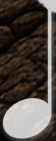


SAUNDER
CHOI

BED RUN DRY

for SMATTB *a cappella*

SAUNDER CHOI *music*



Bed Run Dry is part of an on-going series of pieces that explore the elements (fire, water, air, earth) through a climate/social justice lens, following *Crown of Flames* (2020).

This piece looks into the story of the Owens Valley and its lake in the Eastern Sierras. Named *Payabūīnadū* in the Native American Timbisha/Mono, it means "place of flowing water." In 1913, its waters were diverted to feed the city of Los Angeles, 200 miles south, through the creation of the LA Aqueduct. Before the diversion, Owens Lake was up to 12 miles long and 8 miles wide, with an average depth of 23-50 feet. By 1926, the lake was dessicate, disparaging the communities that relied on it. This began a series of litigations and political conflicts known as the California Water Wars.

Bed Run Dry was commissioned by the William Baker Choral Foundation for Vox Venti – Ed Frazier Davis, artistic director. Its premiere was given in Chicago on May 2023.

The Price of Return

Where can a river sleep
When its bed runs dry?

Land of little rain
In the mountain's shadow,
At the mouth of the metropolis –
Land of little rain
A city is thirsty.

In the tracks of glaciers,
The earthquake's eye.
At Camp Independence,
stolen people died.

Where can a river sleep
When its bed runs dry?

Now Hell's Angels race
The sun for burning tarmac.
The lawyers say pay up.
It will take years for sagebrush
& salt grasses to return.

A person, too, is mostly water.
Glacier-sculpted, earthquake-carved
Where can a river sleep
When its bed runs dry?

-Brian Sonia-Wallace

commissioned by the William Baker Choral Foundation for Vox Venti
Ed Frazier Davis, artistic director

Bed Run Dry

for SMATTB a cappella

poetry by Brian Sonia-Wallace
used by permission

Saunder CHOI

Translucent ♩ = 60 ca

pp *poco rit.* *fp*

Soprano
Where can a ri - ver sleep _____ dry? _____

**3-part split whenever appropriate*

p bring out *fp*

Mezzo
Where can a ri - ver sleep when its bed runs dry? _____

pp *fp*

Alto
Where a ri - ver bed dry? _____

pp

Tenor
Where ri - ver sleep _____

pp

Bass
bed runs _____

pp *sf*

Piano
(for rehearsal only)

A Con moto ♩ = 110

*closed mouth, flutter tongue between 'm' and 'n'

S. *pp*

A. *pp*

T. *p* oh
*3-part split whenever appropriate

T. oh

B.

Pno. *p*

11

S.

A.

T. *cresc.* oh *mp* oh

T. *cresc.* oh *mp* oh

B. *p* oh

Pno. *mp*

15

S.

A.

T. *poco f*

T. *poco f*

B. *poco f*

Pno. *poco f*

19

S. *mp* Land of lit - tle rain In the

A. *mp* Land of lit - tle rain In the

T. *p*

T. *p*

B. *p*

Pno. *mp*

24

S. moun - tain's sha - - dow, At the *mf*

A. moun - tain's sha - - dow, At the *mf*

T. ooh ooh ooh oh *mf*

T. ooh ooh oh *mf*

B. ooh sha - - dow, *mf*

Pno. *mf*

28

S. mouth of the me - tro - po - lis - A ci - ty is, a ci - ty is *poco f*

A. mouth of the me - tro - po - lis - A ci - ty is, a *poco f*

T. oh oh A ci - ty, a ci - ty is, *poco f*

T. oh oh A ci - ty, a ci - ty is, *poco f*

B. oh oh A ci - ty, a ci - ty is *poco f*

Pno. *poco f*

**aspirated exhale, as if a thirst is quenched*

32

S.
thirs - ty, *ah a ci - ty is thirs - ty. ah ah ah

A.
ci - ty is thirs - ty, *ah a ci - ty is thirs - ty. ah ah ah

T.
*ah a ci - ty is thirs - ty, ah a ci - ty is thirs - ty. ah ah

T.
*ah a ci - ty is thirs - ty, thirs - ty, ah thirs - ty, thirs - ty, thirs - ty, thirs - ty. ah

B.
thirs - ty, *ah a ci - ty is thirs - ty.

Pno.

