

Four Grassi Lakes Seasons

(Sound Portraits For School Choir)

Words and Music by Allan Gordon Bell

ca. 8'0"

Four Grassi Lakes Seasons was awarded the Association of Canadian Choral Conductors 1994 National Choral Music Award for Outstanding Composition For Children's Choir.

Four Grassi Lakes Seasons was commissioned by the Lawrence Grassi Elementary Division II Choir with the assistance of The Alberta Foundation For The Arts, and is dedicated to Louise Karlsson and the members of the Lawrence Grassi Elementary Division II Choir, Canmore, Alberta.

1. **Winter**
Wind lifts snow from trees
Snow skips over ice
2. **Spring**
Sunshine on glacier, ice starts to melt
Sunshine on glacier makes waterfalls
3. **Summer**
Bear walks
Hawk soars
Moonlight
4. **Autumn**
Grey clouds rolling over mountains
Water mirror holds a flock of birds

Notes To The Conductor:

1. In all movements, do not rush through the *senza misura* sections. Allow the choir and the audience to have the opportunity to savour the vocal effects textures.
2. In order to assist in coordinating the choir through some of the *senza misura* sections, numbers in circles have been provided in the score. Conductors may choose to communicate these numbers to the choir with the fingers of one hand.
3. In the first movement, conductors should begin the whistling by pointing to the left side of the choir and moving the hand slowly to the right side of the choir. Choir members should whistle any note that they are able to produce, but the overall effect should be that of a mass of whistled pitches that begins high and adds lower notes.

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1. Winter

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whistle
mp start when the conductor points to you stop on cue

Soprano
Alto

mf

slow
L → R

ca. 2"

mp on cue, gliss. to higher note to lower note

mf

slow
L → R

ca. 2"

2

mf (unis.)

mf (sempre)

mf

ca. 72

ca. 72

5

*Play as fast as possible

4

8

(Oo) Oo

8va (*sempre*)

14

8va (*sempre*)

Wind lifts

8va *8va* *8va*

ff *mf*

19

snow from trees

8va (*sempre*)

oo

25

oo

8va (*sempre*)

Snow skips o - ver i -

8va

31

mp \longleftarrow **ff** \longrightarrow *p* \longleftarrow *mf* \longrightarrow *pp*

ce
(ss)

ca. 2"

(31)

whistle
mp start when the conductor points to you stop on cue

8va

ca. 2"

mf

slow
L \longrightarrow R

(31)

f on cue: gliss. *mp*

8va

ca. 2"

mf

slow
L \longrightarrow R

(31)

mp \longleftarrow **ff** \longrightarrow *p* \longleftarrow *mf* \longrightarrow *pp* stop when you hear the piano

ss

8va

ca. 2"

f \longrightarrow *ppp*

slow
L \longrightarrow R

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2. Spring

♩ = ca. 60

Soprano

Alto

Piano

p

6

mp

mp

Sun - shine on gla - ciers, ice

Sun - shine on gla - ciers, ice

12

starts to m el - - -

starts to

** mf*

①

②

(13)

mf

t!

t!

t!

③

④

⑤

* enter one at a time

(13)

t!
tongue clicks

tongue clicks

1 2 3 ca. 3"

ff

14

mp

Sun - shine on gla - cier

mp

Sun - shine on gla - cier

p

20

any high note

makes wa - ter fall - s sh

f

makes wa - ter fall - s sh

1 2 3

fff

3. Summer

f (growl)

Soprano

Gruh! gruh! gruh! gruh! chi! gruh! chi!

f (growl)

Alto

Gruh! gruh! gruh! gruh! chi! gruh! chi!

6 *(sound on inhaling only)* S

gruh! gruh! chi! chi! uh! gruh! gruh!

gruh! gruh! chi! chi! uh! gruh! gruh!

12

gruh! chi! gruh! chi! gruh! gruh! chi! chi! gruh! gruh! chi! chi!

gruh! chi! gruh! chi! gruh! gruh! chi! chi! gruh! gruh! chi! chi!

16

ji! ga! ji! ga! ha! ho! ji! ga! ji! ga! ha! gruh! gruh! chi! chi! gruh! gruh! chi! chi!

gruh! gruh! chi! chi! gruh! gruh! chi! chi! ga! ji! ga! ga! ji! ga! ha! ho! ga! ji! ga!

