

William Grosvenor Neil

Three Potawatomi Songs

for SATB

(2011)



TheComposerStudio.Com, LLC

© 2011 by William Grosvenor Neil
All Rights Reserved

William Grosvenor Neil

Three Potawatomi Songs

(2011)

©2011 by William Grosvenor Neil
All Rights Reserved

Contents

We All Sing	2
Now I Raise My Hand	18
Now We All Move	23

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 Native 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

ALTO

TENOR

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,

ppp 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,

ppp 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,

ppp 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,

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

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

23

28

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, _____

' fff

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, _____

' fff

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, _____

' fff

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, _____

' fff

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, _____

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**
 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

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

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

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

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

45

pp

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

pp

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

pp

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

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,

drum is sing-ing in this world.

drum is sing-ing in this world.

56

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

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

mp

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,

61

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

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

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

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

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

79

ff

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

87

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

8 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

91

f

danc-ing, we are all sing-ing and danc-ing, danc - ing in thanks - giv - ing that we have lived

f

danc-ing, we are all sing-ing and danc-ing, danc - ing in thanks - giv - ing that we have lived

f

danc-ing, we are all sing-ing and danc-ing, danc - ing in thanks - giv - ing that we have lived

f

danc-ing, we are all sing-ing and danc-ing, danc - ing in thanks - giv - ing that we have lived

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 with my

mp *poco a poco cresc.*

I am sing-ing with my

110

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

This image shows a musical score for a children's song. It consists of four staves of music. The top three staves are in treble clef and the bottom staff is in bass clef. The tempo is marked '110'. The lyrics are integrated into the music, with some words like 'my' and 'drum' left blank for the children to fill in. The music features various note values including eighth and sixteenth notes, and rests. The vocal line is supported by a simple harmonic progression.

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

8 sing - ing____ with my____ gourd._____ We are____

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

This image shows a musical score for a children's song. The top two staves are in treble clef, with the first staff in common time and the second in 8th note time. The lyrics 'I am sing-ing with my gourd.' are repeated twice. The third staff is in bass clef, also in common time, and contains a continuous bass line. The score is numbered 113 in the top left corner.

117 *f*

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

122

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

roar, roar, roar. I know that the Great Spir -

roar, roar, roar. I know that the Great Spir -

roar, roar, roar. I know that the Great Spir -

roar, roar, roar. I know that the Great Spir -

150

♩=50
meno mosso

it will help us. While we are singing,

157 *f*

dim. poco a poco *ritardando* *pp*

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

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

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

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

Now I Raise My Hand

18

Anonymous, Potawatomi

William Grosvenor Neil

J = 50

Soprano *p*
I raise my

Alto *p*
Now I raise my hand, now I raise my head. Now I raise my hand, now I raise my head.

Tenor *p*
Now I raise my hand, now I raise my head. Now I raise my hand, now I raise my head.

Bass *p*
I raise my

167

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

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

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

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

173

pp *♩=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*

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 ————— *ff*

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

f ————— *ff*

please, as loud as I please,

193

fff

♩ = 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

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, All we do is
 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.

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.
 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

We raise our head____ to the sky to thank the Great

We raise our head____ to the sky to thank the Great

We raise our head____ to the sky to thank the Great

217 ***J=40***

ppp

Spir - it, the Great Spir - it.

Now We All Move

William Grosvenor Neil

♩ = 60

SOPRANO *f*
Now we all move, mov-ing mov-ing with this earth. The earth is

ALTO *f*
Now we all move, mov-ing mov-ing with this earth. The earth is

TENOR *f*
Now we all move, mov-ing mov-ing with this earth. The earth is

BASS *f*
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

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

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

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

236

243

250

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

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,

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,

8 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

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

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

8 moving, moving. So we ask you to give us the right way, that we may move with the Great

moving, moving. 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,
 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,
 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

— 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

Dynamic markings: **ff**, **p**, **ff**, **p**, **ff**, **p**, **ff**, **p**

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.

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, mov - ing.

Dynamic markings: **ppp**, **ppp**, **ppp**, **ppp**