

AN EARTH DAY CELEBRATION

SACRED CIRCLE



Jusan T. Nelson



From the Top Music
Albuquerque, NM

Commissioned by the Oklahoma City Handbell Ensemble; Venita MacGorman, Director

AN EARTH DAY CELEBRATION

Sacred Circle

for Native American Flute in F# pentatonic minor, Handbells, Handchimes,
Drum, Bar Chimes, Percussion, and Spoken Chorus (optional)

Cat. 20743-HB

Level 3

Handbells Used: 5 octaves



Handbell notation for 5 octaves, showing notes on a grand staff (treble and bass clefs). The notes are: C4, D4, E4, F#4, G4, A4, B4, C5, D5, E5, F#5, G5, A5, B5, C6, D6, E6, F#6, G6, A6, B6, C7, D7, E7, F#7, G7, A7, B7, C8, D8, E8, F#8, G8, A8, B8, C9, D9, E9, F#9, G9, A9, B9, C10, D10, E10, F#10, G10, A10, B10, C11, D11, E11, F#11, G11, A11, B11, C12, D12, E12, F#12, G12, A12, B12, C13, D13, E13, F#13, G13, A13, B13, C14, D14, E14, F#14, G14, A14, B14, C15, D15, E15, F#15, G15, A15, B15, C16, D16, E16, F#16, G16, A16, B16, C17, D17, E17, F#17, G17, A17, B17, C18, D18, E18, F#18, G18, A18, B18, C19, D19, E19, F#19, G19, A19, B19, C20, D20, E20, F#20, G20, A20, B20, C21, D21, E21, F#21, G21, A21, B21, C22, D22, E22, F#22, G22, A22, B22, C23, D23, E23, F#23, G23, A23, B23, C24, D24, E24, F#24, G24, A24, B24, C25, D25, E25, F#25, G25, A25, B25, C26, D26, E26, F#26, G26, A26, B26, C27, D27, E27, F#27, G27, A27, B27, C28, D28, E28, F#28, G28, A28, B28, C29, D29, E29, F#29, G29, A29, B29, C30, D30, E30, F#30, G30, A30, B30, C31, D31, E31, F#31, G31, A31, B31, C32, D32, E32, F#32, G32, A32, B32, C33, D33, E33, F#33, G33, A33, B33, C34, D34, E34, F#34, G34, A34, B34, C35, D35, E35, F#35, G35, A35, B35, C36, D36, E36, F#36, G36, A36, B36, C37, D37, E37, F#37, G37, A37, B37, C38, D38, E38, F#38, G38, A38, B38, C39, D39, E39, F#39, G39, A39, B39, C40, D40, E40, F#40, G40, A40, B40, C41, D41, E41, F#41, G41, A41, B41, C42, D42, E42, F#42, G42, A42, B42, C43, D43, E43, F#43, G43, A43, B43, C44, D44, E44, F#44, G44, A44, B44, C45, D45, E45, F#45, G45, A45, B45, C46, D46, E46, F#46, G46, A46, B46, C47, D47, E47, F#47, G47, A47, B47, C48, D48, E48, F#48, G48, A48, B48, C49, D49, E49, F#49, G49, A49, B49, C50, D50, E50, F#50, G50, A50, B50, C51, D51, E51, F#51, G51, A51, B51, C52, D52, E52, F#52, G52, A52, B52, C53, D53, E53, F#53, G53, A53, B53, C54, D54, E54, F#54, G54, A54, B54, C55, D55, E55, F#55, G55, A55, B55, C56, D56, E56, F#56, G56, A56, B56, C57, D57, E57, F#57, G57, A57, B57, C58, D58, E58, F#58, G58, A58, B58, C59, D59, E59, F#59, G59, A59, B59, C60, 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Commissioned by the Oklahoma City Handbell Ensemble; Venita MacGorman, Director

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Sacred Circle

Cat. 20743-HB
Level 3

Susan T. Nelson
(ASCAP)

Meditative, Freely ♩ = about 50

The musical score is for a handbell ensemble in 4/4 time, featuring two Flutes (Fl), two Basses, and a Drum. The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The score is divided into four measures. Measure 1: Flutes are silent. Basses play 'Bass chimes random ring m. 1-27' (mf). Drum is silent. Measure 2: Flutes are silent. Basses continue. Drum begins (mf) with a quarter note. Above the bass staff, 'Stirred Bells m. 2-27' (mp) are indicated with a circled plus sign and a '2' below. Measure 3: Flutes are silent. Basses continue. Drum continues. Above the bass staff, 'Random mart lift individual bells m. 3-27' (p) is indicated with a circled '3' and a martlet symbol. Measure 4: Flutes are silent. Basses continue. Drum continues. Above the bass staff, 'Random ring chimes m. 4-27' (mf) is indicated with a circled '4' and diamond symbols. A second Flute part begins in measure 5, playing a melodic line (mf). Basses play 'Bar chimes' (mf) in measure 7, indicated by a circled '7' and a wavy line. A circled '8' is also present. In measure 10, 'Random whispering' is indicated above the bass staff. The Drum part is silent from measure 5 to 10, indicated by a slash in each measure.

