

A0005 • A SONG FOR THE WATER • Mayberry • SATB | Piano



2023

A SONG FOR THE WATER

ECM
EAST CHAMBER MUSIC

Music & Words by
PAT MAYBERRY

Arranged by
JANE BEST



EAST CHAMBER MUSIC INC
www.eastchambermusic.com

 **Watermarkly**

Text:

Nibì wabo running deep
Nibì wabo flowing free
Don précieux qui donne la vie
Sacred sister healing me
Rivers stretch across the land
The oceans brush the ancient sands
Pray bless this earth on which we stand,
Creator God

Program notes: A Song for the Water was written in response to a competition and call from the Hymn Society of Canada and the United States for a text and melody on the theme of land, language and liberation. The piece subsequently won the competition. Although written primarily in English, A Song for the Water includes French, an official language of Canada, and, from one of the many indigenous languages spoken in North America, the Omàmiwininimowin words nibì wabo (water womb). This is Pat's first collaboration with Jane Best and she is thrilled with the resulting arrangement.

Duration: 3 minutes

A Song for the Water

With thanks to the Anishinabeg, who as Omàmiwinini bring us the
Omàmiwininimowin words ni-bì / water and wabo / womb.

Pat Mayberry

arr. Jane Best

flowing ♩ = 96

S A

flowing ♩ = 96

mp Ni - bì wa - bo

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7 run - ning deep, Ni - bì wa - bo

7

13 flow - ing free, mf Don pré - cieux qui donne la
Oo, oo,

T B

13

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Watermarkly

A Song for the Water

31

cross the land, the oceans brush the an - cient sands,

31

EASY CHAMBER MUSIC

37

mp Pray bless this earth on which we stand, Cre - a -

37

43

tor God. *mp* Ni - bi

43

ECM CHAMBER MUSIC

49

wa - bo run - ning deep, Ni - bi

49

piano stops, or supports
singers very quietly *p*

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This image shows four staves of a musical score for chamber music. The score is for two voices (soprano and bass) and piano. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The music is in common time. The vocal parts are in soprano and bass clef. The piano part is in bass clef. The score includes lyrics: 'tor', 'God.', 'Ni - bi' (repeated), 'wa - bo', 'run - ning', 'deep,' (repeated), and 'Ni - bi'. There are performance instructions: 'mp' (mezzo-forte) for the vocal parts, 'p' (pianissimo) for the piano part, and 'piano stops, or supports singers very quietly' for the piano part. The score is marked with a large red diagonal watermark reading 'ECM PERFORMER COPY ONLY'.

54

wa - bo flow - ing free, *mf* Don pré - cieux qui

54

CHAMBER MUSIC

60

donne la vie, *mp* Sa - cred sis - ter heal -

60

piano returns *mp*

The musical score consists of four staves of music. The top two staves are for voices, and the bottom two are for piano. The music is in common time, with a key signature of one sharp. The vocal parts are in soprano and bass. The piano part includes dynamic markings like *mf* and *mp*. The lyrics are: 'wa - bo flow - ing free, Don pré - cieux qui' in the first section, and 'donne la vie, Sa - cred sis - ter heal -' in the second section. A large red watermark 'ECM CHAMBER MUSIC' is diagonally across the page, and a red diagonal line with the text 'Personal Copy Only' is overlaid on the music.

66

ing me. *mp* oo

f Ri - vers

66 *8va*

EAST CHAMBER MUSIC

mf

72

oo oo oo. oo oo oo. stretch a - cross the land, the oceans brush the an - cient

72

Perusal Copy Only

This musical score page contains two staves of music. The top staff is in treble clef and the bottom staff is in bass clef. Both staves are in common time with a key signature of one sharp. The music begins with a dynamic of *mp* and the lyrics "ing me." followed by a rest. The dynamic changes to **f** with the lyrics "Ri - vers". The music then continues with a dynamic of *mf*. The lyrics "oo oo oo. stretch a - cross the land, the oceans brush the an - cient" are written below the notes. The music concludes with a final staff of chords.

78

oo. sands, *mp* Pray bless this earth on which we

78

mp

78

stand, Cre - a - tor God.

88

f Ri - vers stretch a - cross the land, the

mf

EASY CHAMBER MUSIC

88

93

o - ceans brush the an - cient sands, *mp* Pray

f

mp

p

98

bless this earth on which we stand Cre - a

98

103

tor God, Cre - a - tor

103

108

mf

Cre - a - tor

a few voices

God.

108

mf

God,

rit.

113

mp

rit.

mp

113

rit.

