To Whom It May Concern:

I hope my project may be considered for the Science Library’s Capturing Science contest. I am a senior at UGA studying Music Composition and Music Business. My submission is entitled *Trees of Life*. Set to text that poetically explains photosynthesis, my music seeks to honor the organisms to which we owe a large part of the oxygen in our atmosphere, specifically trees. You will notice there is much non-standard music notation in my piece. This notation directs the singers on how to breathe throughout the piece. Since breathing is ultimately our response to photosynthesis, I decided to make the sounds surrounding breath a major part of this work. Singers are frequently directed to inhale and exhale on pitched, semi-pitched, or pitch-less vowels at a variety of dynamics. These breathing sounds have constancy throughout the piece both in form and pattern, which ties into their underlying nature. There are also various sound effects to describe the elements from which trees emerge: fire, air, water, and earth.

I have attached a sample from the MIDI playback that my notation software offers to show a rough approximation of the piece’s sound. Of course, the computer-generated sounds lack all of the soul and subtlety a human vocal quartet would perform with, and both the breathing sounds and sound effects are absent in the playback. The playback should only be seen as very distant relative to the piece’s true sound. The sample starts at measure 67. I hope to obtain a live recording of the piece soon.

Thank you for your consideration!

Nathan Trivers