

Steven Webb

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S Webb', with a horizontal line underneath.

Tierra cansada

SSAA

Program Notes:

Based on the poem of the same title by Cuban poet Dulce María Loynaz, *Tierra cansada* seeks to capture both the sadness and anger around the increasing climate threat to our planet. The piece should be sung with conviction and a sense of solemnity fitting the serious subject matter.

The piece should begin with all choristers close to the edge of the stage, with serious expressions, as they begin the breathing that starts the piece. This breathing is meant to signify both a sigh of resignation and sadness, and be a literal metaphor in the increasingly polluted air on our planet.

Use of basic choral movement in the 'Anger' sections of the piece is encouraged.

Duration: 4 min 30 sec

Poem and Translation:

La tierra se va cansando,
la rosa no huele a rosa.
La tierra se va cansando
de entibiar semillas rotas,
y el cansando de la tierra
sube en la flor que deshoja
el viento... Y allí, en el viento
se queda...

La mariposa
volará toda una tarde
para reunir una gota
de miel...
Ya no son las frutas
tan dulces como eran otras...

La tierra se va cansando
de la raíz a las hojas,
la tierra se va cansando.

La tierra se va cansando...
El corazón quiere sombra...

The earth is getting tired,
The rose doesn't smell like pink.
The earth is getting tired
to warm broken seeds,
and the tired of the earth
climbs on the flower that defoliates
the wind ... And there, in the wind
stays...

The butterfly
will fly a whole afternoon
to gather a drop
of honey...
They are no longer the fruits
as sweet as others were ...

The earth is getting tired
from the root to the leaves,
The earth is getting tired.

The earth is getting tired ...
The heart wants shadow ...

About the Composer:

Originally from South Africa, Steven Webb (b.1989) is a Toronto based performer, composer, and audio engineer. Steven has written music for a wide variety of ensembles, and his repertoire includes choral, chamber, and orchestral music. His compositions and arrangements have been performed by: The Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra, The Toronto Symphony Orchestra, Thin Edge New Music Collective, The University of Guelph Symphonic Choir, Exultate Chamber Singers, and Prairie Voices, among many others.

As a film composer, Steven has worked on a number of noteworthy projects including 'Chopin's Heart' for The National Screen Institute, and 'Period Piece', winner of the best Canadian Short Film at the Toronto After Dark Film Festival. Steven is a member of SOCAN, an Associate Composer at the Canadian Music Centre, and a member of the Screen Composers Guild of Canada.



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Tierra cansada

Commissioned by the Hamilton Children's Choir for the 2020
World Symposium on Choral Music

Steven Webb (b.1989)
Text by: Dulce María Loynaz

With Conviction ♩=58

Musical score for Soprano and Alto parts, measures 1-5. The score is in 4/4 time with a tempo of ♩=58. It features four staves: SOPRANO 1, SOPRANO 2, ALTO 1, and ALTO 2. Each staff includes dynamic markings (*p*), breath instructions (Hold breath, Inhale through nose, Exhale through mouth), and lyrics. The lyrics for ALTO 1 are "La tie rra_ se va".

Musical score for Soprano and Alto parts, measures 6-10. The score continues from the previous page. It features four staves: S. (Soprano), S. (Soprano), A. (Alto), and A. (Alto). The Soprano parts include breath instructions (Exhale, Inhale, Stagger Breathe) and dynamic markings (*p*). The Alto parts include lyrics: "can - san do_ Inhale Exhale La tie rra_ se va can - san - do".

11

p Random Rushing Wind Sounds

mp

S. Sh! Sh! Sh! Sh! La ro-sa no hue -

mp

S. La ro-sa no hue -

p Frantic Whispers overlapping

mp

A. La ti-e-rra se va can-san-do La ro-sa no hue -

A.

15

p Ah! *mf* Inhale

S. -le a ro-sa de en-ti-bi-ar se-mil-las ro-tas,

mf Inhale

S. -le a ro-sa de en-ti-bi-ar se-mil-las ro-tas,

(2 singers) Sh!

mf Inhale

A. -le a ro-sa de en-ti-bi-ar se-mil-las ro-tas,

mf Inhale

A. de en-ti-bi-ar se-mil-las ro-tas,

A With Rising Anger ♩=64

19 **Stomp** **accel.**

S. y el_ can san do_ de la ti - e - rra su - be el vien-to Y al-lí, el

S. **Stomp** **mf** **Stomp Clap**
y el_ can_ san do_ de la ti-e rra su-be en la flor que de-sho-ja

A. **Stomp** **mf** **Stomp Clap**
de la ti-e rra su-be en la flor que de-sho-ja el

A. **Stomp** **mf** **Stomp Clap**
de la ti-e rra su-be en la flor que de-sho ja

23 **Stomp Clap Claps Stomp Claps**

S. vien-to Y al-lí, **f** El

S. **f** **Claps**
El vien-to Y al-li vien-to se que-da **f** El

A. **f** **Claps**
vien-to Y al-lí, El vien-to Y al-li vien-to se que-da

A. **p** **mf** **Stomp Clap Claps Stomp Claps**
Oo

28

S. vien - to se que - da

S. vien - to se que - da *port.*

A. *mf* vien-to se que-da vien-to se que-da se-que-da que-da Y al-li el vien-to se-que-da

A. *mf* vien-to se que-da vien-to se que-da se-que-da que-da Y al-li el vien-to se-que-da

32

B With a deep sadness ♩=116

S. *ff* La tie-rra se va can-san-do *Stomp* Inhale Exhale *p* La mar-i-po - sa vo -

S. *ff* La tie-rra se va can-san-do *Stomp* Inhale Exhale *p* mar-i-po - sa vo -

A. *ff* La tie-rra se va can-san-do *Stomp* Inhale Exhale *p* mar-i-po - sa vo -

A. *ff* La tie-rra se va can-san-do *Stomp* Inhale Exhale *p* mar-i-po - sa vo -

Hold breath → (4 sec)

39

S. *mp*
la - rá to - da u - na - tar - de pa - ra re - u - nir u - na go - ta de miel si la

S. *mp*
la - rá to - da u - na - tar - de pa - ra re - u - nir u - na go - ta de miel si la

A. *mp*
la - rá to - da u - na - tar - de pa - ra re - u - nir u - na go - ta de miel si la

A. *mp*
la - rá to - da u - na go - ta de miel si la

poco rit.

46

S. *mf* *p* *pp*
mar - i - po - sa vo la - ra to - da u - na tar - de pa - ra reu - nir Oo

S. *mf* *p* *pp*
mar - i - po - sa vo - la - ra to - da u - na tar - de pa - ra reu - nir Oo

A. *mf* *p* *pp*
mar - i - po - sa vo - la - ra to - da Oo

A. *mf* *p* *pp*
mar - i - po - sa vo - la - ra to - da Oo

Slowly shift to 'Oo'

Slowly shift to 'Oo'