Watermark Only

The musical score consists of four staves of music. The top staff is in treble clef, the second in bass clef, the third in treble clef, and the fourth in bass clef. The key signature is one sharp. Measure 108 starts with a rest, followed by eighth notes. The lyrics "Cre - a - tor" are sung by "a few voices". The bass staff has a sustained note. Measure 108 continues with eighth notes. The lyrics "God," are sung. Measure 113 begins with a sustained note in the bass staff, followed by eighth notes. The lyrics "God," are sung again. Measure 113 continues with eighth notes. The bass staff has a sustained note. The score is marked with "rit." (ritardando) and dynamics "mf" (mezzo-forte) and "mp" (mezzo-piano).

Winning Selection of our 2023 Hymn Search: "A Chant for the Water" by Pat Mayberry

The selection that stood out for each of us as the strongest submission was "A Chant for the Water." We felt that it was very clever of the writer to include various languages that are spoken in Québec. As a committee, we also found it helpful that the writer included context behind their connection to the indigenous language. Not only did the text tie in to the theme of the conference well, but the tune is also very singable!

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To ensure our process was not biased, the name of the author and/or composer did not appear on the hymn copies submitted for judging. It was then later revealed to our committee that Pat Mayberry was the writer of "A Chant for the Water." She is a Canadian singer-songwriter within the United Church of Canada. Mayberry explains more about her hymn:

"When I saw the themes and location for this year's hymn search, my mind immediately turned to the land and particularly to water, essential to all living things. I have become much more aware as the years have passed of how precious water is in all our lives. Water is sacred to Indigenous peoples and is treated with respect as a living entity. In this chant, I wanted to use an Indigenous language, as well as French and English. The Indigenous words come first as they are



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A Chant for the Water

Words and Music:
Pat Mayberry 2023

quarter note = 103

Dm C Dm Dm Dm Dm
"Ni - bi *wa - bo ru - ming deep. Ni - bi

9 C A Gm Dm Bb Bb
wa - bo flow - ing free. Don pre - cieux qui donne la vie. Sa - red

19 C Dm Dm Dm Bb C
sis - ter heal - ing me. Ri - vers stretch a - cross the

29 F Bb C F Am Dm Bb C
land, the o -ceans brush the an - cient sands. Pray bless this earth on which we stand Cre - a - tor

39 Bb C Dm 1. Dm Bb C Dm Bb C Dm
a - tor Ged. God, Cre - a - tor God, Cre - a - tor God!

Repeat the chant or a section of it as many times as wished

*With thanks to the Anishinabeg,
who as Omāniwiniwi bring us the Omāniwiniwini words nibi/water and wabo/womb

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from one of the original peoples of this land. I had the privilege some years ago of participating in a water ceremony, led by an Indigenous Anishinabeg woman, where we sang The Water Song. The first words of the song are "Nibi wabo" (water womb), words which have always stuck with me as much as the very sacredness of the ceremony. When acknowledging these words on the score, I wanted to be certain I was doing it respectfully, so I spoke with an Indigenous friend, who then spoke to others, resulting in the acknowledgement you will see at the bottom of the score. This acknowledgement is one which looks very different from one I

might have written myself. I do hope you enjoy this chant as much as I enjoyed writing it."

At the Annual Conference in Montréal this year, our theme centered around "Land, Language, and Liberation"

As a committee, we would like to thank all of those who have submitted for this hymn search. We hope that you will continue to write and refine your craft!

Submitted by Matthew Boutda,
Member-at-Large on the Executive
Committee, Chair of the 2023
Hymn Search Committee



About the composer

Pat Mayberry is a Canadian singer-songwriter and hymn writer. Beginning as a more lyrical folk singer, Pat has increasingly included themes of spirituality and our relationship with nature in her music. She has released 6 CDs of original songs. In the past 20 years, Pat has also found her place as a beloved hymn writer and creator of music for worship within the United Church of Canada and beyond. Her worship music has been widely used across Canada and internationally. She has hymns in the More Voices and Then Let Us Sing hymnbooks of the United Church of Canada, the Mennonite hymnbook Voices Together and the Methodist Singing the Faith Plus hymnbook in the UK. Pat's lyrics are often described as poetry and she strives at all times to use language which is both inclusive and accessible with melodies that open the heart. You can see more of Pat's music at <https://sites.google.com/view/musicbydavidwkai/home/pat-mayberry-music> or at patmayberrymusic.com

You can listen to her music on Spotify and iTunes .

E A S T C H A M B E R M U S I C

About the Arranger

Jane Best is a musician on Manitoulin Island. She grew up in Kingston and Toronto, singing in a children's choir and studying piano through the Royal Conservatory. She studied music at the University of Toronto, and in 1989 moved north to Manitoulin Island where she teaches private music lessons. Over the years she has directed several choirs and singing groups, and she has been the director of the Manitoulin Community Choir since its inception in 2006. She has been a Girl Guide leader, a school music volunteer, and served on the board of the Summer Institute of Church Music for many years. Several of her choir pieces are in print, and her hymns are found in recent hymn books as well as in two volumes from the Leupold Foundation..