

### **Ticheli *Earth Song***

Sing, Be, Live, See.  
This dark stormy hour,  
The wind, it stirs.  
The scorched earth  
Cries out in vain:  
O war and power,  
You blind and blur,  
The torn heart  
Cries out in pain.  
But music and singing  
Have been my refuge,  
And music and singing  
Shall be my light.  
A light of song  
Shining Strong: Alleluia!  
Through darkness, pain, and strife, I'll  
Sing, Be, Live, See...  
Peace.

*Poem by Frank Ticheli*

### **Hailstork *Nocturne***

Have you known the beauty of a summer night  
with a white streak of stars in a charcoal sky?  
Have you heard the insects, with their countless array of sounds,  
endlessly busy through the otherwise silent night?  
Have you walked in the field with the cool wind  
and the black grass rustling around you?  
Have you at last turned your face to the brilliant sky above,  
and seen the suns floating there, each a fiery universe?  
Have you lost yourself in that broad expanse so that the black grass and the humming  
insects and the chill breeze have all vanished?  
Have you felt the wonder that flows in those mighty spaces,  
where countless fires burn in the surrounding darkness?  
Have you kissed the night and its promise,  
when it turned its expectant face to your lips?  
If you have done these things, lover, then come and watch these skies,

Come and watch these fields with me, oh my love.

*Poem by Jim Curtis*

**Grant *Listen to the Earth***

James Grant

## Listen to the Earth

cantata for baritone solo, mixed chorus, youth chorus and chamber orchestra  
in celebration of the 50th anniversary of Earth Day, April 22, 2020

AUDIO

Audio of Mission Control, July 16, 1969:

*...T-minus 15 seconds, guidance is Internal... 12, 11, 10, 9... ignition sequence start... 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1, zero... All engine running... Liftoff! We have a liftoff, 32 minutes past the hour... liftoff on Apollo 11...*

SOLO

great anticipation, all engines firing at last  
exhilaration courses through my veins  
we're lifting into the endless mystery of space

CHORUS

Apollo 11, Houston. You're good at 1 minute.

SOLO

Roger.

CHORUS

Stand by for Mode 1 Charlie. MARK. Mode 1 Charlie.

SOLO

One Charlie.

CHORUS

Apollo 11, this is Houston. You are GO for staging.

SOLO

Inboard cut-off.

CHORUS

We confirm inboard cut-off.

SOLO

Staging. And ignition.

CHORUS

11, Houston. Thrust is GO, all engines. You're looking good.

SOLO

Roger. You're loud and clear, Houston.

CHORUS

This is Houston. Roger. Out.

11, Houston. Your guidance has converged; you're looking good.

SOLO

Roger. We're doing 6 minutes.

CHORUS

Roger, 11. You're GO from the ground at 6 minutes.

SOLO

Apollo 11 is GO at 7 minutes.

CHORUS

Apollo 11, Houston. You are GO at 8 minutes . . . at 9 minutes . . . 11, Houston. You are GO for staging. Over.

SOLO

Understand, GO for staging...  
Staging. And ignition.

CHORUS

Ignition confirmed; thrust is GO.

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SOLO

and now  
in space, weightless  
orbiting a rotating planet orbiting a distant star

looking out my window  
I catch my first glimpse of Earth

the vast expanse of blue ocean  
is streaked with random wisps of lacy white clouds

familiar shapes of continents show no borders  
I see but one nation: Earth

the long sloping curve of the horizon  
is wrapped in a thin veil of pale blue

a halo of life-giving gases — our atmosphere  
shielding us from a solar explosion 93 million miles away

and so Earth sustains life  
Earth sustains us

countless systems in delicate balance  
dancing together, merging as one

and now

in space, weightless  
orbiting a rotating planet orbiting a distant star

I gaze upon a living, breathing, precious  
four-and-a-half-billion-year-old miracle

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CHORUS

11, this is Houston. You are GO for Trans-Lunar Injection. Over.

SOLO

Apollo 11. Thank you. Ignition.

CHORUS

...and the thrust is GO.

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*In the following section, the texts sung by the choruses are adapted from the  
United Nations Environmental Sabbath Program*

SOLO

there in the pitch-black void of space  
this beacon of blue and brown, green and white  
holds the summary of my life  
all has happened there, on Earth

[Youth Chorus]

We live in all things  
All things live in us

[Chorus]

We live by the sun  
We move with the stars

[Solo]

every soul I've ever met  
every taste of food, sip of wine  
every dance step  
all has happened there, on Earth

[Youth Chorus]

We live in all things  
All things live in us

[Chorus]

We eat from the earth  
We drink from the rain  
We breathe from the air

[Solo]

every sunrise and sunset  
my every hope, every dream  
my work and play  
all has happened there, on Earth

[Both Choruses]

We live in all things  
All things live in us

[Youth Chorus]

Let us join with the earth

[Chorus]

To bring new life to the land

[Youth Chorus]

Let us join with each other

[Chorus]

To restore the waters  
To refresh the air

Let us join with the earth

To renew the forests

Let us join with each other

To care for the plants

To protect the creatures

To celebrate the seas

To rejoice in the sunlight

Let us listen to the earth

We must listen to the earth

Let us sing the endless song of the infinite stars

We must listen to the earth

We must remember the children

We must listen to our earth

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CHORUS

Apollo 11, Houston. We're GO for undocking. Over.

SOLO

Roger. Eagle is undocked. The Eagle has wings. We got the Earth right out the front window.

CHORUS

Eagle, Houston. You're GO for lunar landing. Over.

SOLO

Roger. Understand. GO for lunar landing.

Houston, Tranquility Base here. The Eagle has landed.

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## SOLO

four days ago  
I climbed into a capsule atop a rocket thirty stories high  
I flew into space  
leaving behind all I'd ever known  
on Earth

now I'm here  
standing in cosmic dust  
orbiting a rotating planet orbiting a distant star

as a child I had wondered  
when I stared up at the moon  
is it cold  
is it lonely  
would I be scared up there  
what would I see

now  
it is Earth I see  
my home, our home  
just there  
hovering above the lunar horizon  
one-quarter million miles away

it is Earth I see  
my home, our home  
an isolated fertile garden  
alive with light  
radiant with color

a fragile, defenseless sphere floating gracefully through space and time



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## Choral Meditation

*~ end ~*

### Texts from:

- NASA transcript of communications between Houston Mission Control and Apollo 11 Mission Commander Neil Armstrong
- Original texts sung by the baritone soloist, written by the composer and inspired by the writings of Mercury, Gemini, Apollo and Space Shuttle astronauts, and astronomer Carl Sagan.