

PIANO/VOCAL SCORE

# Lament of the EARTH

STEVE HEITZEG

*SATB Chorus, SATB Soli, Children's or Treble Choir, and Piano,  
with opt. Timpani, Percussion, and Strings*

Texts by  
Susan Palo Cherwien, Tachibana Hokushi,  
Winona LaDuke, Terry Tempest Williams,  
and an African proverb as cited by Alice Walker

  
NATIONAL  
LUTHERAN  
CHOIR  
Series

  
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David Cherwien, Artistic Director*

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the Dale Warland Singers Commission Award  
presented by Chorus America  
and funded by the American Composers Forum*

*Dedicated to Susan Palo Cherwien, Winona LaDuke, Alice Walker  
and Terry Tempest Williams for their profound love of the earth*

*First Performance*

Clara Osowski, alto soloist  
National Lutheran Choir  
David Cherwien, Artistic Director/Conductor  
Minnesota Boy Choir  
Mark Johnson, Artistic Director  
Saint Andrew's Lutheran Church

Mahtomedi, MN  
May 1, 2022

**Duration: 35:00**

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### Earth Aria I

*“The world is holy. We are holy. All life is holy. Daily prayers are delivered on the lips of breaking waves, the whispering of grasses, the shimmering of leaves.”*

—Terry Tempest Williams

#### I. God Says Beauty

In the beginning  
in the beginning  
of God’s creating  
God said  
Let there be.  
And there is.

The galaxy patterns the atom  
the sun patterns the eye  
the cloud patterns the gneiss  
the whirlwind patterns the nest  
And God says  
Tov! Beauty!

the cavern patterns the womb  
the basalt patterns the cell  
the crystal patterns the bone  
the mud patterns the pelt  
And God says  
Tov! Beauty!

the river patterns the tree  
the tree patterns the leaf  
the root patterns the crown  
the fern patterns the frost  
the delta patterns the blood  
the vine patterns the branch  
the lightning patterns the thought  
And God says  
Beauty!

the dune patterns the fur  
the web patterns the wing  
the snowline patterns the brain  
the meander patterns the poem  
And God, and God says  
“Beauty!”

And creation, creation sings  
“Glory!”

—Susan Palo Cherwien and Genesis 1

## Earth Aria II

*"Power is not brute force and money; power is in your spirit. Power is in your soul. It is what your ancestors, your old people gave you. Power is in the earth; it is your relationship to the earth."*

—Winona LaDuke

### II. Earth Speaks: The Reproach

O my people,  
what more could I have done for you  
that I have not done?

Answer me.

Answer me.

My seas in your cells  
My rock in your bones  
My sky in your breath  
My sun in your thought

Is it nothing to you  
all you who pass by?  
Behold and see  
if there be any sorrow  
like unto my sorrow...  
behold and see.

Your greed soils my seas  
Your waste fires my rock  
Your wrath floods my sky  
Your sloth clouds my sun

O my people,  
what more could I have done for you  
that I have not done?

Answer me.

Answer me.

—Micah 6:3; Lamentations 1:12;  
with tropes by Susan Palo Cherwien

### Earth Aria III

*“When the axe came into the forest, the trees said: The handle is one of us.”*

—an African proverb as cited by Alice Walker in *Possessing the Secret of Joy*

#### III. *Ashamnu* (We Have Trespassed)

O God, Mystery pulsing  
 through all and in all and for all that is—  
 God of all generations,  
 let our prayers rise, rise before you  
 let them not fade, fade like wisps of smoke  
 we are not made of brass  
 we are not loath to bow  
 we do not scoff, saying  
 “No, we have not **sinned!**”<sup>\*</sup>  
 we know, we know,  
 Indeed we have **sinned**  
 our ancestors have **sinned**  
 we have all sinned  
 against You, O God,  
 against You,  
 and against Your creation.  
 Ah,  
 we have **axed**  
 we have **barbed**  
 we have **caged**, we have **charred**  
 Ah=  
 we have **dammed**, we have **deflowered**  
 we have **eclipsed**, we have **empired**  
 we have **fenced**  
 we have **gorged**  
 we have **hoarded**  
 we have **ignored**  
 Ah...  
 we have **jaded**  
 we have **killed**  
**loosed, marred, nulled**  
 we have **orphaned**  
 we have **poisoned**  
**quashed, robbed, ruined**  
 Ah!