B

36 *mp* ooh *mp* ooh

M. *mp* ooh *mp* ooh

A. *mp* Land of lit - tle rain.

T. *mf* In the tracks of

T. *mf* In the tracks of

B. *mf* In the tracks of

Pno. *mp* *mf*

PERUSAL SCORE

40 *mp*

S. Land of lit - - tle rain. *sim.*

M. ooh ooh

A. ooh ooh

T. gla - - ciers, The

T. gla - - - - ciers, The

B. gla - - ciers, The

Pno.

43

S. oh land of lit - - tle

M. ooh

A. ooh

T. earth - quake's eye.

T. earth - quake's eye.

B. earth - quake's eye.

Pno.

46 *mf*

S. rain. *mf* ooh ooh

M. ooh ooh

A. ooh ooh

T. *poco f* At Camp In - de - pen - dence, sto - len peo - ple

B. *poco f* At Camp In - de - pen - dence, sto - len peo - ple

Pno. *mf* *poco f*

50 *mf* *mp* *mp*

S. ah ah A ci - ty is, a ci - ty is thirs - ty, ah a

M. ah ah ah A ci - ty is, ah a ci - ty is thirs - ty,

A. ah ah ah A ci - ty is, a ci - ty is thirs - ty, ah

T. died. ah ah ah ah

B. died. ah ah

Pno. *mp*

54

S. *ci - ty is thirs - ty.* *ah* *ah*

M. *ah a ci - ty is thirs - ty.* *ah* *ah*

A. *a ci - ty is thirs - ty, thirs - ty, thirs - ty, thirs - ty, thirs - ty,*

T. *Sto - len peo - ple died.*

B. *Sto - len peo - ple died.*

Pno.

57

S. *ah* *ah*

M. *ah* *ah*

A. *thirs - ty, thirs - ty, thirs - ty, thirs - ty.*

T. *ah* *ah* *Peo - ple*

B. *ah* *ah* *Peo - ple*

Pno.

p *rit.*

C Tempo primo ♩ = 60

S. *p translucent*
Where can a ri - ver sleep _____ when its

A. *p translucent*
Where can a ri - ver sleep _____ when its

T.
died. _____ Where can a ri - ver sleep _____

B.
died. _____ Where can a ri - ver sleep _____

Pno.

S. bed runs dry? A ci - ty thirs - ty. _____

A. bed runs dry? _____ A ci - ty thirs - ty. _____

T. _____ dry? _____ Thirs - - ty. *p espressivo* Now Hell's

B. _____ dry? _____ Thirs - - ty. _____

Pno.

D più mosso ♩ = 72

71

S. *p* *m/n... nn... nn... The law-yers say... *p*

A. *p* *m/n... nn... nn... The law-yers say... *p*

T. An-gels race the sun for burn-ing tar-mac *m/n... *p*

B. *p* *m/n... m/n...
*closed mouth, flutter tongue between 'm' and 'n'

Pno.

