

Preview

Bee-Song

**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 Kjpgarjeter / 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

Bee-Song

Andante ♩ = 80

poco accel. e rubato *poco rit.*

PIANO

p *pp* *p*

Red. *Red. ad lib.*

A

5

S. *p* *mp*
Bee - hive source, be - hive source Trel - lised womb

A. *p* *mp*
Bee - hive, bee - hive source Trel - lised womb

T. *p* *mp*
Bee hive source Trel - lised womb

B. *p* *p*
Bee - hive source Trel - lised womb

A

Pno.

The musical score is presented in a standard format. The piano introduction is in 6/4 time, marked 'Andante' with a tempo of 80 beats per minute. It features a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a common time signature of 4/4. The piano part is marked with dynamics *p* and *pp*. The vocal parts (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) enter at measure 5, marked with a box 'A'. The lyrics are: 'Bee - hive source, be - hive source Trel - lised womb' for Soprano; 'Bee - hive, bee - hive source Trel - lised womb' for Alto; 'Bee hive source Trel - lised womb' for Tenor; and 'Bee - hive source Trel - lised womb' for Bass. The piano accompaniment continues with a melodic line in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand, marked with dynamics *p* and *mp*. The score includes performance instructions such as 'Red.' and 'Red. ad lib.' and tempo markings 'poco accel. e rubato' and 'poco rit.'

"Bee-Song" is the seventh movement of "The Future of Life" for SATB chorus, trombone and piano, commissioned by The Master Singers, Adam Grossman, Music Director. The text is the poem "The Song" by Anne Baring, first published 1996 in "The Divine Feminine" by Anne Baring and Andrew Harvey, and used with the kind permission of Anne Baring.

The subject of the whole work is the preservation of biodiversity, with texts from the book *The Future of Life* by conservation biologist Edward O. Wilson and poems by Ann Baring and Judy Grahn. Bee-Song is the only movement without trombone. Mr. Grossman suggested I shorten the introduction for standalone performance. Learn more about "The Future of Life" at www.spindrift.com.

Bee-Song - SATB

10 *mp* *p* *mf*

S. *mp* *p* *mf*

A. *mp* *p* *mf*

T. *mp* *p* *mf*

B. *mp* *p* *mf*

Pno. *mp* *p* *mf*

Mo-ther of all be - gin - nings, Mo - ther, Mo-ther of all be - gin - nings

Mo-ther of all be - gin - nings, Mo - ther, Mo-ther of all be - gin - nings

Mo-ther of all be - gin - nings, Mo - ther, Mo-ther of all be - gin - nings

Mo-ther of all be - gin - nings, Mo - ther, Mo-ther of all be - gin - nings

15 **B** *p* *mf*

S. *p* *mf*

A. *p* *mf*

T. *p* *mf*

B. *p* *mf*

Pno. *mf* *mp* *pp*

Hold me Ga - ther me

Hold me Ga - ther me

Hold me Ga - ther me

Hold me Ga - ther me

Bee-Song - SATB

22 *mp*

S. Feed me with the hon-ey - nec - tar From the hive

A. *mp* Feed me with the hon-ey - nec - tar From the hive

T. *mp* Feed me with the hon-ey - nec - tar From the hive

B. *mp* Feed me with the hon-ey - nec - tar From the hive

Pno. *f*

27 **C** *mf*

S. Nour-ished, nour-ished, nour-ished

A. *mf* Nour-ished, nour-ished, nour-ished

T. *mf* Nour-ished, nour-ished, nour-ished

B. *mf* Nour-ished, nour-ished, nour-ished

Pno. **C**

Bee-Song - SATB

32

S. *f* *f* *mp*
I will sing I will sing the Bee - song

A. *f* *f* *mp*
I will sing I will sing, sing the Bee - song The

T. *mf* *f* *mf* *f* *mp*
I will sing, I will sing, sing, I sing the Bee - song The

B. *mf* *f* *mf* *f*
I will sing, I will sing, sing, I sing the Bee - song

Pno. *f* *mp*

38

S. *mp* *p* **D** *mp*
The long-for-got-ten thren-o-dy Of praise to thee. I will

A. *mp* *p* *mp*
long-for-got-ten thren-o-dy, thren-o-dy Of praise to thee. I will

T. *mp* *p* *mp*
long for-got-ten thren-o-dy Of praise to thee. I will

B. *mp* *p* *mp*
The long - for - got-ten thren-o-dy Of praise to thee. I will

Pno. *p* **D** *mp* *mf*

Bee-Song - SATB

44

S. *mf* ³ sing I will sing the Bee - song

A. *mf* ³ sing I will sing the Bee - song

T. *mf* ³ sing, I will sing, sing the Bee - song

B. *mf* ³ sing, I will sing, sing, sing the

Pno. *mf* ³

48

S. *f* *mp* *p* The long-for-got-ten thren-o-dy Of praise to thee.

A. *f* *mp* *p* The long-for-got-ten thren-o-dy, thren-o-dy Of praise to thee.

T. *f* *mp* *p* The long for-got-ten thren-o-dy Of praise to thee.

B. *f* *mp* *p* Bee - song The long - for - got-ten thren-o-dy Of praise to thee.

Pno. *f* *mp* *p*

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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)
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
Songs from a Quaker Heart for SATB chorus, piano
Weaving the World for SATB chorus, oboe, piano
Windshine for SATB chorus and cello
Wordless Prayer for SATB chorus

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



Bee-Song