

William Grosvenor Neil

Three Potawatomi Songs
for SATB
(2011)



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Program Notes

Composing has always been about some sort of inner journey for me. I am overtaken by inspiration and soon, a quest to realize my music vision is underway. A dim light on the horizon is often my only guide. But with a strong feeling in my heart, I soon find my way to creating a musical composition that communicates what I have felt and seen. I expected that I would take a similar journey when I set the three Potawatomi prayers, *We All Move*, *Now I Raise My Hands*, and, *We All Move*, for chorus. The text, a Potawatomi prayer, is a joyous celebration of harmony with all creatures and creations from the Chant of the Man Bundle that declares that “we are all singing and dancing in thanksgiving that we have lived so long.” Indeed, I was taken by the directness of the prayer that comes straight from the heart and, in a way, the piece simply celebrates the joy of singing and being alive. I was also inspired by the natural sonorities of the wind and water that are suggested in the words. So, making the voices cascade and roar and imitate the drumming and rhythmic dancing was my highest choice. I was also reminded of the spiritual power of ritual music making and how it can lead to revelatory states and so the middle and end of the piece employ carefully tuned harmonies that draw a special inner tension from the voices as they remind us that the “Great Spirit will help us while we are singing in this world”. For the Potawatomi, all beings are persons, and elders of the tribe advise to go and spend time with the Standing people, the Beaver people and even the Rock people. Their different perspectives will remind us that humans don't have to figure out everything by themselves-that there are teachers all around them.

I want to thank and acknowledge, Kathleen Tigerman, who edited *Wisconsin Indian Literature, Anthology of Naive Voices*, published by The University of Wisconsin Press, for her kind permission to use the translation of these chants as the text for these choral pieces.

Duration: ca. 12 minutes

We All Sing

Anonymous, Potawatomi

William Grosvenor Neil

$\text{♩} = 130$
ppp poco a poco cresc.

SOPRANO
 Eve-ry-bod-y sings, eve-ry-bod-y sings, eve-ry-bod-y sings, eve-ry-bod-y sings, eve-ry-bod-y sings,

ppp poco a poco cresc.

ALTO
 Eve-ry-bod-y sings, eve-ry-bod-y sings, eve-ry-bod-y sings, eve-ry-bod-y sings, eve-ry-bod-y sings,

ppp poco a poco cresc.

TENOR
 Eve-ry-bod-y sings, eve-ry-bod-y sings, eve-ry-bod-y sings, eve-ry-bod-y sings, eve-ry-bod-y sings,

ppp poco a poco cresc.

BASS
 Eve-ry-bod-y sings, eve-ry-bod-y sings, eve-ry-bod-y sings, eve-ry-bod-y sings, eve-ry-bod-y sings,

6 * *f poco a poco cresc.!*

eve-ry-bod-y sings, eve-ry-bod-y sings, eve-ry-bod-y sings, eve-ry-bod-y sings, eve-ry-bod-y sings, eve-ry-bod-y sings,

f poco a poco cresc.

eve-ry-bod-y sings, eve-ry-bod-y sings, eve-ry-bod-y sings, eve-ry-bod-y sings, eve-ry-bod-y sings, eve-ry-bod-y sings,

f poco a poco cresc.

eve-ry-bod-y sings, eve-ry-bod-y sings, eve-ry-bod-y sings, eve-ry-bod-y sings, eve-ry-bod-y sings, eve-ry-bod-y sings,

f poco a poco cresc.

eve-ry-bod-y sings, eve-ry-bod-y sings, eve-ry-bod-y sings, eve-ry-bod-y sings, eve-ry-bod-y sings, eve-ry-bod-y sings,

*

Breathing: In order to create a smooth legato execution of the music in measures 1 - 16, each of the voices should assign staggered breathing points leading up to the notated breath mark.

