

For Bella Voce Women's Choir, Jennifer Tibben-Lembke, Director

# The Peace of Wild Things

Dedicated to the welfare of all beings

Wendell Berry

Joan Szymko

The musical score is for a women's choir and piano. It is in 4/4 time with a key signature of three flats (B-flat major/D minor). The tempo is marked as quarter note = 58. The score is divided into two systems. The first system includes staves for Soprano 1 (S1), Soprano 2 (S2), Alto 1 (A1), Alto 2 (A2), and Piano. The piano part features a bass line with chords and a low register melody. The lyrics for the first system are: "When de - spair, When de - spair,". The second system continues the vocal lines with lyrics: "when de - spair for the world grows, When de -" and "when de - spair for the world grows, When de -". The piano accompaniment continues with dynamics ranging from *pp* to *mf*. There are two asterisks (\*) in the piano part, one at the end of the first system and one at the end of the second system.

\*Optional solo on high B<sup>♭</sup>

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8

*div.* *f* *quasi recitativo* (opt. solo) *mf*

spair for the world grows in me and I

spair for the world grows in me

12

*Più mosso* ♩ = 66 *Tutti p* *gently at first, then with growing angst* *poco cresc. e accel.*

wake in the night, I wake in the night at the least

wake in the night at the least

*Più mosso* ♩ = 66 *legato pp* *poco cresc. e accel.*

*p*

*mf rit.*

sound in fear of what my life and chil-dren's lives may be,

*mf rit.*

sound in fear of what my life and chil-dren's lives may be,

*mp* *mf rit.*

*a tempo* 20 *p* holding back slightly

I go lie down (n),

*a tempo* *p* holding back slightly *pp* tenderly

I go lie down (n), I go lie

*a tempo pp* *p*

*And. sim.*

22 *Poco più mosso* ♩ = 70 *mf*

and the

*mp* *mf*

down where the wood drake rests in his beauty on the wa-ter and the

*Poco più mosso* ♩ = 70 *p* *mp* *p* *p* *mp*

27 *rit.* *Poco meno mosso* ♩ = 60

great her-on feeds. *rit.* I come in - to the peace of

great her-on feeds. *Poco meno mosso* ♩ = 60

*mf* *mp* *rit.* *mp*

*And. sim.*

wild things, I come in - to the peace of wild things, I

I come in - to the peace of wild things, I

31

come in - to the peace of wild things, come in - to the peace of wild things,

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34

wild things who wild things who

wild things who

36  $\text{♩} = 68$

S1  
S2 do not tax their lives with fore - thought of

A1 *P* I go lie down, I go

A2 do not tax their lives with fore - thought of

*mf* *mf*

*sim.* *mp*

*mf* 39

grief, who do not tax their lives with

*mp* lie down, *mf* I go lie down,

*mf* grief, who do not tax their lives with

*mf* *mp*

*And. sim.*



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48

feel, I feel a - bove me the day blind

feel, I feel a - bove me the day blind

stars wait - ing with their light.

stars wait - ing with their light.

53

53

*mp* *mf* *espr.*

*f* *mp* *mf* *rit. mp* *tenderly*

Meno mosso ♩ = 58

58

Tutti, unis. *pp*

*p* *pp*

For a time I rest in the grace of the

Meno mosso ♩ = 58

*p* *pp* *p*



64

*molto rit. a tempo*

world, and am free.

*pp* *molto rit. a tempo* *pp* *ppp*

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