76 *mp cresc.* *mf* *poco f* *molto*

S. pay up! Pay up! Pay up! *poco rit.*

A. *mp cresc.* *mf* *poco f* *molto*

T. *mp cresc.* *poco f* *mp dolce, bring out*

B. *mp cresc.* *poco f* *molto*

Pno. *mp cresc.* *poco f* *molto*

E a little slower $\text{♩} = 68$

80

S. *p* *cresc.* oh It will take years. oh

M. *p* *cresc.* oh It will take years. oh

A. *p* *mp bring out* oh It will take years for sage-brush and

T. *mp* years for sage-brush and salt gras-ses to re - turn, years

B. oh It will take years and years,

Pno. *mp*

85

S. *mf* *poco f* It will take years for sage-brush and salt-gras-ses to re - turn.

M. *mf* *poco f* years for sage-brush and salt-gras-ses to re - turn.

A. *mf* salt gras-ses to re - turn, re - turn. It will take years to re -

T. *mf* to re - turn. It will take years, years to re -

B. *mf* *poco f* years to re - turn,

Pno. *mf*

90

S. *f* It will take_ years to re - turn sage - brush salt - grass to__ re - turn. *rall.*

M. *f* It will take_ years to re - turn. salt - grass__ re - turn.

A. *poco f* turn, re - turn sage - brush salt - grass to__ re - turn. *f*

T. *poco f* turn, years to re - turn, re - turn, re - turn. *f*

B. years to re - turn. It will take_ years_ to re - turn. *f*

Pno. *poco f*

a tempo

97 *mp marc.* *p* *pp*

S. Pay up! Pay up! *pp*

M. *mp marc.* Pay up! Pay up! *pp*

A. Pay up! Pay up! *pp*

T. *mp marc.* Pay up! Where can a ri - ver sleep? *p*

B. *mp marc.* Pay up! Pay up! *p*

Pno. *mp* *p* *pp*

F Con moto ♩ = 110

103

S. *p marc.* *cresc. poco a poco* *mp*
 A ci-ty is, ah a ci-ty is thirs - ty,

M. *p marc.* *cresc. poco a poco* *mp*
 A ci-ty is thirs - ty, a ci-ty is

A. *p marc.* *cresc. poco a poco*
 Thirs- ty, thirs-ty, thirs - ty, thirs - ty, ah thirs- ty, thirs-ty, thirs - ty, thirs - ty

T. *p* *mp*
 Pay up! ah Pay

B. *p* *cresc. poco a poco* *mp*
 Pay up! Pay up! Pay

Pno. *p* *cresc. poco a poco*

PERUSAHAAN

108

S. *mf* *cresc. poco a poco* *poco f*
 ah a ci-ty is thirs-ty, ah a ci-ty is, a ci-ty is thirs-ty.

M. *mf* *cresc. poco a poco* *poco f*
 thirs - ty, a ci-ty is thirs - ty, a ci-ty is thirs-ty.

A. *mp* *poco f*
 ah thirs-ty, thirs-ty, thirs - ty, thirs - ty, ah thirs-ty, thirs-ty, thirs - ty, thirs - ty, ci-ty is thirs-ty.

T. *mf* *cresc.* *poco f*
 up! Pay up! ah A ci-ty is thirs-ty.

B. *mf* *cresc.* *poco f*
 up! ah Pay up! ah A ci-ty is thirs-ty.

Pno. *mp* *mf* *poco f*

113

S. *mf*
A per - son, too, is most-ly wa - ter.

A. *mf*
A per - son, too, is most-ly wa - ter.

T. *mp*
oh ooh ooh ooh

T. *mp*
oh ooh ooh

B. *mp*
oh ooh

Pno. *mf*

118

S. Gla - crier - sculp - ted, earth - quake - carved.

A. Gla - crier - sculp - ted, earth - quake - carved.

T. ooh ooh ooh ooh

T. ooh ooh ooh

B. ooh ooh earth-quake -

Pno.

122

S. At the mouth of the me - tro - po - lis - *poco f*

A. At the mouth of the me - tro - po - lis - *poco f*

T. ooh oh oh oh

T. ooh oh oh oh

B. carved. oh oh

Pno. *poco f*

127 **G**

S. Land of lit - tle_ rain, Land of lit - tle_

M. Land of, land of lit - tle_ rain,

A. Land of lit - tle rain. oh

T. oh oh

T. oh oh oh

B. oh oh

Pno.

PERMUSICAL SCORE

133

S. rain,

M. Land of lit - tle rain,

A. oh

T. oh A ci - ty is thirs - ty, thirs - ty,

T. A ci - ty is thirs - ty, thirs - ty,

B. A ci - ty is thirs - ty, thirs - ty,

Pno.

mf *mp* *mp*

140

S. *p* Where can a ri - ver sleep? *rit.* *pp*

A. *p* Where can a ri - ver sleep? *pp*

T. *p* m/n... dry. *pp*

T. *p* m/n... dry. *pp*

B. *p* m/n... dry. *pp*

Pno. *p* *pp*