20 *ca. 2"* *(whisper)* *pp* *D.S. al* D

Bear wal - ks!

ca. 2" *(whisper)* *pp* *D.S. al* D

Bear wal - ks!

24 D

ji! ga! ji! ga! ha! ho! ji! ga! ji! ga! ha! ha! ho! ha! ji! ga! ji! ga!

gruh! gruh! chi! chi! gruh! gruh! chi! chi! ga! ji! ga! ga! ji! ga! ga! ji! ga! ji! ga!

28

ji! ga! ji! ga! ji! ga! ji! ga! grrr uh!

ji! ga! ji! ga! ji! ga! ji! ga! grrr uh!

ff *mf* tap music-covers with fingertips

ff *mf* tap music-covers with fingertips

(31) *p* *p* *a tempo*
 one person hums any mid-range note chorus hums same note
 (continue humming; stagger breathing)

m - m - - - - -

(whisper)
 Bear wal ks, haw k
 (wah)

35

m - - - - -

soar - - - - - s m - - - - -
 hum on same note as the rest

(38) (relative to hummed note)
 (Doh) (Te) (Lah) (Doh)

moo - - - - - moo - - - - -

(m) - - - - - moo - - - - -

3 soloists:
 not sounding together *p*
 (wolf howls: as if far away) (soloists join chorus)

(38) (Te) (Lah) (Soh)

- - - n - - - ligh t.

- - - n - - - ligh t.

4. Autumn

Soprano

Alto

Piano

$\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 88$

mf

Red. 8va ... * Red. 8va ... * Red. 8va ... * Red. 8va ... *

5

dah du day, dah du day, dah du day,

dah du day, dah du day, dah du day,

Red. 8va ... * Red. 8va ... * Red. 8va ... * Red. 8va ... *

10

dah du day, dah du day, dah du day,

dah du day, dah du day, dah du day,

f

Red. 8va ... * Red. 8va ... * Red. 8va ... * Red. 8va ... *

(13)

mp (with tongue at front of teeth) tsi!

mf tsi!

mp (with tongue at front of teeth) tsi!

mf tsi!

mf

14

mf

Grey clouds rol - ling

mf

Grey clouds rol - ling

mf

mf

18

o - ver moun-tains Wa - ter mir - ror

o ver moun-tains Wa - ter mir - ror

mf

mf

22

holds a flock of bir - - - - -
 dah du dah du bir - - - - -

8va ... Red. *

(25)

ds whaa
 ds whaa

ff (unvoiced: like the sound of flapping wings)
ff (unvoiced: like the sound of flapping wings)

ca. 2" f

8va ... Red. *

(25)

mf whaa *mp* whaa
mf whaa *mp* whaa

mp

8va ... Red. *

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Allan Gordon Bell

(b. 1953)

Allan Gordon Bell was born in Calgary, Alberta. He received a master of music degree from the University of Alberta where he studied with Violet Archer, Malcolm Forsyth, and Manus Sasonkin. He also did advanced studies in composition at the Banff Centre for the Arts where his teachers were Jean Coulthard, Bruce Mather, and Oskar Morawetz.

Mr. Bell has created works for solo instruments, chamber ensembles, orchestra, band, and electroacoustic media. He has been commissioned by such organizations as the Canada Council, the CBC, the Canadian Band Directors' Association, and the Société de musique contemporaine du Québec. His works have been performed by the National Arts Centre Orchestra, the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra, the Esprit Orchestra, the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra, the Manitoba Chamber Orchestra, the Oxford String Quartet, the Purcell String Quartet, the ensembles of Toronto New Music Concerts, Arraymusic and the Société de musique contemporaine du Québec, and many other professional and amateur organizations in Canada, the United States, the United Kingdom, West Germany, Israel, and Japan.

In 1988, *Concerto for Two Orchestras* was performed at the Olympic Arts Festival; in 1989, *Arche II* was performed by the finalists at the Banff International String Quartet Competition, and this work was subsequently sent by the CBC as the English Network submission to the International Rostrum of Composers in Paris. In 1992, *An Elemental Lyric* was performed at Carnegie Hall in New York, the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., and Symphony Hall in Boston. Mr. Bell has also created scores for award-winning film and television productions.

Mr. Bell is Professor of Music at the University of Calgary. He is on the Editorial Board of *SoundNotes*, a contemporary music journal. From 1984 to 1988, he served as President of the National Film Board of the Canadian Music Centre.

