

for Rita Docter and Angelica Cantanti
Snow Camp, 2008

We Belong to the Earth

three treble choirs a cappella or with any combination of keyboard, bass, and hand percussion

Ted Perry
inspired by a speech attributed to Chief Seattle, 1854

J. David Moore

"We Belong To the Earth" is modelled after the meditative congregational songs of the community of Taizé in eastern France. Like a Taizé song, this piece is built upon an ostinato, over which verses are sung. The arrangement and order of the various elements of the piece (the vocal entrances of the first ostinato, the second ostinato, the verses, and the optional bass) should be dictated by the prompts of the spirit of the moment. Here is one plan for performance:

- 1) Begin with Ostinato 1. Add voices in this order: A1, S2, A2, S1
- 2) Add Ostinato 2.
- 3) Add verses in order, allowing 2-3 repetitions of the ostinati between verses.
- 4) Repeat verses, adding optional 2nd part on verse 1, and the upper F on verse 3.
- 5) Continue repeating Ostinato 1, removing parts in the opposite order of their addition at the beginning.

Keyboard support and the addition of hand percussion can be effective enhancements.

Slow and Steady (♩ = 56)

Ostinato 1
mp

The Earth does not be - long to us we be - long to the Earth. — The

Ostinato 2
(only on repeat)
know. This we

Earth does not be - long to us we be - long to the Earth. — The

know. This we