12

eve-ry-bod-y sings, eve-ry-bod-y sings, eve-ry-bod-y sings, eve-ry-bod-y sings, eve-ry-bod-y sings, eve-ry-bod-y sings, *ff*
 eve-ry-bod-y sings, eve-ry-bod-y sings, eve-ry-bod-y sings, eve-ry-bod-y sings, eve-ry-bod-y sings, eve-ry-bod-y sings, *ff*
 eve-ry-bod-y sings, eve-ry-bod-y sings, eve-ry-bod-y sings, eve-ry-bod-y sings, eve-ry-bod-y sings, eve-ry-bod-y sings, *ff*
 eve-ry-bod-y sings, eve-ry-bod-y sings, eve-ry-bod-y sings, eve-ry-bod-y sings, eve-ry-bod-y sings, eve-ry-bod-y sings, *ff*

18

eve-ry-bod-y sings, eve-ry-bod-y sings, eve-ry-bod-y sings,____ eve-ry-bod-y sings,
 eve-ry-bod-y sings,____ eve-ry-bod-y sings, eve-ry-bod-y sings,____ eve-ry-
 eve-ry-bod-y sings, eve-ry-bod-y sings,____ eve-ry-bod-y sings,
 eve-ry-bod-y sings,____ eve-ry-bod-y sings, eve-ry-bod-y sings, eve-ry-bod-y

35

p *pp* *f*

sing with the world, sings with the wind, sings with the wa - ter. You can hear the wa - ter

p *pp* *f*

sing with the world, sings with the wind, sings with the wa - ter. You can hear the

p *pp* *f*

8 sing with the world, sings with the wind, sings with the wa - ter. You can hear the wa - ter

p *pp* *f*

sing with the world, sings with the wind, sings with the wa - ter. You can hear the

40

p

roar, you can hear the wa - ter roar, you can hear the wa - ter roar. _____ I

p

wa-ter roar, you can hear the wa-ter roar, you can hear the wa-ter roar. _____ I

p

8 roar, you can hear the wa - ter roar, you can hear the wa - ter roar. _____ I

p

wa-ter roar, you can hear the wa-ter roar, you can hear the wa-ter roar. _____ I

45

f *pp*

sing in the wind, sing to be heard, I strike my drum, I strike my drum, my

f *pp*

sing in the wind, sing to be heard, I strike my drum, I strike my drum, my

f *pp*

sing in the wind, sing to be heard, I strike my drum, I strike my drum, my

f *pp*

sing in the wind, sing to be heard, I strike my drum, I strike my drum, my

50

mp

drum is sing-ing in this world. I shake my gourd,

mp

drum is sing-ing in this world. I shake my gourd, I shake my gourd, I shake my gourd,

mp

drum is sing-ing in this world.

mp

drum is sing-ing in this world.

56 *poco a poco cresc.*

I shake my gourd, I shake my gourd, I shake my gourd, I shake my gourd, I shake my gourd,

poco a poco cresc.

I shake my gourd, I shake my gourd, I shake my gourd, I shake my gourd, I shake my gourd,

mp poco a poco cresc.

I shake my gourd, I shake my gourd,

mp poco a poco cresc.

I shake my gourd, I shake my gourd,

61 *ff* *ppp poco a poco cresc.*

I shake my gourd and it sings. We are all sing-ing and danc-ing, we are all

ff *ppp poco a poco cresc.*

I shake my gourd and it sings. We are all sing-ing and danc-ing, we are all

ff *ppp poco a poco cresc.*

and, and it sings. We are all sing-ing and

ff *ppp poco a poco cresc.*

I shake my gourd and it sings. We are all sing-ing and

67

sing-ing and danc-ing, we are all sing-ing and danc-ing, we are all sing-ing and danc-ing,

sing-ing and danc-ing, we are all sing-ing and danc-ing, we are all sing-ing and danc-ing,

danc-ing, we are all sing-ing and danc-ing, we are all sing-ing and danc-ing, we are all

danc-ing, we are all sing-ing and danc-ing, we are all sing-ing and danc-ing, we are all

71

we are all sing-ing and danc-ing, we are all sing-ing and danc-ing, we are all sing-ing and

we are all sing-ing and danc-ing, we are all sing-ing and danc-ing, we are all sing-ing and

sing-ing and danc-ing, we are all sing-ing and danc-ing, we are all sing-ing and danc-ing,

sing-ing and danc-ing, we are all sing-ing and danc-ing, we are all sing-ing and danc-ing,

