

Ludo Claesen
Martin Sloomackers
Maarten Van Ingelgem
Hans Helsen

Elementary Seasons

I. Spring Waters
II. Summer Fires
III. Autumn Soils
IV. Winter Skies

Different choral formations & Piano

Lyrics: Jos Stroobants

D/2019/6045/040

VOORWOORD

Zingen is van alle kunstvormen de oudste en de lichamelijkste. Van oudsher was en is zingen voor mensen ook de spontaanste manier om - individueel of in groep – hun gevoelens te uiten. Gevoelens van blijdschap of smart, maar ook van ontzag voor de natuur rondom hen. Sinds onheuglijke tijden drukten mensen via gezongen ceremoniën hun respect uit voor de natuur en haar cycli, voor de fysieke elementen (*water, vuur, aarde en lucht*) die haar boetseerden en voor de onzichtbare, angstaanjagende geesteskrachten die haar bewoonden.

Koorzang heeft zich doorheen de millennia op indrukwekkende wijze weten te handhaven door zijn aanpassingsvermogen aan veranderende maatschappelijke omstandigheden en door flexibel om te springen met nieuwe visies op kunst in het algemeen. In de hedendaagse, culturele omgeving staat koorzang opnieuw voor grote uitdagingen. Reeds geruime tijd speelt "beeld" een prominente rol niet alleen in de communicatie, maar ook in de kunstexpressie. Ook de koorzang zal opnieuw haar flexibiliteit moeten bewijzen.

De organisatoren van de "*International Singing Week Ghent 2019*" hebben tijdens de conferentie "*Singing Outside the Box*" te Tallinn, Estland (2017), georganiseerd door de *European Choral Association (ECA)* het plan opgevat om een bijzonder "singing outside the box" atelier te ontwikkelen met als titel "*Elementary Seasons*". Wij hebben daartoe een significante tekst in rondo-vorm laten toonzetten door vier Vlaamse componisten uit vier verschillende decennia. Elke componist kreeg de opdracht om één deel voor zijn rekening te nemen, telkens voor een andere bezetting. Zo ontstond een compositie met vier compositiestijlen, vier seizoenen en vier natuurlijke elementen. Het is een goed zingbaar geheel, dat als koorproject door meerdere koren met verschillende bezettingen gezamenlijk kan worden uitgevoerd.

Om verder uitdrukking te kunnen geven kunnen andere kunstvormen op een flexibele manier worden ingevoegd. Dit kan gaan van dans, video of 3D-technieken tot virtualiteit en kunstmatige intelligentie.

Ik wens tenslotte mijn oprechte dank te betuigen aan Jos Stroobants voor zijn inspirerende poëzie "*Elementary Seasons*" en aan componisten Ludo Claesen, Martin Sloodmaekers, Maarten Van Ingelgem en Hans Helsen voor de heerlijke manier waarop zij deze tekst hebben getoonzet.

Dr. Jean Smeets
Voorzitter VFJK

PREFACE

Of all art forms, singing is the oldest and most bodily. Since ancient times, singing was and still is the most spontaneous way for people to express their feelings. Not only feelings of happiness or sorrow, but also sensations of awe for nature around them. Since time immemorial, by means of ceremonies and singing, people have expressed their respect for the natural cycles, for the physical elements (*water, fire, earth and air*), the building stones of nature, and for the invisible, frightening inhabiting spirits.

Throughout the millennia, choral singing has shown his impressive adaptability to changing social conditions and its flexibility to adjust to new visions of art. In our modern cultural environment choral singing has to deal with great challenges, once more. For many years now, "imaging" claims a prominent role, not only in communication, but also in the expression of the art. Choral singing will now have to prove its flexibility.

During the International Conference "*Singing outside the box*", organized by the *European Choral Association (ECA)* in Tallinn, Estonia (2017), the organizers of the "*International Singing Week Ghent 2019*" came up with the plan for a particular "singing outside the box" workshop, entitled "*Elementary Seasons*". A significant text in a rondo form was commissioned and composed by four Flemish composers, born in four different decades. Every composer was asked to compose one part, each for a different vocal setting. The final result is a composition in four different styles, about four seasons and four natural elements, yet forming a clear unity. Since there are no big singing obstacles, it's very interesting for choirs to perform it as a project with several others and to bring it together.

For a better expression, different art forms can be involved in the performance in a flexible way, from dance, video or 3D-technics to virtuality and even artificial intelligence.

Finally, I'd like to respectfully express my gratitude to Jos Stroobants for his inspiring poetry "*Elementary Seasons*" and to the composers Ludo Claesen, Martin Sloomackers, Maarten Van Ingelgem and Hans Helsen for the wonderful way they turned the text into music.