<sup>\*</sup> At each of the bold words, the singers strike their chests with the fist of their right hand, about at heart level. Not hard, but like a knock to awaken the heart.

we have **stomped**, we have **saddened**  
 we have **tethered**, we have **threatened**  
 we have **undermined, uprooted,**  
**violated, wasted**  
 we have **excluded, executed**  
 we have **extracted**, we have **exhausted**  
 we have **yawned**, we have **dozed...**  
 Ah.

O God, Mystery pulsing  
 through all and in all and for all that is—

Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
 and renew a right spirit within me.

**Amen**

—Susan Palo Cherwien,  
 based on the *Ashamnu*, “We have trespassed,”  
 Jewish prayer from Yom Kippur

#### **Earth Aria IV**

*For that brief moment  
 when the fire-fly went out...O  
 the lonely darkness.*

—Taschibana Hokushi

#### **IV. Hozhóogo naasháa doo: May I Walk in Beauty**

May I walk in Beauty like the stars  
 like sun on leaf, so may I walk  
 May I walk in Beauty like the mist  
 like dew on field, so may I walk  
 May I walk in Beauty like the breeze  
 like night on sky, so may I walk  
 May I walk in Beauty like the earth  
 like moss on rock, so may I walk

Beauty in my feet  
 Beauty in my hands  
 Beauty in my heart  
 Beauty in my eyes  
 Beauty in my words.

—Susan Palo Cherwien,  
 based on a traditional Diné prayer

## INSTRUMENTATION

Timpani

Percussion

Bamboo Wind Chimes  
Bass Drum  
Bongos (2)  
Chimes  
Claves  
Crystal Singing Bowl pitched at C#/D♭  
Driftwood (2 pieces)  
Glockenspiel  
Güiro  
Hand Cymbals  
Hempseed and Corn Rattle  
Mark Tree  
Metal Plate with metal hammer  
Ocean Drum  
Plastic bags filled with small pieces of plastic (2)  
Quica Drum  
Ratchet  
Sandpaper Blocks  
Sea Shell Wind Chimes (Capiz)  
Stones (2)  
Suspended Cymbal (large)  
Tambourine  
Tam-tam  
Temple Blocks  
Triangle  
Vibraslap  
Whip  
Wild Rice and Bluestem Grass Seed Rattle  
Xylophone

Guitar (optional)

Ukulele (optional)

Violin I

Violin II

Viola

Violoncello

Contrabass



Commissioned by The National Lutheran Choir, David Cherwien, Music Director

This commission was made possible in part by the Dale Warland Singers Commission Award  
presented by Chorus America and funded by the American Composers Forum

to Susan Palo Cherwien, Winona LaDuke, Alice Walker, and Terry Tempest Williams  
for their profound love of the earth

# Lament of the Earth

SATB Chorus, SATB Soli, Children's or Treble Choir, and Piano,  
with opt. Timpani, Percussion, and Strings

## Earth Aria I: The World Is Holy

Terry Tempest Williams

Steve Heitzeg

**Adagio, sostenuto, prayer-like** (♩ = 48)

Children's Choir (\*) *p semplice*  
The world is ho-ly. — We are ho-ly. — All life is ho-ly. —

Soprano *p*  
hm

Alto *p*  
hm

Tenor

Bass

Piano *p*  
*p semplice, sustained*

Ocean Drum

Strings

\* May also be performed by a small group of singers or a solo singer.

### Available Editions

Choir Score, Order No. MSM-70-400

Full Score, Order No. MSM-70-400A

Reproducible parts for Timpani, Percussion, and String Orchestra, Order No. MSM-70-400B

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C.C. *mp*  
The world is ho-ly. — We are ho-ly. — All life is ho-ly. — Dai - ly Prayers are de -

S hm

A hm hm

Pno. *mp*

11 *molto accel.*  
*poco a poco cresc.*

C.C. *f*  
liv-ered on the lips of break-ing waves, — the whis-per-ing of grass-es, — the shim-mer-ing of leaves. ah —

S *f*  
ah —

A

Pno. *molto accel.*  
*poco a poco cresc.* *f*

## I. God Says Beauty

Susan Palo Cherwien

**Vivo** (♩ = 150)

*f*

S  
A  
T  
B

(clap) (clap) (clap) (clap)

(clap) (clap) (clap) (clap)

(clap) (clap) (clap) (clap)

(clap) (clap) (clap) (clap)

**Vivo** (♩ = 150)

*f*

Pno.