75 *ff*

danc-ing, we are all sing-ing and danc-ing, we are all sing-ing and danc-ing,

ff

danc-ing, we are all sing-ing and danc-ing, we are all sing-ing and danc-ing, we are all__

ff

8 we are all sing-ing and danc-ing, we are all sing-ing and danc-ing,

ff

we are all sing-ing and danc-ing, we are all__ sing-ing and danc-ing, we are all__

79

we are all sing-ing and danc-ing, we are all__ sing-ing and

__ sing-ing and danc-ing, we are all__ sing-ing and danc-ing,

8 we are all__ sing-ing and danc-ing, we are all__

__ sing-ing and danc-ing, we are all__

98

meno mosso

pausa *p* *pp* *a tempo* *mp*

so long._____ I am sing-ing in the wa-ter, I am sing-ing in the air. I am

pausa *p* *meno mosso* *pp* *a tempo* *mp*

so long._____ I am sing-ing in the wa-ter, I am sing-ing in the air. I am

pausa *p* *meno mosso* *pp* *a tempo*

so long._____ I am sing-ing in the wa-ter, I am sing-ing in the air.

pausa *p* *meno mosso* *pp* *a tempo*

so long._____ I am sing-ing in the wa-ter, I am sing-ing in the air.

106

poco a poco cresc.

sing-ing with my drum, I am sing-ing with my gourd, I am sing-ing with my drum,

poco a poco cresc.

sing-ing with my drum, I am sing-ing with my gourd, I am sing-ing with my drum,

mp *poco a poco cresc.*

I am_____ sing - ing_____

mp *poco a poco cresc.*

I am sing-ing with my

113

I am sing-ing with my gourd. So we all are sing-ing in this roar-ing

I am sing-ing with my gourd. So we all are sing-ing in this roar-ing

sing - ing with my gourd. We are

drum, I am sing-ing with my gourd. So we are

117 *f*

wa-ter, so we all are sing ing in this roar-ing wa -

wa-ter, so we all are sing ing in this roar-ing

8 sing - ing in this roar - ing wa - ter,

f

all sing-ing in this roar-ing wa - ter

122

ter, in this roar-ing wa - - - ter,

wa - ter, in this roar-ing wa -

8 so we all are sing-ing in this roar-ing wa - ter, so we all are sing-ing in this roar-ing wa - ter

so we all are sing-ing in this roar-ing wa - ter, so we all are sing-ing in this roar-ing wa - ter

127

in this roar - ing wa -

ter, in this roar - ing

so we all are sing-ing in this roar-ing wa - ter,____ roar- ing____ wa - ter,____ roar- ing_

so we all are sing-ing in this roar-ing wa - ter,____ roar-ing wa - ter, roar-ing wa - ter,____

133

- - ter. As we hear the wa - ter roar, as we hear the wa - ter

wa - - - - ter. As we hear the wa - ter roar, as we

— wa - ter. As we hear the wa - ter roar, wa - ter roar, _

— roar - ing wa - ter. As we hear the wa - ter roar,

138

roar, as we hear it roar, as we hear it, we hear it, hear it, hear it, hear it

hear the wa-ter roar, as we hear it roar, as we hear it, we hear it, hear it, hear it

as we hear the wa-ter roar, as we hear it roar, as we hear it, we hear it, hear it

as we hear the wa-ter roar, as we hear it roar, as we hear it, we hear it, hear it

142

ff roar, roar, roar. *p* I know that the Great Spir -

ff roar, roar, roar. *p* I know that the Great Spir -

ff roar, roar, roar. *p* I know that the Great Spir -

ff roar, roar, roar. *p* I know that the Great Spir -

150 $\text{♩} = 50$
meno mosso

it will help us. While we are sing - ing,

meno mosso

it will help us. While we are sing - ing,

meno mosso

8 it will help us. While we are sing - ing,

meno mosso

it will help us. While we are sing - ing,

157 *f* *dim. poco a poco* *ritardano* *pp*

sing - ing, sing - ing, sing - ing in this world.

f *dim. poco a poco* *ritardano* *pp*

sing - ing, sing - ing, sing - ing in this world.

f *dim. poco a poco* *ritardano* *pp*

8 sing - ing, sing - ing, sing - ing in this world.

f *dim. poco a poco* *ritardano* *pp*

sing - ing, sing - ing, sing - ing in this world.

