

To the Peak of the Mountain

Commissioned by the University of Montana
for the 2019 U of M All-Star Choir

Music and words by
Katerina Gimon

Duration ~ 3'30"

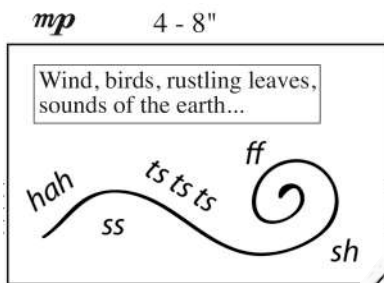
Come away, away now! To the mountain away.
On a path through a forest of endless green
Where the rivers wind and the cool breeze murmurs
Memories of long ago.

A hidden song draws you into the dawning
As golden light rises above
And your feet carry on, carry on with ease
As you climb up and onward
To the peak of the mountain

Performance notes

Soundscape (opening section, sopranos and altos)

- Mimic a beautiful and calm mountainous soundscape (rustling leaves, wind, water, chirping birds, etc.)



Aspirated "ha-ha"s (opening section, sopranos)

- These are unvoiced/aspirated consonants. To achieve this sound, imagine breathing on your palms to try and w



Repeating section, altos; later in tenors)

- A tremolo marked over a note indicates that the given text should be recited repeatedly on the notated pitch (varying tempi/rhythms, each singer individually)



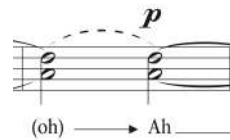
"To the mountain" (opening section, S1s)

- The text should be spoken in overlapping quasi-echos. The echos should be coordinated spatially by:
 - Assigning a specific person to begin (at the farthest side of the choir). Then, singers will begin after the person next to them, moving towards the opposite side of the choir.
 - The conductor can cue this by moving their hand (fingers together, hand flat, and palm facing inwards) from one side of the choir to the next. Singers begin as the conductor's hand passes by them.



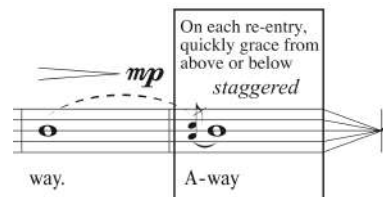
Dotted ties/slurs

- Indicates no breath should be taken



Aleatoric drone (begins m. 53, basses)

- Sustain for the length of one breath then, when re-entering randomly grace the note above or below. This should be done individually (at different times). Transitioning into 53 should also be staggered (i.e. sustain "away" in 52 then each singer on their next entry will begin with a grace into their drone.



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mp 4 - 8"

Wind, birds, rustling leaves,
sounds of the earth...

hah *ss* *ts ts ts* *ff* *sh*

continue until line ends

mf

4 - 8"

a - way, *a -*

Djembe (optional)

S1s softly speak the text
text atop the texture,
echoing each other
(rejoin soundscape
when done speaking)

To the mountain...
To the mountain...
To the mountain...
To the mountain...

S1:

divisi

way now! To the moun - tain a - way.

divisi

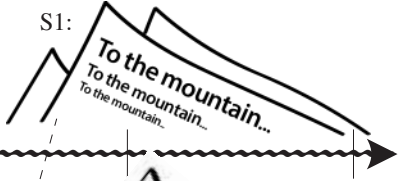
Note: Baritones may join tenors here until m. 25 (as needed)

Altos only fade out - - - - -

On a path through a fo - rest of end - less green

On a path though a fo - rest of end - less green

PERUSAL SCORE ONLY - PLEASE DO NOT COPY



17

S

pp Recite the given text (individually) on the notated pitch(es)

A [Carry on, carry on with ease]

T *p* Where the ri - vers wind and breeze mur - murs

B *p* Where the ri - vers wind the cool breeze mur - murs



23

S *rit.* *a te'* *mp* Aspirated exhale
Ha ha ha ha

A *rit.* *empe* *p* *mf* *p*
[Carry on] Oh, car - ry on. Oh,

T *mp* *rit.* *a tempo* *p*
s of long a - go. (oh) Ah
(morph vowel)

B *rit.* *a tempo* *mf*
Ah doo va day oh doo va day oh

mf ad. lib throughout (add grace notes, fills, embellish as desired, etc.)

PERUSAL SCORE ONLY - PLEASE DO NOT COPY

29

S *mf* **A**
 ha ha ha ha Come a - way, a -

A *mf* *p* *mf*
 car - ry on Come a - way

T *cresc. poco a poco*

B doo va day oh doo va day oh doo va day oh

35

S way now! To the moun - tain a - way.

A way To the moun - tain a - way

T ay ah

B doo va day oh doo va day oh va day doo va day

PERUSAL SCORE ONLY - PLEASE DO NOT COPY

40

S
Come a - way, _____ a - way now! _____ To the

A
Come a-way, _____ a - w _____ To the

T

B
oh _____ doo va day _____ oh _____ .oo va day _____ oh _____

45

S
moun - tain _____ a - way, _____ a - way, _____

A
moun - tr _____ *f* a - way, _____ a - way, _____

T
_____ *f* A - way, _____

B
doo va day oh _____ va day _____ Ah _____

f

50

S Ah *pp*
a - way.

A a - way. *pp* A hid-den song *p*

T a - way. [a hidden song draws you into the dawning]

B A - way. *mp* ed continue until line ends

57

S As gold-en *p*

A draws you in - to the dawn - ing (ng) As gold-en light

T [as golden light rises above]

B

PERUSAL SCORE ONLY - PLEASE DO NOT COPY

Re: a text (individually) on the notated pitch

On e-
qui-
a-
n

move individually to the next text

63

A few voices only *p* Ah

S light ri-ses a - bove *mp* And your feet car-ry ar-ry on with

A ri-ses a - bove *mp* And your -ry on, car-ry on with

T *move individually*
[carry on, car ease to the mountain]

B

70

S ease climb up up *mf*

A ease As you climb up and on - ward up and on - ward

T *mf*
Up, up and on - ward

B *fp* Up, *fp* up

mf

75 *f* **C**

S To the peak of the moun - tain. To the

A To the peak of the moun - tain To the

T up and on - ward. Doo va day oh va day oh

B ah

80

S moun - tain a - way. To the peak

A moun - tain a - way. To the peak

T va day oh va day doo va day oh doo va day

B ah ah

PERUSAL SCORE ONLY - PLEASE DO NOT COPY

85

S of the moun - tain To the moun - tain a -

A of the moun-tain To the moun-tai a -

T oh doo va day oh va day oh va day

B ah

90

S way. a - way. a -

A way. a - way. a -

T va day oh va day doo va day oh va day

B doo va day doo day oh doo va day doo day oh

mf *f* *f*

PERUSAL SCORE ONLY - PLEASE DO NOT COPY

Singers double perc. line with body percussion to end of m. 97 (optional)

94

S way. *Shout* To the

A way. *f Shout* To the peak! To the peak! an-tain! To the

T *f Shout* To the moun-tain! To the moun-tain! To th To the moun-tain! To the

B *f* doo va day doo oh To the *Shout*

97

S *ff* moun - tain! way!

A moun - tain! A way!

T ain! A way!

B moun - tain! A way!

molto rit.

ff

ffp *ff*