Dr. Jean Smeets
President VFJK
Flemish Federation of Young Choirs

Elementary Seasons

Chorus:

Fourfold and yearly: the festive, quadruple feast: the Seasons,
benevolent demons, amply dispensing their generous gifts,
descend on our earth with a thousand elementary reasons,
provoking each time the calendar's cautiously rhythmical shifts.

I. Spring Waters

And oh! so sudden each year and bursting all over: the waters!
They're coming from ev'rywhere, high in the sky and over the borders,
from deep underground, from the grotto's, the wells: the fluid fathers
obeying the ancient laws, the song of the primal orders:
The waters, the waters, the waters of Spring!
Be fluent our Song like the waters of Spring!

Chorus:

Fourfold and yearly: the festive, quadruple feast: the Seasons,
benevolent demons, amply dispensing their generous gifts,
descend on our earth with a thousand elementary reasons,
provoking each time the calendar's cautiously rhythmical shifts.

II. Summer Fires

But suddenly slower comes in the midyear's oppressive heat wave,
attacking your brain and your thinking with summery-hot fires...
Retire to the shadows and give your head and your hair a neat wave
to tackle the evening, its dancing and singing around the bonfires.
The fires, festive fires, the fires of the Summer!
Exciting our song like the fires of the Summer!

Chorus:

Fourfold and yearly: the festive, quadruple feast: the Seasons,
benevolent demons, amply dispensing their generous gifts,
descend on our earth with a thousand elementary reasons,
provoking each time the calendar's cautiously rhythmical shifts.

III. Autumn Soils

A sweetness from fruits and dry leaves while the day from the ev'ning recoils,
invites us to softer talking, and tales about little brown bats,
while in the shadows are lurking the ancient, the dangerous gargoyles;
preparing for night hunt are cats, oldest aristocrats.
The soils, fruitful soils, the soils of the Autumn!
Abundant our Song like the soils of the Autumn!

Chorus:

Fourfold and yearly: the festive, quadruple feast: the Seasons,
benevolent demons, amply dispensing their generous gifts,
descend on our earth with a thousand elementary reasons,
provoking each time the calendar's cautiously rhythmical shifts.

IV. Winter Skies

Between the black of the deep deep night and the white of the snow
there hangs a silent mystery (wintery exercise):
above us the far-away planets, and hidden the dark below...;
in-between: our song for the earth and a glimpse of a paradise.
The skies, open skies, the skies of the Winter!
Be bright now, our Song! like the skies of the Winter.

Chorus:

Fourfold and yearly: the festive, quadruple feast: the Seasons,
benevolent demons, amply dispensing their generous gifts,
descend on our earth with a thousand elementary reasons,
provoking each time the calendar's cautiously rhythmical shifts.

Coda:

See us, your singers, and hear us, singing the golden Seasons
that year after year do carry our days-and-nights over the cliffs
and over the pitfalls of blackest despair, the most foolish of reasons,
to show us the vistas: promising, colourful hieroglyphs.

Jos Stroobants
March 24 – April 16, 2018

Elementary Seasons

Jos Stroobants

Ludo Claesen

Lento

Piano

ff

sfz

sfz

8^{vb}

Ped. * Ped. Ped.

5

sub p

sfz

sfz

* Ped. Ped. * Ped. *

8

loco

ff

p

6 6 6 6

(stacc.) simile

Ped. *

11

[15 sec.]

sfz

3 longa

8^{vb}

Refrain

13 **Andante**

mp

Soprano & Alto

Four - fold and year - ly: the fes - tive qua - dru - ple feast: the

Tenor & Bas

mp *mf*

17

(unis.) *mp*

Sea - sons be - ne - vo - lent de - mons, am - ply dis - pen - sing their ge - ne - rous gifts, des -

am - ply dis - pen - sing their ge - ne - rous gifts,

mp *mp*

21

accel.
(unis.) *poco a poco cresc.*

cend on our earth with a thou - sand, e - le - men - ta - ry rea - sons, pro -

(unis.) *poco a poco cresc.*

poco a poco cresc.

Spring Waters

Jos Stroobants

Ludo Claesen

Verse 1

Allegro e amoroso

34 *8^{va}*
p
ped. * *ped.* * simile

37

39 **Soprano 1 & 2** *mp*
And oh! so sud - den each year — and bur - sting all o - ver the

Alto *mp*

loco

Fluido

42 *mf* Soprano 1 *mf* *f* L.H.

wa - - ters! They're co - ming from ev' - ry - where

Ped. * *Ped.* * *Ped.* * *Ped.* *

45 *mp*

ev' - ry - where ev' - ry - where They're

ry - where ev' - ry - where

ev' - ry - where ev' - ry - where

(8) L.H. L.H. L.H.

