

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 choral 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, featuring Soprano, Alto, Tenor, and Bass parts. The score is in 4/4 time with a tempo of 110 beats per minute. The Soprano and Alto parts are marked *mp* and *simile*, with a *cresc.* marking at the end. The Tenor part is marked *p* and includes the lyrics 'wur_ wur_ wur_ wur_ wer_ wur_ wur_ wur'. The Bass part is marked *p* and includes the lyrics '(pitch pipe or similar intro) wur_ wur_ wur_ wur_ wur_ wur'. A note indicates that tenors and basses sing 'wur' as a mouth almost closed 'were'.

The Awareness

with energy

mf

Musical score for the The Awareness section, featuring Soprano (S.), Alto (A.), Tenor (T.), and Bass (B.) parts. The score is in 4/4 time and marked *mf*. The lyrics are: 'When we look at our plan - et from the dis - tance of space, It'. The Tenor and Bass parts include the lyrics 'wur_ wur' before the main text.

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.

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

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

T. 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*

S. peo - ple on Earth Would trea - sure each oth - er and trea - sure their world. *3*

A. peo - ple on Earth Would trea - sure each oth - er and trea - sure their world. *3*

T. ⁸ peo - ple on Earth Would trea - sure each oth - er and trea - sure their world. But *ff* *powerfu*

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

The Distress *ff* *powerfu*

S. *ff*
But what do you find we are

A. *ff*
But what do you find we are

T. 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.

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

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

T. 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

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

T. 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

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

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

T. 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