Fl

11 12 13 14 15 16

Random whispering *Random whispering*

Drum

Fl

17 18 19 20 21 22

Random whispering *Chorus: Conserve, recycle, repurpose, renew.*

Drum

Fl

23 24 25 26 27 *Bar chimes*

Chorus: Preserve natural resources for future generations.

Drum
let fade

Mystical, dreamlike ♩ = 56 - 60

28 *Disassemble stirred bells* 29 30 31

mp *LV m.28-39

32 R 33 34 35

mf
mp

36 37 38 39

40 41 42 43

LV LV LV LV LV LV

* See performance notes.

44 45 46 47

LV LV LV LV

f

48 49 50 51

*LV m. 48-59

mp

Fl

mf

52 53 54

LV

Bring out melody

(LVs continue through m.59)

* See performance notes.

Fl

55 56 57

Fl

58 59 60

Fl

61 62 63

64

- Flute

65

66

rit.

ff

Hold back

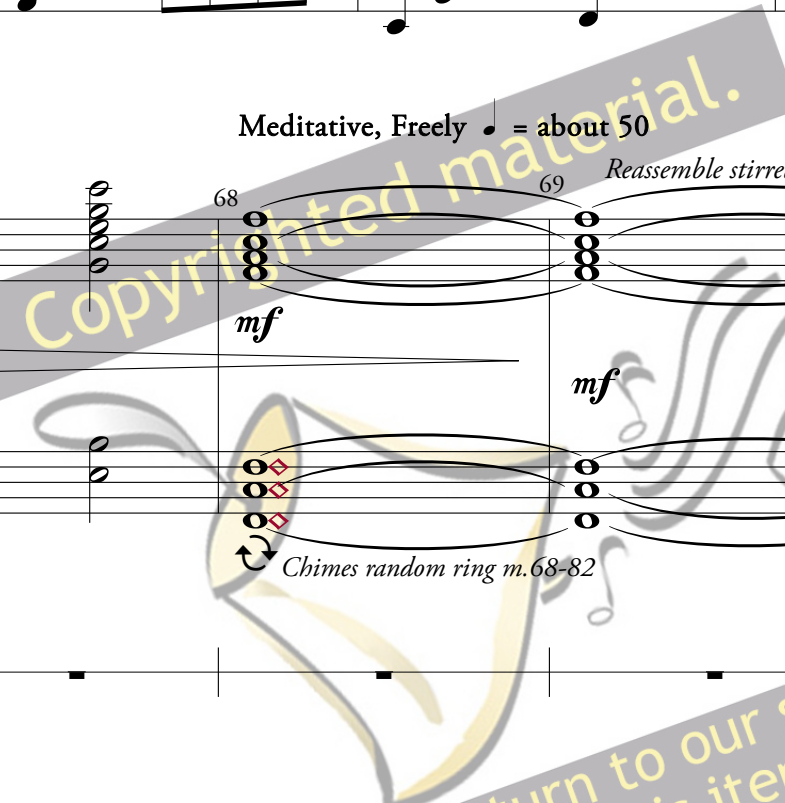
LV

LV

LV

R

Meditative, Freely ♩ = about 50



67

68

69

70

mf

mf

Reassemble stirred bells

Chimes random ring m.68-82

Drum

Fl

mf

71

mp

Stirred Bells m.71-83

72

p

Random mart lift individual bells m.72-83

73

mf

Random ring chimes m.73-83

74

Random whispering (m.74-76)

Drum

Fl

75 *Bar chimes* 77 78

Drum

Fl

79 80 81 82

Chorus: We are caretakers of the planet.

Chorus: Protect our precious, Mother Earth!

Drum

Fl

83 84 85 86

*Play ending as written.
(No random chimes, mart lift bells.)*

rit. *p*

(F#3, C#4, F#4 Chimes drop out.) (C#4 Bell drops out.)

