

Cicada Song

Words: Jacque B. Jones,
in memory of Melly Turner-Lauck (1950-2007),
who brought me to Chicago to hear the cicadas.

Music: Richard Clemmitt

♩ = 72

p

Soprano & Tenor

Alto & Bass
("The Ground")

1. Ci - ca - da song, pri - me-val song, E - rupt-ing from the earth,

mp

An el - e - men - tal psalm of life: Cre - a - tion at its birth.

mf

Un - ceas - ing - ly it fills our ears With na - ture's thun-d'ring sound;

p

Then si-lence comes with sing-ers gone, Re - turn - ing to the ground.

The musical score is written in a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat) and a common time signature. It consists of four systems of music. Each system has two staves: the top staff is for Soprano & Tenor and the bottom staff is for Alto & Bass. The lyrics are written below the staves. The first system starts with a tempo marking of quarter note = 72 and a dynamic marking of *p*. The second system has a dynamic marking of *mp*. The third system has a dynamic marking of *mf*. The fourth system has a dynamic marking of *p*. The music features a mix of eighth and quarter notes, with some rests and a final fermata on the last note of each system.

p

2. Drawn from the soil to fleet-ing life, they sing re - new and die;

p

mp

a ge - ne - ra - tion glimpsed and gone - the flick - er of an eye.

mp

mf

But seeds they plant - ed are not dead, and nur-tured will re - vive

mf

mp

to se - re - nade in fu - ture years, the song once more a - live.

mp

mf

3. What is this song ci - ca - das sing - a pri - mal hymn of praise -

mf

Detailed description: This system contains the first two staves of music. The treble staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and a dynamic marking of *mf*. The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes. The bass staff begins with a bass clef and the same key signature, featuring a bass line of eighth and quarter notes. The lyrics are positioned between the two staves.

a sym - pho - ny of thank - ful - ness To their Cre - a - tor raise?

Detailed description: This system contains the second two staves of music. The treble staff continues the melody from the first system. The bass staff continues the bass line. The lyrics are positioned between the two staves.

f

Or is their song for hu - man ears, is this our Mak - er's call:

f

Detailed description: This system contains the third two staves of music. The treble staff begins with a dynamic marking of *f*. The melody continues with eighth and quarter notes. The bass staff also begins with a dynamic marking of *f* and continues the bass line. The lyrics are positioned between the two staves.

mf

a mes - sage of re - lent - less love from one who gave us all?

mf

mp

Detailed description: This system contains the final two staves of music. The treble staff begins with a dynamic marking of *mf*. The melody concludes with a half note. The bass staff begins with a dynamic marking of *mf* and concludes with a half note. A dynamic marking of *mp* is placed above the final notes of both staves, with a hairpin indicating a decrescendo from the previous system. The lyrics are positioned between the two staves.

For Verse 4

Soprano sings descant on next page

Alto 1 sings soprano part

Alto 2 sings alto part

Tenor 1 sings soprano part

Tenor 2 sings tenor part

Bass sings bass part

mf

4. Then ask the crea-tures, they will teach; their sto - ries they will tell;

mf

from them we learn what wor - ship means, a les - son they know well.

f

In - spired by their un - bri - dled song We'll set our voi - ces free;

and with our fel - low crea-tures now em - brace God's mys - ter - y.

The musical score is written in G minor (one flat) and 4/4 time. It consists of four systems, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The first system is marked *mf* and contains the lyrics: "4. Then ask the crea-tures, they will teach; their sto - ries they will tell;". The second system is also marked *mf* and contains: "from them we learn what wor - ship means, a les - son they know well.". The third system is marked *f* and contains: "In - spired by their un - bri - dled song We'll set our voi - ces free;". The fourth system is also marked *f* and contains: "and with our fel - low crea-tures now em - brace God's mys - ter - y.". The piano accompaniment consists of a steady bass line and chords that support the vocal melody.

Verse 4 Soprano Descant



4. Then ask the crea-tures, they will teach; their sto-ries they will tell;



from them we learn what wor-ship means, a les-son they know well.



In - spired by their un - bri - dled song We'll set our voi - ces free;



and with our fel - low crea-tures now em - brace God's mys - ter - y.