49 *cresc.*

co - ming from ev - 'ry - where high in the

high

mp loco loco

Ped. * *Ped.* *

53

sky and o - ver the bor - ders from *mp*

in the sky and the bor - ders from deep un - der -

mp

dim.

57

from the grot - to's the wells: the

deep un - der - ground grot - to's wells

ground, un - der - ground grot - to's wells

p cresc. poco a poco

Red. *

61

flu - id fat - hers o - bey - ing the an - cient

the flu - id fa - - - -

the flu - id fa - - - -

dim.

dim.

dim.

Summer Fires

Jos Stroobants

Martin Sloodmaekers

Verse 2

Spiritoso ♩=ca. 120

1

5

9

13

17

ppp

mp

pp

mf

8^{va}

15^{ma}

20 *ff*

23 *mf*

28 *mp* *pp*

Andante ♩ = ca. 72

34 *mp* legato

Soprano 1

But sud - den - ly but sud - den - ly

Soprano 2 *mp*

But sud - den - ly but sud - den - ly

Alto *mp*

Sud - den - ly

loco

8va

8va

8va

8va

Ped.

38

slo - wer sud - den - ly slo - wer comes in the

slo - wer sud - den - ly slo - wer comes in the

sud - den - ly slo - wer but sud - den - ly comes in

loco

loco

42

mid - year's op - pres - sive op - pres - sive the

mid - year's op - pres - sive op - pres - sive the

sud - den - ly comes the mid - year's op - pres - sive, the mid - year's op - pres - sive, op -

loco

loco

leggiero

mp

mid - year's op - pres - sive heat - wave, at - tack - ing

mid - year's op - pres - sive heat - wave, at - tack - ing

pres - sive heat - wave, at - tack - ing at -

p

at - tack - ing your brain and your think - ing with sum - mer - y - hot at -

at - tack - ing your brain and your think - ing with sum - mer - y hot

tack - ing your brain and think - ing with

66

Soprano 1

f

mf

Re - tire to the sha - dows, re - tire to the

Soprano 2

f

mf

Re - tire to the sha - dows, re - tire to the

Alto 1

f

mf

Re - tire to the sha - dows, re - tire to the

Alto 2

f

Re - tire to the sha - - -

f

mf

70

sha - dows

sha - dows

sha - dows

dows

*pp*³

Red. until ms. 92

give your head and your hair, give your head and your
give your head and your hair, give your head and your
head and hair and give your head and hair and give your
head and hair and give your head and hair and give your

3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3

hair, and give your head and hair a neat wave, a neat wave to
hair, and give your head and hair a neat wave, a neat wave
head and hair, your head and hair a neat wave, a neat wave
head and hair, your head and hair a neat wave, a neat wave

f

mp

3 3 3

*

100

dan-cing and sing-ing a-round the bon - fires. The fires, fes - tive

dan-cing and sing-ing a-round the bon - fires. The fires, fes - tive

dan-cing and sing-ing a-round the bon - fires. The fires fes - tive

103

fires, the fires of the Sum - mer! The fires, fes - tive

fires, the fires of the Sum - mer! The fires, fes - tive

fires, the fires of the Sum - mer! The fires, fes - tive

mer!

mer!

mer!

subito pp

119

mf

Refrain

Soprano & Alto

mf Andante

Four-fold and year-ly: the

mf Tenor & Bas

123

p

f

8va

Autumn Soils

Jos Stroobants

Maarten Van Ingelgem

Verse 3

(u... as in fruits)

Dolcissimo ♩ = 54 *pp sempre*

m... u...
m... u...
m... u...
con calore *mp* < poco > < poco > ,
A sweet - - ness from fruits and

mp *pp sempre*
una corda
Ped →

5

u...
u...
u...
dry lea - - fs while the day from the

17

tle brown bats, lit - tle brown bats, lit - tle brown bats, lit - tle brown

bats, lit - tle brown bats, lit - tle brown bats, lit - tle brown bats,

bats, bats,

20

bats, lit - tle brown bats, brown bats, bats, m...

lit - tle brown bats, brown bats, bats, m...

bats, while in the

nervoso mf 3

calmando ♩=72

a... a... pre -

an - cient, the dan - ge rous gar goyles; 3

an - cient, the dan - ge - rous gar - goyles, gar - goyles;

f *p*

Meno mosso ♩=60

f grandioso

mp *f* grandioso

pre - pa - ring for

pa - ri - ng... pre... pa - ring for

p *f*

pre - pa - ring for, for

p *f*

pre - pa - ring for, for

p *f*

A tempo, solennemente

44 (ou as in you)

ou -> w... m... The soils, fruit - ful

- au - w... m... The soils, fruit - ful

ou w... m... The soils, fruit - ful

ou -> w... m... The soils, fruit - ful

Ped. al fine

animando
cresc.