5

S  
A  
T  
B

(clap) (clap) (clap) (clap)

(clap) (clap) (clap) (clap)

(clap) (clap) (clap) (clap)

(clap) (clap) (clap) (clap)

(clap) (clap) (clap) (clap)

Pno.

(Sub)

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9 *sub. p*

S  
ah ah ah ah

A  
*sub. p*  
ah ah ah ah

T  
*sub. p*  
ah ah ah ah

B  
*sub. p*  
ah ah ah ah

Pno.  
*sub. p*

13

S  
ah ah ah ah

A  
ah ah ah ah

T  
*8*  
ah ah ah ah

B  
ah ah ah ah

Pno.

17 *mp* *poco a poco cresc.*

S In \_\_\_\_\_ the \_be-gin-ning in \_\_\_\_\_ the \_be-gin-ning of \_\_\_\_\_ God's cre-at-ing of \_\_\_\_\_ God's cre-at-ing

A *mp* *poco a poco cresc.*

T *mp* *poco a poco cresc.*

B *mp* *poco a poco cresc.*

Pno. *mp* *poco a poco cresc.*

21

S In \_\_\_\_\_ the \_be-gin-ning in \_\_\_\_\_ the \_be-gin-ning of \_\_\_\_\_ God's cre-at-ing of \_\_\_\_\_ God's cre-at-ing

A In \_\_\_\_\_ the \_be-gin-ning in \_\_\_\_\_ the \_be-gin-ning of \_\_\_\_\_ God's cre-at-ing of \_\_\_\_\_ God's cre-at-ing

T *mp* *poco a poco cresc.*

B In \_\_\_\_\_ the \_be-gin-ning in \_\_\_\_\_ the \_be-gin-ning of \_\_\_\_\_ God's cre-at-ing of \_\_\_\_\_ God's cre-at-ing

Pno. *poco a poco cresc.* *f*

25 *sub. p*

S God said Let there be. And there is. And there is.

A *sub. p*  
God said Let there Let there be. And there is.

T *sub. p*  
God said Let there Let there be. And there is.

B *sub. p*  
God said Let there Let there be. And there is.

Pno. *sub. p*

29 *mp* *rit.*

S *mp*  
God said Let there be. And there is. And there is.

A *mp*  
God said Let there be. And there is. And there is.

T *mp*  
God said Let there be. And there is. And there is.

B *mp*  
God said Let there be. And there is. And there is.

Pno. *mp* *rit.*

## Earth Aria II: Power Is in the Earth

Winona LaDuke

Deeply-Rooted, Grounded (♩ = 72)

*mf* spoken

C.C.

Pow - er is not \_ brute force and mon - ey;

A *p*  
(humming)

T *p*  
(humming)

Pno. Timp. *p*

9 Strings

Pno. *p*

13

Pno. *mf*

*f*

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17 **Sing**  
*sub. p*

C.C. pow-er is in your spir - it, your spir - it.

T *sub. p*  
8 ah

Pno. *sfp*  
Rattles

21 *mp*

C.C. Pow-er is in your soul, in your soul.

T *mp*  
8 ah

Pno. *mp* *mf*  
Timp.

25

C.C. It is what your - an - ces - tors, your old peo-ple gave you.

A ah ah

Pno. *f*



## II. Earth Speaks: The Reproach

Susan Palo Cherwien

**With disappointment** (♩ = 56)  
Alto Solo  
*p*

O — my peo - ple, what more could I have done for you that I have not done?

**With disappointment** (♩ = 56)  
Pno.  
*sfp*

5 **Movendo** (♩ = 92)

Alto Solo  
that I have not done? that I have not done?

S  
*p (half-whispered)*  
O — my peo - ple,

A  
*p (half-whispered)*  
O — my peo - ple,

T  
*p (half-whispered)*  
O — my peo - ple,

B  
*p (half-whispered)*  
O — my peo - ple,

**Movendo** (♩ = 92)  
Pno.  
*sfp* *p* *poco a poco cresc.*

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11

*mp* *mf*

S O my peo - ple, O my peo - ple,

A O my peo - ple, O my peo - ple,

T O my peo - ple, O my peo - ple,

B O my peo - ple, O my peo - ple,

Pno. *mp* *mf*

19

*f* *molto rit.* *mp* **Imploringly** (♩ = 50)

S O my peo - ple, An - swer me. An - swer me. An - swer me. An - swer me.

