

CHORAL SCORE

The Elements We've Had Since Birth
(#6 from **Midnight Sun Songs**)

for youth choir
and piano trio

words and melodies by
Paige Gillis, Justin Stewart,
McKenzy Mullen, Pyper Rehm,
and Kelsey Robson

music and arrangement by
Jeffrey Ryan

commissioned by
Northern Arts and Cultural Centre
and the Gryphon Trio

Programme Note:

For the 2014/15 season, the Gryphon Trio partnered with the Northern Arts and Cultural Centre for a far-reaching instalment of the Trio's *Listen Up!* project. Students in six communities throughout Canada's Northwest Territories wrote poetry around the theme of The Elements, then worked with composers Jeffrey Ryan and Carmen Braden to develop melodies for their poetry. These melodies became the source material for ***Midnight Sun Songs***, a collection of six songs for youth choir and piano trio composed and arranged by Jeffrey Ryan. ***Midnight Sun Songs*** received its world premiere in May 2015 at Yellowknife's Northern Arts and Cultural Centre, performed by a 70-voice youth choir comprised of students from the six participating communities, accompanied by the Gryphon Trio and conducted by Rob Kapilow.

The Elements We've Had Since Birth is the sixth song of the collection, and expresses how important the elements are in so many aspects of our lives.

Performance Note:

The Elements We've Had Since Birth may be performed separately, or in combination with any or all of the other ***Midnight Sun Songs***.

THE ELEMENTS WE'VE HAD SINCE BIRTH

We might not know this, but it's true: the elements have a special job to do

Fire, water, wind and earth, the elements we've had since birth

Fire, water, wind and earth
Fire is the flame, the flame we use
Wind blows at amazing speed
And wind keeps us cool as it zooms past you like a breeze

The wood is burning and soon it will vanish
Earth's soil is so rich and its sky is so blue
It's something you need

Water wander through a lake
Fire flickers in the night sky
Wind brings spring to mind
Earth is our place of birth
We hold the elements for all we're worth

Fire can burn you, fire can be used for camp, but fire can be hot
We live on the earth, we live in harmony here, yet we die on earth
We drink lots of water, yet we pollute most of it. Keep the water clean
We breathe the air, but we also pollute the air. Keep the air clean

It flows swiftly through the trees
Whether it icy wind or breeze
Singing a song of the winds

Its solid shell and powerful stones set the ground apart
Such bold power makes tingling bones, but the beauty calms hearts
Cackling is all that is heard
Burning is all that is felt
The wickedness spreads and the innocent stand tall

The end has come but this is the new beginning
It cleanses the world
In the end, water sweeps it all away, so we no longer weep.

Without the earth, who would tend the flame?
Without the flame, who would know of pain?
Without the pain, who would know of love?
Without the love, who would have a spirit?
And without the spirit, how could we let the wind sing us all to sleep?

CHORAL

The Elements We've Had Since Birth

(#6 from Midnight Sun Songs)

words and melodies by
Paige Gillis, Justin
Stewart, McKenzie
Mullen, Pyper Rehm,
and Kelsey Robson
music and arrangement by
Jeffrey Ryan

(Paige Gillis/Norman Wells)

$\bullet = 108$ *A tempo*

All: *p* chanted, softly but with energy

Solo, spoken:

We might not know this, but it's true.
The elements have a special job to do.

Fi-re, wa-ter, wind and earth, the e-le-ments we've had since birth.

Fi-re, wa-ter, wind and earth, the e-le-ments we've had since birth. **A** Fi-re, wa-ter, wind and earth, the

e-le-ments we've had since birth. Fi-re, wa-ter, wind and earth, the e-le-ments we've had since birth.

Fi-re, wa-ter, wind and earth, the e-le-ments we've had since birth. **B** Fi-re, wa-ter, wind and earth, the

13 **C**

e-le-ments we've had since birth. Fi-re, wa-ter, wind and earth, the e-le-ments we've had since birth.

16

Fi-re, wa-ter, wind and earth, the e-le-ments we've had since birth. Had since birth.

19 **D** (Justin Stewart/Norman Wells)

Sing! *mf*

Fi-re, wa - ter, wind ___ and earth. ___

f sub. *mp*

23 **E**

Fi-re, wa - ter, wind ___ and earth. ___ Fi-re is the flame, ___

27 F

the flame we use. Wind blows at a - ma - zing speed. (hold)

32 *mp*

And wind keeps us

36 G

cool as it zooms

39

past you like a breeze.

- elements choral -

42 **H** *mf*

The wood is burn - ing and

45 **J** $\bullet = 84$ *Majestically* *f*

soon it will van - ish. Earth's soil is so rich

49 **K** $\bullet = 72$ *Calming* *mf* *mp* *p*

and its sky is so blue. It's some - thing you

54 $\bullet = 60$ *div.* **L** $\bullet = 84$ *sub. Flowing* *p*

need.

(McKenzy Mullen/Norman Wells)

58

unis. mp

Wa - ter wan - ders _____ through a lake.

58

M

62

Fi-re _____ flick-ers _____ in the night sky. _

62

66

Wind brings spring to mind. Earth _____ is our

66

N

70

place _____ of birth. We hold the e - le-ments for all _____

70

74

we're worth. _____

74

79

O $\bullet = 120$ sub. Boisterously (Pyper Rehm/Fort Smith) *mf*

Fire can burn ___ you, fire can be used for

79

mf < f *mp*

83

camp, but fire can be hot.

83

mf

87

P *mf*

We live on the earth, _____

87

mf < f *mp*

91

we live in har-mo-ny here, — yet we die on earth.

95

Q

mf

We drink lots of wa - ter, —

95

f *mf < f* *mp*

99

mf

— yet we pol - lute most of it. Keep the wa-ter clean.

99

mf *mf*

103

R

Keep the wa-ter clean.

103

f *mf sub.*

107 *mf*

We breathe the air but we al - so pol - lute the air.



111 **S**

Keep the air clean. Keep the air clean.



115 *rit.* (Kelsey Robson/Yellowknife) *mp*

Keep the air clean. It



119 **T** ♩ = 72 *Flowing again*

flows swift - ly through the trees, whe - ther it i - cy wind or breeze,

mp

rit. ----- **U** *A tempo*
mf

123 sing-ing a song of the winds. Its so - lid shell and po - wer - ful stones

127 set the ground a - part. Such bold po - wer makes tin - gl-ing bones,

rit. ----- **V** *A tempo*
mp *mf* *mp*

131 but the beau-ty calms hearts. Cack-ling is all that is heard.

mp *mf* *mp* *mf*

135 Burn - ing is all that is felt. The wick - ed - ness spreads

138 *f* *ff*

and the in no-cent stand tall.



141 **W** *solo, spoken*
(or small group)
mf

The end has come but this is the new be-gin-ning. It cleans-es the world. In the

141



145 **X**

end, wa-ter sweeps it all a-way, so we no long-er weep.

the others mp

With-out the earth, who would

145

p

solo or small group, sung mp

148

Who would tend the flame? Who would know of
tend the flame? With-out the flame, who would know of pain?

148



151

pain? Who would know of love?
With-out the pain, who would know of love? With-out the love, who would

151



154

Y *(if previous passage was solo, add more voices to upper line from here)*

Who would have a spi - rit? how could we let the
have a spi - rit? And with - out the spi - rit, how could we let the

154

p

157

wind sing us all to sleep?

wind sing us all to sleep?

p stagger breathe

p stagger breathe



161

p stagger breathe