

Breathing Place

For SATB Choir and Piano

Aileen Sweeney
Words: Martin Raymond

(2020)



Aileen
Sweeney

Breathing Place

"We cannot belong simply by being in a place. We have to give it our full attention."

John Burnside - poet.

Breathing in, breathing out
Breathing space, breathing place
Walk with us, see our land
Morning mist on Stuc a Chroin
Evening sun fires the Ben
Night falls on Inversnaid
Deer haunt the velvet dark
Salt lick, Atlantic winds
Feel the pines tug your hair
Rain beads on stalks of grass
Drops on wire, notes on staves
Tang of thyme under foot.

Weather changing, water rising
What we love, what we lose.
Glen Falloch slips away
Ardlui floods again
Geese will fly in other skies.
Endless lochs, mountain scree
Rocks of age standing bare
Nothing lasts forever here
Five hundred million years
To consecrate this place
Watch it go in our time.

Land that breathes, land that saves.
In the tress, in the lochs
Beds of peat, stands of birch
Holding carbon storing water
Keeping us from our harm.
Fail to plant, fail to tend
Lose the way, miss the path
This great lung starts to choke
Make it last, so we might too
Breathing space, breathing place
Breathing still, breathing yet
Breathing in, breathing out.

Programme Note:

This piece was written for The Helensburgh Oratorio Choir as part of the "Adopt a Composer" scheme run by Making Music in partnership with Sound and Music, in association with BBC Radio 3. It is funded by The PRS Foundation, Philip and Dorothy Green Trust and Creative Scotland.

Through getting to know the choir, it became clear that Helensburgh and the surrounding area of Loch Lomond is very important to the members and that this love for the area they live in, should be the main focus of the piece.

Unfortunately, the effects of climate change are causing a serious threat to the Loch Lomond. Soon, it may cease to exist as we know it. The rise in global temperature is causing flooding across The National Park and the oversaturation results in landslides in the surrounding areas. The changes in rainfall patterns and seasonal temperatures see species under dual pressure to adapt to warmer and wetter climates with new plant diseases emerging. Some species such as the Arctic char are highly endangered due to the rise in water temperatures.

However, drastic measures are being taken to protect our National Park and Loch Lomond itself is a fantastic resource in the fight against climate change. The trees alone hold approximately 2.5 million tonnes of carbon and the peatlands holding 20 million tonnes. However we can't rely on Loch Lomond alone to save itself. We must take small measures ourselves every day to fight climate change.

Duration: circa 12 minutes

Performance Directions for Pianist at Letter C:

The diamond notation shows that the chord should be played silently and then be held down with the sostenuto pedal. Regular note heads show when the notes should be sounded. A soft beater should be used to "strum" the strings softly on the inside of the piano and the chord should be left to ring until the next strumming of the chord. Follow the directional arrows for whether the chord should be "strummed" in an upwards or downwards movement.

Breathing Place

for the Helensburgh Oratorio Choir

With a lilting feel,
a feeling of space.

Music by Aileen Sweeney
Words by Martin Raymond

♩ = 40 In Two

Musical score for Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass, and Piano. The score is in 6/4 time with a tempo of ♩ = 40 In Two. The key signature has two flats. The vocal parts (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) all sing the lyrics "Breath - ing" and "Breath - ing" with a *pp* dynamic. The piano accompaniment features a *pp* dynamic and includes a *rit.* marking in the final measure.



(Solo) Minimal vibrato throughout.

Musical score for S. Solo, A. Solo, Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass, and Piano. The score begins at measure 7. The Solo parts (S. Solo and A. Solo) are marked *mp* and include the instruction "(Solo) Minimal vibrato throughout." The lyrics for the Solo parts are "Breath - ing in Breath - ing". The other vocal parts (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) continue with the lyrics "Breath - ing" and "Breath - ing". The piano accompaniment continues with a *pp* dynamic.

2 13

S. Solo *mp*
out _____ Breath-

A. Solo *mp*
out _____ Breath-

S. *p*
Breath - ing _____ Breath - ing _____ Breath - ing

A. *p*
Breath - ing _____ Breath - ing _____ Breath - ing

T. *p*
Breath - ing _____ Breath - ing _____ Breath - ing

B. *p*
Breath - ing _____ Breath - ing _____ Breath - ing

Pno. *p*



18

S. Solo *mf*
- ing space Breath - ing place _____

A. Solo *mf*
- ing space Breath - ing place _____

S. *mp*
Breath - ing _____ place _____

A. *mp*
Breath - ing _____ place _____

T. *mp*
Breath - ing _____ place _____

B. *mp*
Breath - ing _____ place _____

Pno. *mp*

S. Solo *mp* Walk with

A. Solo *mp* Walk with

S. *p* *pp* Breath - ing place Breath - ing

A. *p* *pp* Breath - ing place Breath - ing

T. *p* *pp* Breath - ing place Breath - ing

B. *p* *pp* Breath - ing place Breath - ing

Pno. *p* *pp*



S. Solo us see our land Morn-ing mist on Stuc a

A. Solo us see our land Morn-ing mist on Stuc a

S. us see our land Morn-ing on Stuc a

A. us see our land Morn-ing on Stuc a

T. us see our land Morn-ing on Stuc a

B. us see our land Morn-ing on Stuc a

Pno.

4

34

f *mf* *ff* *mp*

S. Solo
Chroin _____ Eve-ning sun _____ fires the Ben _____

A. Solo
Chroin _____ Eve-ning sun _____ fires the Ben _____

S.
Chroin _____, Breath - ing _____ fires the Ben _____

A.
Chroin _____, Breath - ing _____ fires the Ben _____

T.
Chroin _____, Breath - ing _____ fires the Ben _____

B.
Chroin _____, Breath - ing _____ fires the Ben _____

Pno.
mf *mp*

41

S. Solo
_____ *p* _____ Night falls on In-vers- naid _____

A. Solo
_____ *p* _____ Night falls on In-vers- naid _____

S.
fires the Ben _____, *pp* Night falls _____ Night falls _____ Night falls _____

A.
fires the Ben _____, *pp* Night falls _____ Night falls _____ Night falls _____

T.
fires the Ben _____, *pp* Night falls _____ Night falls _____ Night falls _____

B.
fires the Ben _____, *pp* Night falls _____ Night falls _____ Night falls _____

Pno.
mp *pp*

Pages have been removed from this perusal score. If you would like to see the full score, feel free to get in touch on aileensweeney5@gmail.com