

Riders on the Earth

Words and Music by Ellie Hallett
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Suggested choreography: Choir members enter. A few stand with backs to audience, some look straight ahead and some have heads bowed. (Organise and rehearse this so that there is an even spread of positions.) The conductor follows the last chorister and then stands looking at the space behind the audience without a smile to deepen the feeling of silence. As soon as the audience is still and quiet, the conductor turns and faces the choir.

The Introductory Recitation is then said slowly and dramatically to create a feeling of awe and wonder as a homage to our planet.

During the Sound Wave Meditation, all choristers slowly move into their normal singing position.

Please feel free to use your own choreography or adapt the above suggestions.

Introductory recitation

'To see the Earth as we now see it, small and blue and beautiful in that eternal silence where it floats, is to see ourselves as riders on the Earth together ... '

Sound Wave Meditation

$\text{♩} = 110$ *molto legato to achieve an ethereal blended and seamless sound*

Musical score for the Sound Wave Meditation section. It features four vocal parts: Soprano, Alto 1, Alto 2, and Bass. The Soprano and Alto 1 parts consist of a long, sustained note with a 'simile' marking and a crescendo. The Alto 2 part has a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes with lyrics 'wur_ wur' repeated. The Bass part has a similar rhythmic pattern with lyrics 'wur' repeated. A note for Soprano and Alto 1 is marked 'oo'. The Alto 2 part has a note marked 'p'. The Bass part has a note marked 'p'. The score is in 4/4 time and B-flat major.

The Awareness

with energy

mf

Musical score for the The Awareness section. It features four vocal parts: Soprano (S), Alto 1 (A1), Alto 2 (A2), and Bass (B). The lyrics are: 'When we look at our plan - et from the dis - tance of space, It ____'. The Soprano and Alto 1 parts have a melody with a 'mf' marking. The Alto 2 and Bass parts have a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes with lyrics 'wur_ wur' repeated. The score is in 4/4 time and B-flat major.

The above quotation is by American author Archibald MacLeish and written after he saw the first photo of Earth from space. It comes from his book *Riders on the Earth: Essays and Recollections*, published by Houghton Mifflin.

12

S seems such a small and frag - ile a place, So you real - ly would think that the *f*

A1 seems such a small and frag - ile a place, So you real - ly would think that the *f*

A2 8 seems such a small and frag - ile a place, So you real - ly would think that the *f*
word

B seems such a small and frag - ile a place, So you real - ly would think that the *f*

15

S peo - ple on Earth Would trea - sure each oth - er and trea - sure their world. *f*

A1 peo - ple on Earth Would trea - sure each oth - er and trea - sure their world. *f*

A2 8 peo - ple on Earth Would trea - sure each oth - er and trea - sure their world. But *ff*
The Distress Call

B peo - ple on Earth Would trea - sure each oth - er and trea - sure their world. But *ff*

18

S *ff* But what do you find we are

A1 *ff* But what do you find we are

A2 8 what do you find we are not ve - rykind to each oth - er or to the Earth. But what do you find we are *ff*

B what do you find we are not ve - rykind to each oth - er or to the Earth. But what do you find we are *ff*

♩ = 90

Chorale
mf dolce moderato

23

dim.

mf

S not ve - rykind to each oth - er or to the Earth. It's hard to know why there are

A1 not ve - rykind to each oth - er or to the Earth. It's hard to know why there are

A2 not ve - rykind to each oth - er or to the Earth. It's hard to know why there are

B not ve - rykind to each oth - er or to the Earth. It's hard to know why there are

28

S wars and such strife, When we see the Earth's beauty and know that all life is de - pen - dent on us, and

A1 wars and such strife, When we see the Earth's beauty and know that all life is de - pen - dent on us, and

A2 wars and such strife, When we see the Earth's beauty and know that all life is de - pen - dent on us, and

B wars and such strife, When we see the Earth's beauty and know that all life is de - pen - dent on us, and—

32

cresc.

cresc.

cresc.

cresc.

S how we take care, We're rid - ers to - geth - er this world that we share—

A1 how we take care, We're rid - ers to - geth - er on this world that we share— ri - ders to - geth - er the

A2 how we take care, We're rid - ers to - geth - er on this world that we share— ri - ders to - geth - er the

B how we take care, We're rid - ers to - geth - er on this world that we share— rid - ers to - geth - er the

36 *mp* (no 'w' in the diphthong 'our')

S This small lone-ly plan-et, our— raft in the night, Keepson hav-ing its en-vi-ronment

A1 world that weshare. This small lone-ly plan-et, our— raft in the night, Keepson hav-ing its en-vi-ronment

A2 world that weshare. This small lone-ly plan-et, our— raft in the night, Keepson hav-ing its en-vi-ronment

B world that weshare. This small lone-ly plan-et, our— raft in the night, Keepson hav-ing its en-vi-ronment

40 *all parts emphasise consonants* *mf*

S strafed by man's might. But the hour has sure - ly come for hu - man-it - y to cry, 'We're

A1 strafed by man's might. But the hour has sure - ly come for hu - man-it - y to cry, 'We're

A2 strafed by man's might. But the hour has sure - ly come for hu - man-it - y to cry, 'We're

B strafed by man's— might. But the hour has sure - ly come for hu - man-it - y to cry, 'We're

43 *allargando all parts* *ff*

S rid-ers to-geth-er this world that we share'

A1 rid-ers to-geth-er on this world that we share— Ri-ders to-geth-er the world that we share.'

A2 rid-ers to-geth-er on this world that we share— Ri-ders to-geth-er the world that we share.'

B id-ers to-geth-er on this world that we share— Rid-ers to-geth-er the world that we share.'

♩ = 110

Sound Wave

mf with agitation

47

S
oo _____ *simile*

A1
oo _____ *simile*

A2
mp
wur wur_ wur wur wur_ wur wur wur_ wur wur wur_ wur

B
(pitch pipe or similar intro)
mp
wur wur_ wur wur wur_ wur wur wur_ wur wur wur_ wur

The Environmental Plea

molto legato

52

S
f
When we

A1
f
When we

A2
mf wur wur_ wur wur_ wur_ wur_ wur_ wur_ When we

B
mf wur wur_ wur wur_ wur_ wur_ wur_ wur_ When we

56

S
look at our plan - et from the dis - tance of space, It _____ seems such a small _____ and

A1
look at our plan - et from the dis - tance of space, It seems such a small and

A2
look at our plan - et from the dis - tance of space, It seems such a small _____ and

B
look at our plan - et from the dis - tance of space, It _____ seems such a small and

59

S frag - ile a place, So you real - ly would think, *mf*

A1 frag - ile a place, So you real - ly would think, *mf*

A2 frag - ile a place, So you real - ly would think, *mf*

B frag - ile a place— So you real - ly would think, *f* Yes, you

61

S Yes, you real - ly would think, That the peo - ple on Earth, All the *ff* *mp*

A1 Yes, you real - ly would think, That the peo - ple on Earth, All the *ff* *mp*

A2 *emphatically* *ff* Yes, you real - ly would think, That the peo - ple on Earth, All the *mp*

B real - ly would think, Yes, you real - ly would think, That the peo - ple on Earth, All the *ff* *mp*

65 *slower and wistfully* *f* *divisi optional* *ff*

S peo - ple on Earth Would trea - sure each oth - er and trea - sure their world.

A1 peo - ple on Earth Would trea - sure each oth - er and trea - sure their world. *ff*

A2 peo - ple on Earth Would trea - sure each oth - er and trea - sure their world. *f* *ff*

B peo - ple on Earth Would trea - sure each oth - er and trea - sure their world. *f* *ff*