

**FULL 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?

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

# The Elements We've Had Since Birth

(#6 from Midnight Sun Songs)

music and  
arrangement by  
Jeffrey Ryan

*Senza misura*

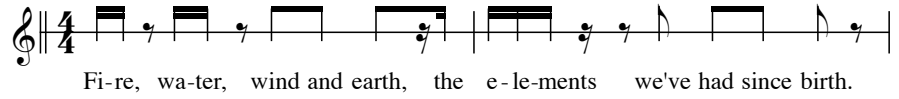
(Paige Gillis/Norman Wells)

*Solo, spoken:*

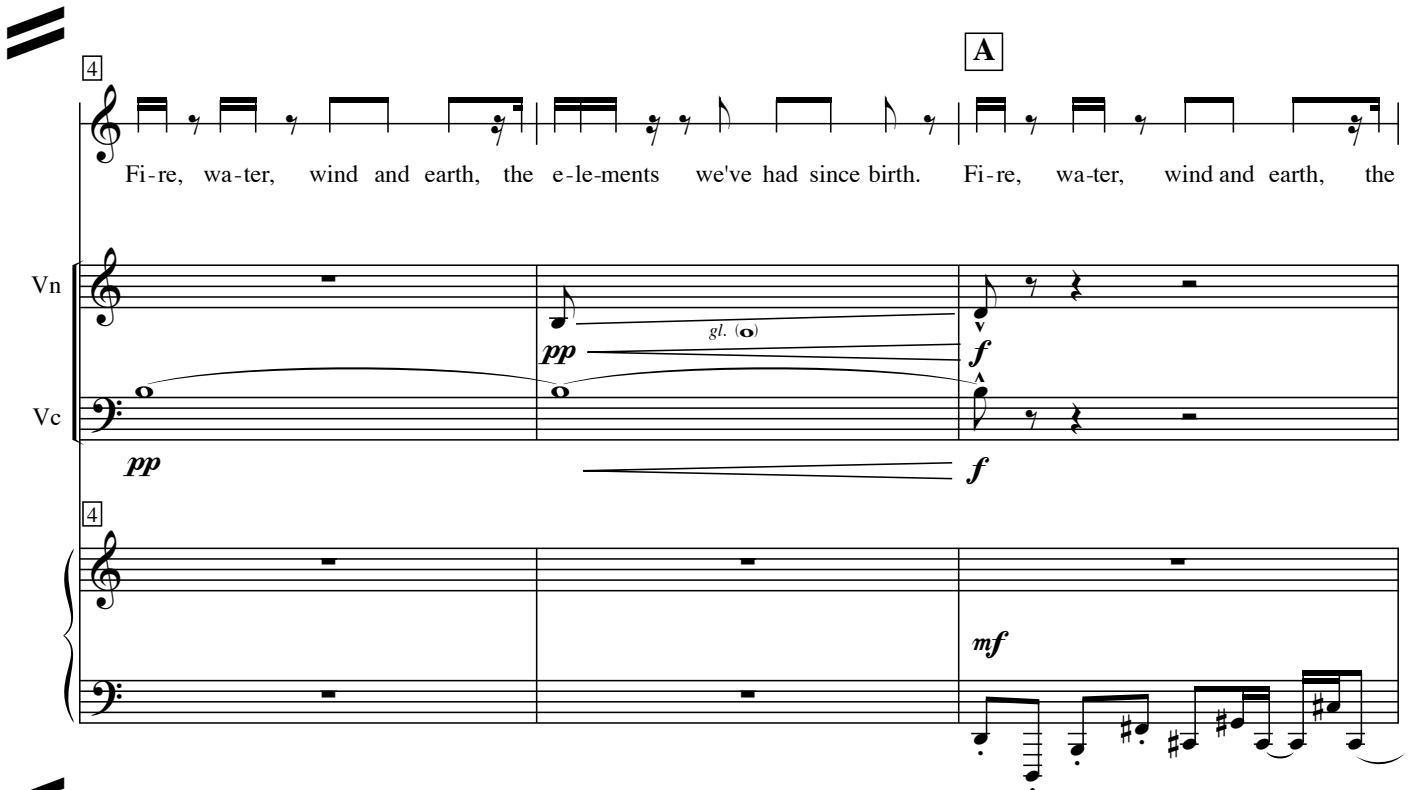
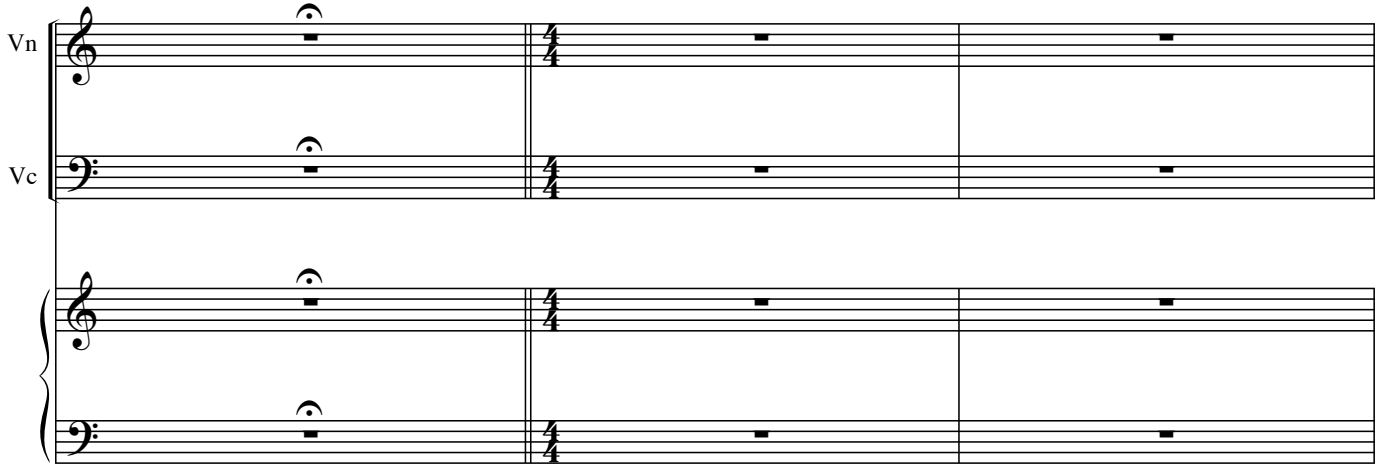
We might not know this, but it's true.  
The elements have a special job to do.

