Trees of Life
-Nathan Trivers-
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for SATB vocal quartet
Duration: Approximately 7 minutes

Athens, GA
2017

We are the ground and the sky combined, intertwined,
Born of fire, air, water, and earth.
We breathe in the sun.
And exhale life in a whisper,
a song that we give to the world.
We may not be human,
but we allow You to be, 
Human.

-Henry Adams (2017)
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Performance Notes

Noteheads with bisecting up arrows indicate audible inhalations, while noteheads with bisecting down arrows indicate audible exhalations. These breath sounds have accompanying IPA text which direct the proper mouth shape of the given breath. The location of the notehead within the staff has no bearing on the production of the sound.

Cross noteheads indicate quasi-pitched sound effects. While there should be no discernable sung pitch, the placement of the note on the staff indicates the "pitch" of the sound relative to similar sound effects.

Portamenti that ellide with rests indicate a slide down into silence. Slid intervals should be sized small to moderate.

Dotted portamenti that elide with exhalations indicate a breathy slide down into the exhalation.

Frequently, "(h)" precedes sung vowels. This indicates that the vowel should smoothly emerge from an exhalation rather than a glottal stroke.

Occasionally, singers are asked for staccato articulation while under slurs. In these cases, simply rearticulate the sustained vowel with a glottal stroke.

IPA Vowels

[ɑ] : The “a” in “father” in most American and British accents.
[o] : The first vowel in the diphong "goat" in American English.

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*for SATB vocal quartet*

Text: Henry Adams

Nathan Trivers

**Tranquillamente** \( \text{\textit{mp}} \) \( \text{\texttt{\textit{q}=60}} \)

\begin{align*}
\text{Soprano} & \quad \text{\texttt{[u] [u] [u] [u] [u]}} \\
\text{Alto} & \quad \text{\texttt{[u] [u] [u] [u] [u]}} \\
\text{Tenor} & \quad \text{\texttt{[u] [o] [u] [u] \text{\texttt{[h]}mmm...\text{\texttt{[o]}}}}} \\
\text{Bass} & \quad \text{\texttt{[u] [o] \text{\texttt{[h]}mmm...\text{\texttt{[o]}}}}} \\
\end{align*}
11

S.

A.

T.

B.

[we] [we are] (h)mmm... [a] ground...

[we] [we are] (h)mmm... [a]

[we] [we are] ground...

[we] [we are] the... [a] ground...

[we] [we are] the... [a]

[we] [we are] the... [a]

[we] [we are] the... [a]
We are the ground and the sky combined,

We are the ground sky combined,

We are the ground sky combined,

We are the ground,

in-ti-tweend,

in-ti-tweend,

in-ti-tweend,

in-ti-tweend,

in-ti-tweend,

in-ti-tweend,
in-ter twined, [a] (h)[a] [o] [u] (h)mmm...  

Born of fire, ksh! ksh! of fire
S. \( \text{air,} \ [\text{o}] \ [\text{shh}] \ _{\text{water}} \)

A. \( \text{air, born of} \ [\text{shh}] \ [\text{o}] \ [\text{shh}] \ _{\text{water}} \text{water water water} \)

T. \( \text{of air, born of} \ _{\text{water}} \)

B. \( \text{of air,} \ [\text{shh}] \ _{\text{water}} \text{water water water} \)

\text{meno mosso.} \ = 76

S. \( \text{L stomp} \ R \text{ stomp} \ _{\text{L stomp}} \ _{\text{f}} \)

A. \( \text{L stomp} \ R \text{ stomp} \ _{\text{L stomp}} \ _{\text{f}} \)

T. \( \text{L stomp} \ R \text{ stomp} \ _{\text{L stomp}} \ _{\text{f}} \)

B. \( \text{L stomp} \ R \text{ stomp} \ _{\text{L stomp}} \ _{\text{f}} \)

- ter, \( \text{born of} \ _{[a]} \text{earth.} \)

