

Kala Pierson



Trees Breathing

SSAATTBB (with brief S solo) – 3:00

Commissioned by the Central Bucks High School-West Choir (Dr. Joseph Ohrt, Conductor)

for the cycle *I Wonder...* to texts by Charles Anthony Silvestri

Trees Breathing

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Charles Anthony Silvestri

2019

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The trees of the earth take one long breath,
Slowly greening on the inhalation,
Filling each leaf
With Spring's soft light;
Until, full with Summer's ripeness,
They exhale,
Blazing in the red and gold of Autumn fire,
Ere they, like all things living,
Fall into waiting sleep
And wonder in the Winter's silences.

slow, rubato ♩ = 52

The musical score is for SSAATTBB voices. It features four staves: Soprano (S), Alto (A), Tenor (T), and Bass (B). The time signature is 3/4. The score includes dynamic markings such as *mp*, *p*, *mp poss.*, and *ppp*. It also includes performance instructions like *div.* and *rubato*. The lyrics are: "The trees of the earth take one long breath, Ah". The Tenor part has a triplet of eighth notes. The Bass part has a triplet of eighth notes. The score is marked with a tempo of ♩ = 52 and includes a *ppp* marking at the end.

• All breaths are notated — breathe only at rests (otherwise, stagger breathing).

• All glisses are very pronounced and 'dug into.' All glisses last the full duration of the first note.

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Contact welcome: kp@kalapierson.com • Info and resources for this piece: kalapierson.com/choral/trees

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unis.
mp

S fill-ing each leaf with

A Ah with

T slow - ly green-ing on the in - ha - la - tion, Ah

B slow - ly green - - - ing, Ah

ppp mp

p mp

expansive ♩ = 76

S spring's soft light, un - til, full with sum - mer's

A spring's soft light, un - til, full with sum - mer's

T un - til, full with sum - mer's

B un - til, full with sum - mer's

mf

div.

unis.

mp

a tempo ♩ = 52 *div.*

S *mp* bla-zing in the red and gold of au-tumn fire,
ripe - ness, zing in the red and gold of au-tumn fire,

A *mp* bla-zing in the red and gold of au-tumn fire,
ripe - ness, zing in the red and gold of au-tumn fire,

T *mp* in the red and gold of au-tumn fire,
ripe - ness, the red and gold of au-tumn fire,

B *p* *legatiss.* *mp* *pp*
ripe - ness, they ex - hale,

S *p*
p

A *ppp* *unis.* *p* *mp* *3* *3*
ppp ere they, like all things liv - ing,

T *ppp* *unis.* *p* *mp* *p*
ppp like all things,

B *ppp* *p*
Ah

expansive ♩ = 76

rit. ...

♩ = 66

S and won - der

A *p* fall in - to wait - ing sleep, *ppp* Ah *p*

T *p* fall in - to wait - ing sleep, *ppp* Ah *p*

B wait - ing sleep, Ah *p poss.* *p*

SOLO (*solo is rubato — a dream outside time*)

rit. ...

mp green - ing, breathe.

S through the win - ter's si - len - ces.

A si - len - ces.

T si - len - ces.

B