♩ = 108 *A tempo*

All: ***p*** *chanted, softly but with energy*



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

10 B

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

Vn *mf* *<f* *p* *mf* *mf* *<f*

Vc *mf* *<f sfp* *mf* *mf* *<f sfp*

10



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.

Vn *p* *mf* *mf* *<f* *p* *mf* *mf*

Vc *mf* *mf* *<f sfp* *mf* *mf*

13



16

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

Vn *<f* *p* *mf* *mf*

Vc *<f sfp* *mf* *mf*

16

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

Sing! *mf*

19

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

Vn *f* *p*

Vc *f* *p*

19

*f sub.* *mp*



**E**

23

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

Vn *mp*

Vc *mp*

23



**F**

27

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

Vn *p* *mf*

Vc *p* *mf*

27

32 *mp*  
And wind keeps \_\_\_\_\_ us

Vn *mf* 6

Vc *mf* 6

36 **G**  
cool \_\_\_\_\_ as \_\_\_\_\_ it zooms \_\_\_\_\_

Vn *mf* 6

Vc *mf* 6

39  
past \_\_\_\_\_ you like \_\_\_\_\_ a breeze. \_\_\_\_\_

Vn 6

Vc 6

42 **H** *mf*

The wood is burn - ing and

Vn *mp < mf* *mp < mf*

Vc *p* *mf* *p* *mf*

45 **J**  $\text{♩} = 84$  *Majestically* *f*

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

Vn *mp < mf* *mp < mf*

Vc *p* *mf* *p* *mf*

49 **K**  $\text{♩} = 72$  *Calming* *mf* *p*

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

Vn *dolce* *p*

Vc *mf* *mp*

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

need. *div.*

Vn

Vc *p*

*p*

**||**

(McKenzy Mullen/Norman Wells)

58 *unis. mp*

Wa - ter wan - ders through a lake.

Vn

Vc

58

**||**

62 **M**

Fi-re flick-ers in the night sky.

Vn *p*

Vc

62



66

Wind brings spring to mind. Earth is our

Vn

Vc

*p*

70

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

Vn

Vc

*p*

**N**

74

we're worth.

Vn

Vc

74

79 **O** ♩ = 120 sub. Boisterously

(Pyper Rehm/Fort Smith)

*mf*

Fire can burn — you, fire can be used for

Vn *mf*

Vc *mf*

79

*mf < f*

*mp*

Vn

Vc



83

camp,

but fire can be hot.

Vn *p*  $\curvearrowright$  *mf* *mf* *mf* *mf*

Vc *p*  $\curvearrowright$  *mf* *mf* *mf* *mf*

83

Vn *mf*

Vc *mf*



**P**

87

*mf*

We live on the earth, —

Vn *mf* *mf* *pizz.*

Vc *mf* *mf*

87

*mf < f*

*mp*

Vn

Vc

91

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

Vn

Vc

91



95

Q

*mf*

We drink lots of wa - ter, —

Vn

Vc

*f*

*mf*

*gl.*

*arco*

95

*f*

*mf < f*

*mp*



99

*mf*

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

Vn

Vc

*f*

*mf*

*crunch!*

99

*mf*

*mf*

**R**

103

Keep the wa-ter clean.

*mf* *gl.* *gl.* *gl.*

*f* *mf sub.*



107

*mf*

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

*p*

*p*



111

**S**

Keep the air clean. Keep the air clean.

*mf* *mf* *mf*

*mf*

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

Keep the air clean. \_\_\_\_\_ It

Vn

Vc

119 **T** ♩ = 72 *Flowing again*

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

Vn

Vc

119 *mp*

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

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

Vn

Vc

123 *mp*

127

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

Vn

Vc

*mf*

*mf*

131

rit.----- **V** A tempo

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

Vn

Vc

*mp* *mf* *mp*

*mp* *mf* *mp*

*mp* *mf* *mp*

135

*mp* *mf* *mp* *mf*

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

Vn

Vc

*mp* *mf* *mp* *mf*

*mp* *mf* *mp* *mf*

*mp* *mf* *mp* *mf*

138 *f* *ff*

and the in no-cent stand tall.

Vn

Vc

3 6 6

*f* *f*

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

*stagger bow with cello*

Vn

Vc

*stagger bow with violin*

*sfz*

3

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

Vn

Vc

*p*

*p*

145

148 *solo or small group, sung mp*

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

Vn

Vc

148



151

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

Vn

Vc

151



Y

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

154

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

Vn

Vc

*p*

154



157

wind sing us all to sleep? stagger breathe

wind sing us all to sleep? stagger breathe

Vn

Vc

*p*

157

*p*

8va

161

161

Vn

Vc

161

8va