49

soils, the soils of the Au - tumn! A - bun - dant our

soils, the soils of the Au tumn! A - bun - dant our

soils, the soils of the Au - tumn! A - bun - dant our

soils, the soils of the Au - tumn! A - bun - dant our

p

u. c.

62

mf (unis.) *mp*

fes - tive qua - dru - ple feast: the Sea - sons be - ne - vo - lent de - mons, am - ply dis -

mf (unis.) *mp*

mf *mp*

66

mp (unis.) *poco a poco cresc. e accel.*

pen - sing their ge - ne - rous gifts, des - cend on our earth with a thou - sand, e - le - men - ta - ry

mp (unis.) *poco a poco cresc. e accel.*

am - ply dispen - sing their ge - nerous gifts,

mp *poco a poco cresc. e accel.*

70

mf **A tempo**

rea - - sons, pro - vo - king each time the ca - len - dar's cau - tious - ly rhyt - mi - cal

mf

mf

mf

mf

Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped.

Winter Skies

Jos Stroobants

Hans Helsen

Verse 4

Senza Misura, ♩ = ca. 54

Piano introduction for 'Winter Skies'. The score is in 3/4 time and consists of two staves. The upper staff features a melodic line with dynamics *p*, *mf*, *p*, and *f*. The lower staff provides harmonic support with sustained chords and moving bass lines.

Vocal and piano accompaniment for 'Winter Skies'. The vocal parts are in 3/4 time and feature a melodic line with lyrics. The piano accompaniment is in 3/4 time and features a bass line. The lyrics are: "Be-tween the black of the deep deep night... the white of snow". The piano accompaniment includes a grand staff with treble and bass clefs. The lyrics are: "Be-tween the black of the deep deep night... and the white of snow".

7 Senza Misura

mp *mf*
 there hangs a si - lent mys - te - ry:

mp *mf*
 there hangs a si - lent mys - te - ry:

mp *mf*
 there hangs a si - lent mys - te - ry:

mp *mf*
 there hangs a si - lent mys - te - ry

p *f*

♩ = ♩. A little bit faster

A

p molto legato
 a - bove us the far - a - way pla - nets,

p molto legato
 (ex - cer - cise): a - bove us the far - a - way pla - nets,

p molto legato
 a - bove us the far - a - way pla - nets, and

p molto legato
 (win - te - ry ex - cer - cise): a - bove us the far - a - way pla - nets, and

pp

19 **molto rall.** *f cresc. poco a poco* **B** **A Tempo** Highest voice ad lib.

in - be-tween our _____ song for the earth, our song for the earth and _____ a

f cresc. poco a poco Highest voice ad lib.

in - be-tween our _____ song for the earth, our song for the earth, and _____ a

f cresc. poco a poco Highest voice ad lib.

in - be-tween our _____ song, our song for the earth, our song for the earth and a

f cresc. poco a poco

in - be-tween our _____ song, our song for the earth, our song for the earth and a

mf

22 *ff* *senza decresc.*

glimpse _____ of pa-ra-dise, _____ a glimpse of _____ pa - ra - dise. _____

ff *senza decresc.*

glimpse _____ of pa-ra-dise, _____ a glimpse of _____ pa - ra - dise. _____

ff *senza decresc.*

glimpse _____ of pa-ra-dise, _____ a glimpse of _____ pa - ra - dise. _____

ff *senza decresc.*

glimpse _____ of pa-ra-dise, _____ a glimpse of _____ pa - ra - dise. _____

f

pp

Win - ter! Be bright now, our

pp

Win - ter! Be bright now,

pp

Win - ter! Be bright now,

pp

Win - ter! Be bright now, our

Song! Like the skies of the Win - ter!

our Song! Like the skies of the Win - ter!

our Song! Like the skies of the Win - ter!

Song! Like the skies of the Win - ter!

Refrain

Andante Soprano & Alto

Four-fold and year - ly: the fes - tive qua - dru - ple

Tenor & Bas

40 Lento

ff

Ped. * Ped. *

54

> (unis.)

mf

Coda

shifts. See us, your sing - ers, and hear us, sin - ging the gol - den

dim. *mf*

con Ped.

57

Sea - sons that year af - ter year do car - ry our days-and-nights o - ver the

mf

60

(unis.)

cliffs and o - ver the pit - falls of black - est des - pair the most

(unis.) *mp*

Elementary Seasons

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Cover design: Stefaan Vermeulen

D/2019/6045/040
ISMN 979-0-3654-2196-1

© EUPRINT ed., Parkbosstraat 3, B-3001 Heverlee

Tel. : +32-16-40.40.49
Fax : +32-16-40.70.49

info@euprint.be
www.euprint.be

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