ing turned a-round and turn - ing;

S.2 sky be-ing turned a-round and turn - ing;

A.1 *p* the sky is ev - er be-ing turned a-round and turn - ing;

A.2 *p* the sky is ev - er be-ing turned a-round and turn - ing;

Pno. *p* *f*

111 *f sfp* *sfp* *mf*

S.1 The tree The tree is ev - er be-ing stood up - on and stand - ing;

S.2 *f sfp* *sfp* *mf* The tree The tree is ev - er be-ing stood up - on and stand - ing;

A.1 *f sfp* *sfp* *mf* The tree The tree is ev - er be-ing stood up - on and stand - ing;

A.2 *f sfp* *mf* The tree is ev - er be-ing stood up - on and stand - ing;

Pno. *mf* *mf* *f*

Grand Grand Mother is returning

117

S.1  
and the flame is get-ting

S.2  
and the flame is get-ting

A.1  
and the flame is get-ting

A.2  
and the flame is get-ting

Pno.

122

S.1  
burned and burn - ing

S.2  
burned and burn - ing

A.1  
burned and burn - ing

A.2  
burned and burn - ing

Pno.

Grand Grand Mother is returning

126

*poco rit.*

**D** a tempo

*pp*

S.1  
S.2  
A.1  
A.2  
Pno.

ah  
ah, Grand  
ah, Grand  
ah  
mp  
p

132  
S.1  
S.2  
A.1  
A.2  
Pno.

Grand Mo-ther is re - turn - ing, Grand Mo-ther is re -  
Mo-ther is re - turn - ing, Grand Mo-ther is re - turn - ing, Grand Mo-ther is re -  
Mo-ther is re - turn - ing, Grand Mo-ther is re - turn - ing, Grand Mo-ther is re -  
ah, Grand Mo-ther is re -  
p  
mp  
p  
mp  
p  
mp

Grand Grand Mother is returning

137

S.1 *p* *p* rit. . . . .  
turn - ing, Grand Mo-ther is re - turn - ing, Grand Mo-ther is re -

S.2 *p*  
turn - ing, Grand Mo-ther is re - turn-ing, ah ah

A.1 *p*  
turn - ing, Grand Mo-ther is re - turn - ing, Grand Mo-ther is re -

A.2 *p*  
turn - ing, Grand Mo-ther is re - turn - ing Grand Mo-ther is re -

Pno. *mp* *p*

141

S.1 *pp*  
turn - ing, ah ah

S.2 *pp*  
ah, ah ah ah

A.1 *pp*  
turn - ing, Grand Mo - ther is re - turn - ing

A.2 *pp*  
turn - ing, Grand Mo - ther is re - turn - ing

Pno. *pp*



**E** **Meno mosso** ♩ = 92

Grand Grand Mother is returning

**Poco piu mosso** ♩ = 96

145 *mf*

S.1  
don't ex-pect the past, ex - pect what-ev-er hap - pens,

S.2  
don't ex-pect the past, ex - pect ex - pect what-ev-er hap - pens,

A.1  
don't ex-pect the past, ex - pect, ex - pect what-ev-er hap - pens,

A.2  
don't ex-pect the past, ex - pect, ex - pect what-ev-er hap - pens,

Pno.

*p* (with accents)

151 *p*

S.1  
men are mov - ing, men are mov - ing, men are mov - ing,

S.2  
men are mov - ing, men are mov - ing,

A.1  
men are mov - ing, men are mov - ing, men are mov - ing,

A.2  
men are mov - ing, men are mov - ing, men are mov - ing,

Pno.

Grand Grand Mother is returning

156 **Ancora piu mosso** ♩ = 104  
*mp*

S.1  
more than ev - er wo - men are just wak - en-ing,

S.2  
more than ev - er wo - men are just wak - en-ing, just

A.1  
more than ev - er wo - men are just wak - en-ing,

A.2  
more than ev - er wo - men are just wak - en-ing, just

Pno. *mf*

160 *mf* **accel.**

S.1  
wo - men are just wak - en-ing;

S.2  
wak - en-ing, wo - men are just wak - en-ing;

A.1  
wo - men are just wak - en-ing;

A.2  
wak - en-ing, wo - men are just wak - en-ing;

Pno. *mf*

Grand Grand Mother is returning

165 **F** *f* **Tempo primo** ♩ = 110

S.1 *f* Grand Grand Mo-ther is re - turn - ing Grand Grand Mo-ther is re - turn - ing

S.2 *f* Grand Grand Mo-ther is re - turn - ing Grand Grand Mo-ther is re - turn - ing

A.1 *f* Grand Grand Mo-ther is re - turn - ing Grand Grand Mo-ther is re - turn - ing

A.2 *f* Grand Grand Mo-ther is re - turn - ing Grand Grand Mo-ther is re - turn - ing

Pno. *f*

172 *mf*

S.1 *mf* Grand Grand Mo-ther is re - turn - ing, Grand Grand Mo-ther is re - turn - ing,

S.2 *mf* Grand Grand Mo-ther is re - turn - ing, Grand Grand Mo-ther *f* Grand Grand

A.1 *f* Grand Grand Mo-ther is re - turn - ing

A.2 *f* Grand Grand Mo-ther is re - turn - ing

Pno. *f* *mf*

Grand Grand Mother is returning

179 *f* *ff* *pp*

S.1 Grand Grand Mo - ther is Grand Grand Mo-ther is re - turn - ing mm

S.2 Mo-ther is re - turn - ing, Grand Grand Mo-ther-is re - turn - ing mm

A.1 *f* *ff* *pp*

A.2 *f* *ff* *pp*

Pno. *ad lib.* *mf*

186 *p* *meno mosso*

S.1 that's all I know

S.2 that's all I know

A.1 that's all I know

A.2 that's all I know

Pno. *p*

# Spindrift Music Company

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## 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)  
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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  
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A chill wind in autumn for voice and piano

### Strings

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Rising for viola  
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Through the Mist for flute, violin, harp or guitar

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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  
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Grand Grand Mother is returning