A O my peo - ple, An - swer me. An - swer me. An - swer me. An - swer me.

T O my peo - ple, An - swer me. An - swer me. An - swer me. An - swer me.

B O my peo - ple, An - swer me. An - swer me. An - swer me. An - swer me.

Pno. *f* *mp* **Imploringly** (♩ = 50)

27

*molto accel.*

S An - - - - swer me. An - - - - swer me. An - swer me. An - swer me.

A An - swer me. An - swer me. An - swer me. An - swer me. An - swer me. An - swer me.

T An - swer me. An - swer me. An - swer me. An - swer me. An - swer me. An - swer me.

B An - swer me. An - swer me. An - swer me. An - swer me. An - swer me. An - swer me.

Pno.

**Tempo II** (♩ = 92)

33

*mf*

S My — seas, my seas in your — cells My — rock, my rock in your — bones

A My — seas, my seas in your — cells My — rock, my rock in your — bones

T My seas — in your cells My rock in your — bones

B My seas — in your cells My rock in your — bones

Pno.

**Tempo II** (♩ = 92)

41

*poco a poco rit.* *f*

S  
My — sky, my sky in your — breath My sun in your thought *f*

A  
My — sky, my sky in your — breath My — sun — in — your — thought *f*

T  
My sky — in your breath My sun in your — thought *f*

B  
My sky — in your breath My sun in your — thought *f*

Pno. *poco a poco rit.* *f*

49 **Tempo I** (♩ = 56)

*molto accel.* *ff* ,

Alto Solo *mf*  
Is it noth-ing to you all you who pass by? \_\_\_\_\_

**Tempo I** (♩ = 56)

*molto accel.* ,

Pno. *sfp* *f* *ff*

# Earth Aria III: When the Axe Came into the Forest

African proverb as cited by Alice Walker in  
*Possessing the Secret of Joy*

**Marziale, foreboding** (♩ = 160)  
*p*

S  
hoo hoo hoo hoo hoo hoo hoo hoo hoo hoo hoo hoo hoo hoo hoo hoo

A  
hoo hoo hoo hoo hoo hoo hoo hoo hoo hoo hoo hoo hoo hoo hoo hoo

T  
hoo hoo hoo hoo hoo hoo hoo hoo hoo hoo hoo hoo hoo hoo hoo hoo

B  
hoo hoo hoo hoo hoo hoo hoo hoo hoo hoo hoo hoo hoo hoo hoo hoo

**Marziale, foreboding** (♩ = 160)  
Temple Blocks  
*p*

Pno.

5

S  
hoo hoo hoo hoo hoo hoo hoo hoo hoo hoo hoo hoo hoo hoo hoo hoo

A  
hoo hoo hoo hoo hoo hoo hoo hoo hoo hoo hoo hoo hoo hoo hoo hoo

T  
hoo hoo hoo hoo hoo hoo hoo hoo hoo hoo hoo hoo hoo hoo hoo hoo

B  
hoo hoo hoo hoo hoo hoo hoo hoo hoo hoo hoo hoo hoo hoo hoo hoo

Pno.

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### III. Ashamnu (We Have Trespassed)

Susan Palo Cherwien

**With spirit, dance-like** (♩ = 108)

*mp*

S  
O ——— God, ——— Mys-ter-y puls - ing through -

A  
O ——— God, ——— Mys-ter-y puls - ing through -

T  
8

B

**With spirit, dance-like** (♩ = 108)

Pno. *f* *sub. mp legg.*

9

S  
all — and in — all and — for all — that is — God of all gen - er - a - tions,

A  
all — and in — all and — for all — that is — God of all gen - er - a - tions,

T  
8 *mp*  
God of all gen - er - a - tions, -

B *mp*  
God, God of all

Pno.

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14

*poco a poco cresc.*

S God of all gen-er-a - tions, God of all gen-er-a - tions, God of all gen-er-a - tions,

*poco a poco cresc.*

A God of all gen-er-a - tions, God of all gen-er-a - tions, God of all gen-er-a - tions,

*poco a poco cresc.*

T God of all gen-er-a - tions, God of all gen-er-a - tions, God of all gen-er-a - tions,

*poco a poco cresc.*

B gen - er - a - tions, God, God of all gen - er - a - tions,

*poco a poco cresc.*

Pno. *poco a poco cresc.*

20

S *f* let our prayers rise, rise be - fore you

A *f* let our prayers rise, rise be - fore you

T *f* let our prayers rise, rise be - fore you

B *f* let our prayers rise, rise be - fore you

Pno. *f*



24

S  
let them not fade, fade like wisps of smoke

A  
let them not fade like wisps of smoke

T  
let them not fade like wisps of smoke

B  
let them not fade like wisps of smoke

Pno.