Now I Raise My Hand

18

Anonymous, Potawatomi

William Grosvenor Neil

$\text{♩} = 50$

p

Soprano

I raise my

p

Alto

Now I raise my hand, now I raise my head. Now I raise my hand, now I raise my head.

p

Tenor

Now I raise my hand, now I raise my head. Now I raise my hand, now I raise my head.

p

Bass

I raise my

167

head. I raise my head up to the skies. I will raise my head up to the skies. *f*

Now I raise my hand, now I raise my head. Now I raise my hand, I raise my head up to the skies. *f*

Now I raise my hand, now I raise my head. Now I raise my hand, I raise my head up to the skies. *f*

head. I raise my head up to the skies. I will raise my head up to the skies. *f*

173 *pp* $\text{♩} = 60$ *cresc. poco a poco*

— That is all I can do, that is all I can do. I can call as loud as I

pp

That is all I can do, that is all I can do, that is all I can do.

pp *cresc. poco a poco*

8 That is all I can do, that is all I can do, that is all I can do. I can call as

pp

— That is all I can do, that is all I can do.

180

please, I can call as loud as I please, as loud as I please, as loud as I please, as

cresc. poco a poco

I can call as loud as I please, I can call as loud as I please, as loud as I please, as loud as I please,

8 loud as I please, I can call as loud as I please, as loud as I please, as loud as I please,

cresc. poco a poco

I can call as loud as I please, as loud as I please, as loud as I please, as loud as I

186 *f* $\text{♩}=80$ *ff*

loud as I please, — as loud as I please, as loud as I please, as loud as I please, as I

f *ff*

— as loud as I please, — as loud as I please, as loud as I please, as loud as I please,

f *ff*

8 as loud as I please, as loud as I please, — as loud as I please, — as loud as I please, as

f *ff*

please, as loud as I please, — as loud as I please, as loud as I please, as loud as I please,

193 *fff* $\text{♩}=50$ *p*

please, — but I nev-er get an an - swer. So I am rais-ing my

fff *p*

as I please, — but I nev-er get an an - swer. So I am rais-ing my

fff *p*

8 I please, — but I nev-er get an an - swer. Now I raise my hand, now I raise my head..

fff *p*

— as I please, — but I nev-er get an an - swer. Now I raise my hand, — now I raise my head.

198

hand and head up to the sky. I will raise my head up to the skies. All we do is raise our hands,

hand and head up to the sky. I will raise my head up to the skies. All we do is raise our hands, all we

Now I raise my hand, now I raise my head up to the skies. All we do is raise our hands, all we do is

Now I raise my hand, now I raise my head up to the skies. All we do is raise our hands,

204

raise our hands, we raise our hands, we raise our hands - to the sky.

do is raise our hands, raise our hands, we raise our hands, we raise our hands - to the sky.

raise our hands, raise our hands, we raise our hands, we raise our hands - to the sky.

raise our hands, we raise our hands, we raise our hands - to the sky.

212

pp

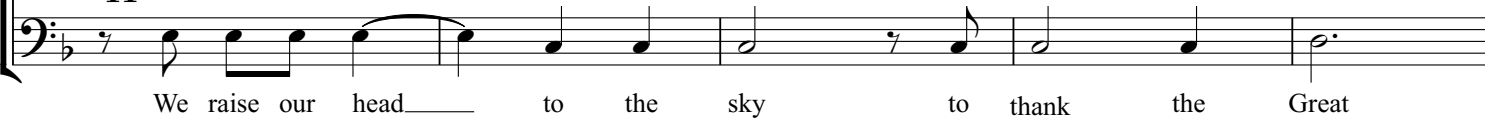
We raise our head_____ to the sky to thank the Great

