

# 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 ...'

**♩ = 110**      **Sound Wave Meditation**  
*molto legato to achieve an ethereal blended and seamless sound*

Soprano  
*mp* oo simile *cresc.*

Alto 1  
*mp* oo simile

Alto 2  
*p* wur\_ wur wur\_ wur wur\_ wur wur\_ wer wur\_ wur wur\_ wur

Bass  
*p* (pitch pipe or similar intro) wur wur wur wur wur

**8**

S  
*mf* When we look at our plan - et from the dis - tance of space, It \_\_\_\_

A1  
*mf* When we look at our plan - et from the dis - tance of space, It

A2  
wur\_ wur wur\_ wur When we look at our plan - et from the dis - tance of space, It

B  
wur wur When we look at our plan - et from the dis - tance of space, It \_\_\_\_

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.

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

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

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

A1 peo - ple on Earth Would trea - sure each oth - er and trea - sure their world. *3*

A2 *s* peo - ple on Earth Would trea - sure each oth - er and trea - sure their world. *3* **The Distress Call** *ff* But

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

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S *ff* But what do you find we are

A1 *ff* But what do you find we are

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

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