28

S  
we are not made of brass we are not loath to bow

A  
we are not made of brass we are not loath to bow

T  
we are not made of brass we are not loath to bow

B  
we are not made of brass we are not loath to bow

Pno.

32

S we do not scoff, say - ing, "No, we have not sinned!"

A we do not scoff, say - ing, "No, we have not sinned!"

T we do not scoff, say - ing, "No, we have not sinned!"

B we do not scoff, say - ing, "No, we have not sinned!"

Pno.

36

S we know, we know, In - - - deed we have sinned

A we know, we know, In - - - deed we have sinned

T we know, we know, In - - - deed we sinned

B we know, we know, In - - - deed we sinned

Pno.

## Earth Aria IV: For That Brief Moment

Tachibana Hokushi

Adagio ma mosso (♩ = 66)

C.C.

Adagio ma mosso (♩ = 66)  
Crystal Singing Bowl (thoughtout) Strings

Pno. *pp* *p*

7 *p*

C.C.

For — that — brief — mo - ment when the fi - re - fly went out...

Pno.

13 *rit.* *a tempo*

C.C.

O — the — lone - ly — dark - ness, dark - ness, O —

*rit.* *a tempo*

Pno.

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Più mosso (♩ = 72)

C.C. *p* ooh

Pno. *mp*

C.C. *rit.* ooh

Pno. *f* *mp* *rit.*

C.C. *a tempo* *p* *rit.* ooh

Pno. *a tempo* *rit.*

C.C. *a tempo* *p* ooh

Pno. *a tempo* *p* *ppp*

## IV. Hozhóogo naasháa doo: May I Walk in Beauty

Susan Palo Cherwien, based on a traditional Diné prayer

**Ceremonial** ( $\text{♩} = 44$ )

*p*

S  
A  
T  
B

Beau-ty in my feet Beau-ty in my hands Beau-ty in my

*p*

Beau-ty in my feet Beau-ty in my hands Beau-ty in my

*p*

Beau-ty in my feet Beau-ty in my hands Beau-ty in my

*p*

Beau-ty in my feet Beau-ty in my hands Beau-ty in my

**Ceremonial** ( $\text{♩} = 44$ )

Pno.

5

S  
A  
T  
B

heart Beau-ty in my eyes Beau-ty in my words.

heart Beau-ty in my eyes Beau-ty in my words.

heart Beau-ty in my eyes Beau-ty in my words.

heart Beau-ty in my eyes Beau-ty in my words.

Pno.

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8 **Piú mosso** (♩ = 54)

C.C. *mp*  
May I walk in Beau-ty like the stars like sun on leaf, so may I walk, so may I

S  
ah ah ah ah

A  
ah ah ah ah

T  
ah ah ah ah

B  
ah ah ah ah

**Piú mosso** (♩ = 54)

Pno.

12

C.C.  
walk

S  
ah ah

A  
ah ah

T  
ah ah

B  
ah ah

Pno.

16 **Tempo I** (♩ = 44)

C.C. *p*  
Beau-ty in my feet Beau-ty in my hands

Alto Solo *p*  
Beau-ty in my feet Beau-ty in my hands

S *p*  
Beau-ty in my feet Beau-ty in my hands Beau-ty in my

A *p*  
Beau-ty in my feet Beau-ty in my hands Beau-ty in my

T *p*  
Beau-ty in my feet Beau-ty in my hands Beau-ty in my

B *p*  
Beau-ty in my feet Beau-ty in my hands Beau-ty in my

**Tempo I** (♩ = 44)

Pno. *p*

19

C.C.  
— in my heart — Beau-ty in my eyes — Beau ty in my words.

Alto Solo  
— in my heart — Beau-ty in my eyes — Beau-ty in my words.

S  
heart — Beau-ty in my eyes — Beau-ty in my words.

A  
heart — Beau-ty in my eyes — Beau-ty in my words.

T  
heart — Beau-ty in my eyes — Beau-ty in my words.

B  
heart — Beau-ty in my eyes — Beau-ty in my words.

Pno.

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