pp

We raise our head_____ to the sky to thank the Great

pp

We raise our head_____ to the sky to thank the Great

pp

We raise our head_____ to the sky to thank the Great

217

♩=40

ppp

Spir - it,_____ the Great Spir - it._____

ppp

Spir - it,_____ the Great Spir - it._____

ppp

Spir - it,_____ the Great Spir - it._____

ppp

Spir - it,_____ the Great Spir - it._____

Now We All Move

Anonymous, Potawatomi

William Grosvenor Neil

♩=60 ***f***

SOPRANO

Now we all move, _____ mov-ing mov-ing with this earth. The earth is

ALTO

Now we all move, _____ mov-ing mov-ing with this earth. The earth is

TENOR

Now we all move, _____ mov-ing mov-ing with this earth. _____ The earth is

BASS

Now we all move, _____ mov-ing mov-ing with this earth. The earth is

230 ***mf***

mov-ing a-long, the wa-ter is mov-ing a-long. The grass moves, _____ the trees are mov-ing, the

mov-ing a-long, the wa-ter is mov-ing a-long. The grass moves, _____ the trees are mov-ing, the

mov-ing a-long, the wa-ter is mov-ing a-long. The grass moves, _____ the trees are mov-ing, the

mov-ing a-long, the wa-ter is mov-ing a-long. The grass moves, _____ the trees are mov-ing, the

So we all move a-long with the earth, keep-ing time with the earth, the earth.

That is the way_____ the Great Spir-it gave us, to move_____ with this world, to move

250

f

— with this world. So we are mov-ing a-long. Now I am mov-ing, mov-ing, mov-ing with this

with this world. So we are mov-ing a-long. Now I am mov-ing, mov-ing, mov-ing

8 — with this world. So we are mov-ing a-long. Now I am mov-ing,

with this world. So we are mov-ing a-long. Now I am mov-ing,

257

world, mov-ing with this world. As the wa-ter moves, as the trees move,

with this world, mov-ing with this world. As the wa-ter moves, as the trees move,

8 mov - ing, mov-ing with this world. As the wa-ter moves, as the trees move,

mov-ing, mov-ing with this world. As the wa-ter moves, as the trees move,

262

ev-'ry-thing is mov - ing, e - ven the grass. And we are mov-ing, mov-ing, mov - ing,

ev-'ry-thing is mov - ing, e - ven the grass. And we are mov-ing, mov-ing, mov - ing,

ev-'ry-thing is mov - ing, e - ven the grass. And we are mov-ing, mov-ing, mov - ing,

ev-'ry-thing is mov - ing, e - ven the grass. And we are mov-ing, mov-ing, mov - ing,

266

mov-ing, mov - ing. So we ask you to give us the right way, that we may move with the Great

mov-ing, mov - ing. So we ask you to give us the right way, that we may move with the Great

mov-ing, mov - ing. So we ask you to give us the right way, that we may move with the Great

mov-ing, mov - ing. So we ask you to give us the right way, that we may move with the Great

272

Spir-it where the Great Spir-it wants us to move. So ev-'ry-bod-y move. Mov-ing, mov - ing,

Spir-it where the Great Spir-it wants us to move. So ev-'ry-bod-y move. Mov-ing, mov - ing,

8 Spir-it where the Great Spir-it wants us to move. So ev-'ry-bod-y move. Mov-ing, mov - ing,

Spir-it where the Great Spir-it wants us to move. So ev-'ry-bod-y move. Mov-ing, mov - ing,

278

mov - ing. The way of___ the world___ is mov - ing, mov-ing with this world,___

mov - ing. The way of the world___ is mov - ing, mov-ing with this world,___

8 mov - ing. The way of___ the world___ is mov - ing, mov-ing with this world,___

mov - ing. The way of the world is mov-ing, mov-ing with this world.

284

mov-ing with this world. The way of the world is mov - ing. So ev-'ry-bod-y move,

— mov-ing with this world. — The way of the world is mov - ing. — So ev-'ry-bod-y

8 — mov-ing with this world. — The way of the world is mov - ing. — So ev-'ry-

Mov-ing with this world. The way of the world is mov - ing. — So

290

mov-ing, mov-ing, mov-ing, mov-ing, mov-ing, mov-ing, mov-ing, mov - ing.

move, mov-ing, mov-ing, mov-ing, mov-ing, mov-ing, mov-ing, mov - ing.

8 bod - y move, mov-ing, mov-ing, mov-ing, mov-ing, mov-ing, mov-ing, mov - ing.

ev - 'ry-bod - y move, mov-ing, mov-ing, mov-ing, mov-ing, mov-ing, mov - ing.