Drum

PERFORMANCE INFORMATION

“An Earth Day Celebration: Sacred Circle” Susan T. Nelson (ASCAP)

Performance Notes

1. The introduction (m.1-27) and recap (m.68-end) are dreamlike and very free. The flutist may take longer rests between phrases in those sections, if desired.
2. The SB begins by ringing the bell and singing m.1-27. Chimes may double those bells, random ringing.
3. A single person audibly speaks (not whispered) the narration in m.1-4. The singing bell in m.1 may be lengthened to accommodate this text.
4. The drum enters once the singing bell is established (m.2-27).
5. A rainstick, turtle rattle, shell shaker, ocean drum, etc., may be used, ad lib, in the introduction and recap.
6. “⊕ Stirred Bells” m.2-27 and m.71-85 (see instructions, below).
7. Mart lift bells are played individually, not as a chord (m.3-27).
8. The whispered/spoken chorus and narrator is optional and is not necessary for performance.
9. Regular speech is acceptable if it slips in intermittently, during all whispering sections. (See p.2 for text.)
10. Random whispering: People whisper different words at random, not together as a unison chorus.
Use “Part A” text for m.10, 13, 16, and 19.
11. Chorus: People whisper-chant the text printed in the score, as a unison choir (m.22, 26-27).
12. Drum, percussion tacet m.28-69. Flute tacet m.28-51.
13. Measures 28-39 and 48-59: Bass LV throughout, do not damp between measures (LVUHC).
14. The ending is a recap, so entrances are the same as the beginning.
15. Random whispering: Use “Part B” text for m.74-76.
16. Chorus: People whisper-chant the text printed in the score, as a unison choir (m.79 & 82).
17. Measures 83-86: All “C# E, A, & B” bells and chimes gradually drop out. The composition ends on a contemplative, unison F#.

Instructions

⊕ (or StB) = “Stirred Bells” is a new suspended/malleted articulation I invented for this commission. Hold the bells 4iH, with the C#7 in the ring position, and the E7 in the “knock” position. Grasp the loop of the F#7 between thumb and index finger. Bells are in a normal, “ready to ring” position. The rims of the three bells will form a circle. Bells will be malleted clockwise, from the lowest to highest pitch (C#7, E7, F#7). Place the mallet between the three suspended castings and “stir” the bells with a circular motion. Please see my demonstration video on YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GT34W0_Z12A

Disassemble the stirred bells during m.28-31 and reassemble them during m.68-70.

NOTE: Many thanks to Venita MacGorman for her expertise in Native American music and culture.

TEXT

“An Earth Day Celebration: Sacred Circle” Susan T. Nelson (ASCAP)

Part A (during intro):

Narrator (Spoken by one person see ‘Performance Notes:’ The Earth is a gift from the Creator... given to us to honor and to protect.

Whispered (these or similar lyrics may be used):

Global warming
Climate change
Disappearing rain forests
Extinction of species
Fracking
Greenhouse gasses, carbon dioxide
Hole in the ozone layer
Melting ice caps
Ocean levels rising, oceans warming
Oil spills
Pollution
Smog
Weather patterns changing

Chorus (whispered):

Measure 22: Conserve, recycle, repurpose, renew.
Measures 26-27: Preserve natural resources for future generations.

Part B (during ending):

Whispered (these or similar lyrics may be used):

Biodegradable
Build green
Carpool, public transportation
Compost
Conservation
Don't use pesticides
Fossil fuel alternatives
Go paperless
Organic food
Preserve natural habitats
Reuse, refurbish
Save water
Solar and wind power
Sustainable resources
Use natural resources wisely

Chorus (whispered):

Measure 79: We are caretakers of the planet.
Measure 82: Protect our precious, Mother Earth!

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Allelu by Jacqueline McNair & Martha Lynn Thompson	3-5 (6) oct.+ opt. chimes, .SA choral & perc.	Level II
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Processional on an Opening Bell by M. Mazzatenta	3 (4) (5) octaves bells	Level III
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Yellow Bird arr. by Gail Downey	3 - 5 octaves +opt. chimes/percussion	Level III
In the Good Old Summertime by Fred A. Merrett	3 or 5 octaves + chimes	Level III+
Joyous Echo Fanfare by Michael Mazzatenta	3 octaves	Level III+
Ton Moulin by Valerie Stephenson	(3) (4) 5 octaves bells, (3) 5 oct. chimes	Level III+
Badinerie by J.S. Bach, arr. Leila Norris	5 oct. bells and solo flute	Level IV
Cantabile: A Singing Spirit by Lee Afdahl	3-5 (6) oct. bells/opt chimes	Level IV
Crush Collision March by Larry Sue	5 (6) oct. bells, 3 oct. chimes +opt F2	Level IV
Fantasia on Spirit of God arr. by Matthew Prins	5 oct.	Level IV
O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus by Derek Hakes	(3) (4) 5 octaves bells, 3 oct. chimes	Level IV
Blessedness of Unity Psalm 133 by Lee Afdahl	3 or 4-5 oct. bells/ Opt.chimes	Level IV+
Nocturne by Kenneth Hytch	5 octaves bells with harp solo	Level IV+
Air by J.S. Bach, transcribed by Valerie Stephenson	5 oct. bells and opt. chimes	Level V
Masters in This Hall arr. Gail Downey	3 or 5 octaves	Level V
Jazzin' by Kathleen Wissinger	3 or 4/5 octaves bells	Level V
That Old Black Magic by Paul W. Allen	5 octaves bells	Level V
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