- ter, \( \text{born of} \ _{[a]} \text{earth.} \)

- ter, \( \text{born of} \ _{[a]} \text{earth.} \)

- ter, born of \( \text{born of} \ _{[a]} \text{earth.} \)
We breathe in the sun, [a] [a] [a] sun, we

(h)[a] [o] [o] [o] sun, we breathe in the sun,

(h)[a] [o] [o] [o] sun, we breathe in the sun, we

We breathe in the sun, [a] [a] [a] sun, we
breathe, 
(h)ahh...__

breathe, and exhale_

breathe,_____

life, ____

life, li --

life,____

life,____

life,_________
molto accel.

Molto Allargando
It is a whisper.

It is a song.

A song, to the world.

It is a song. We give to the

It is a song. We give to the

It is a song. We give to the

A song, to the world.
A song, song, song, song, song,
world.

A song, song, song, song, song,
world.

A song, song, song, song, song,
world.

A song, song, song, song, song,
We may not be human, but we al-
S.  

\textit{molto rit.} \quad \textit{Lento} \quad \frac{\text{mf}}{\text{ff}} \quad \frac{\text{mf}}{\text{ff}} \quad \frac{\text{mf}}{\text{ff}}

\begin{align*}
\text{be,} & \quad \text{Human.} \\
\text{be,} & \quad [\alpha] \quad [\alpha] \\
\text{be,} & \quad [\alpha] \quad [\alpha] \\
\text{be,} & \quad [\alpha] \quad [\alpha] \\
\text{be,} & \quad [\alpha] \quad [\alpha] \\
\end{align*}

A.  

\begin{align*}
\text{be,} & \quad \text{air,} \\
\text{be,} & \quad [\alpha] \quad [\alpha] \\
\text{be,} & \quad [\alpha] \quad [\alpha] \\
\text{be,} & \quad [\alpha] \quad [\alpha] \\
\text{be,} & \quad [\alpha] \quad [\alpha] \\
\end{align*}

T.  

\begin{align*}
\text{be,} & \quad \text{ground,} \\
\text{be,} & \quad [\alpha] \quad [\alpha] \\
\text{be,} & \quad [\alpha] \quad [\alpha] \\
\text{be,} & \quad [\alpha] \quad [\alpha] \\
\text{be,} & \quad [\alpha] \quad [\alpha] \\
\end{align*}

B.  

\begin{align*}
\text{be,} & \quad \text{ground,} \\
\text{be,} & \quad [\alpha] \quad [\alpha] \\
\text{be,} & \quad [\alpha] \quad [\alpha] \\
\text{be,} & \quad [\alpha] \quad [\alpha] \\
\text{be,} & \quad [\alpha] \quad [\alpha] \\
\end{align*}

S.  

\begin{align*}
\text{sky,} & \quad \text{water,} \\
\text{be,} & \quad \text{water,} \\
\text{be,} & \quad \text{water,} \\
\text{be,} & \quad \text{water,} \\
\text{be,} & \quad \text{water,} \\
\end{align*}

A.  

\begin{align*}
\text{air,} & \quad \text{water,} \\
\text{air,} & \quad \text{water,} \\
\text{air,} & \quad \text{water,} \\
\text{air,} & \quad \text{water,} \\
\text{air,} & \quad \text{water,} \\
\end{align*}

T.  

\begin{align*}
\text{fire,} & \quad \text{fire,} \\
\text{fire,} & \quad \text{fire,} \\
\text{fire,} & \quad \text{fire,} \\
\text{fire,} & \quad \text{fire,} \\
\text{fire,} & \quad \text{fire,} \\
\end{align*}

B.  

\begin{align*}
\text{ground,} & \quad \text{ground,} \\
\text{ground,} & \quad \text{ground,} \\
\text{ground,} & \quad \text{ground,} \\
\text{ground,} & \quad \text{ground,} \\
\text{ground,} & \quad \text{ground,} \\
\end{align*}