

Grand Lac

from Unsung: If the Earth Could Sing

SATB choir (divisi), cello, & percussion

Duration ca. 4:00

MUSIC BY

Katerina Gimón

WORDS BY

Lauren Peat



INSTRUMENTATION

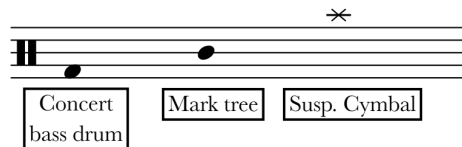
SATB (divisi)

Cello

Percussion (one player)

Concert bass drum, mark tree, suspended cymbal, and crotales (sounding pitches B6, B7). Other small miscellaneous percussion may be used for specified atmospheric improvisatory sections.

Percussion map:



PROGRAM NOTE

Grand Lac (Great Lake) is the second movement in *Unsung: If the Earth Could Sing*, an environmentally inspired choral cycle and collaboration between composer Katerina Gimon, poet Lauren Peat, and conductor Elise Naccarato. *Unsung* centers around the question “if the earth could sing, what would it tell us”? The environmental crisis has been called the “biggest threat modern humans have ever faced” (United Nations, 2021) and *Unsung* aims to shed light on its impact on Canadian landscapes in particular, using choral music as a form of advocacy and a voice for change. Each movement of *Unsung* focuses on a different geographic region of Canada, moving loosely from East to West, and is sung from the perspective of the landscape or weather event (in the case of the first movement).

Grand Lac highlights the beauty of the Great Lakes and river systems that branch through Ontario and Québec. In this peaceful and meditative French-language movement, the listener is drawn in by the haunting calm and serenity that the Great Lakes offer but reminded that these landscapes too and the biodiversity they support, are changing.

For more about *Unsung* and *Grand Lac* visit: www.katerinagimon.com/unsung.

The creation of this work was made possible by the support of the Canada Council for the Arts.



Canada Council
for the Arts

Conseil des arts
du Canada

PERFORMANCE INSTRUCTIONS

Amplification:

- For optimal balance (especially with larger choirs) amplification of the cello is recommended.
- For the spoken solo, amplification is encouraged. Alternatively, if desired the spoken solo may be pre-recorded and played through loudspeakers.

Movement and staging:

- Through not required, movement and staging for this work are encouraged. For inspiration, please see Myriad Ensemble’s videos of *Unsung* on their YouTube channel.

TEXT

Please see the back page of the score to read the text in its original formatting.

Grand Lac

Mvt. 2 from *Unsung: If the Earth Could Sing*

Lauren Peat

Katerina Gimon

senza misura
r-----5 - 10"----- r-----5 - 10"----- **Calm, meditative** ♩ = 50

S

Spoken solo:
The word Ontario was derived from the Huron-Wyandot words onitariio, meaning "beautiful lake," and kanadario, meaning "sparkling" or "beautiful" water.

A

mp a few singers improvise harmonics over the drone

T

mp a few singers improvise harmonics over the drone

B

senza misura
r-----5 - 10"----- r-----5 - 10"----- **Calm, meditative** ♩ = 50

Vc

mp

Perc.

shimmering water soundscape
mp

sprinkle in sparkly atmospheric sounds (ex: chimes, cymbal scrapes or brushes, other high ringing metals)

Note: In this movement when a pitch is repeated within a phrase marking but is not tied (i.e. S and A in m. 31-35, T in m. 10, B in m. 14), re-articulate with a bit of extra air – as if you were going to add a very gentle ‘h’ – but don’t lift.

Grand Lac

5

mp cresc.

S

Oo _____ ah _____

mp cresc.

The word Québec springs from the Mikmaq
kepék, meaning "strait" or "narrows."

Oo _____ ah _____

cresc.

A

mp cresc.

Oo _____ (no breath) _____
(oo) *morph vowel* →

cresc.

T

Oo _____ Oo _____ ah _____

mp

cresc.

B

Oo _____ oo _____ (oo) *morph vowel* →

cresc.

Vc

cresc.

Perc.

Grand Lac

A

10

S

f (no breath) *mp sub.* *mf*

oh dé - fer - lent, re - cu - - -

f *mf*

Une danse de gest' qui dé - fer - lent, re - cul'.

A

f (no breath) *mp sub.*

oo

f *mp sub.*

ah oo

T

f (no breath) *mp sub.* *mf*

oo dé - fer - - lent, re - cul'.

B

f *mp sub.*

ah oh ah

f *mp sub.* *mf*

ah oh dé - fer - - lent, re - cul' ah

A

Vc

f *mp sub.*

Perc.

Mark tree (l.v.) Bass drum

mp *mf*

Grand Lac

13

S
- - - - - lent: se rat - ta - chant au bleu. Les re -

— nos vagues é - cu - meus' se rat - ta - chant au bleu. Les re -

mf
nos vagues é - cu - meus' oo

T
oo

B
oh oo

oh oo

Vc

Perc. To Crotales

Grand Lac

B

15

S
-mous d'un-e danse_ é-tant plus dif-fi - ciles à pos-sé-der,_ c'est la danse de tou-te chose que vous

A
- mous,_ re-mous d'un-e danse oo c'est la danse, danse de tou-te chose que vous

T
les re-mous d'un-e danse oo

B
les re-mous d'un-e danse oo

Vc
B

Perc.
Crotales To Perc.

mp

3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3

18

S
con - voi - tez. Oh oh

A
ah. Oh oh

T
ah. Oh oh

B
ah. Oh oh

Vc
Susp. Cymbal

Perc.
pp mf p mf pp

mf f p fp

2/4 4/4 2/4 4/4

This page has been intentionally left blank for PDF security.

The score will continue on the following page.

Grand Lac

rit.

mp enter and repeat individually

repeat until line ends

34

S ah ah ber-cés

A ah cés

T - let: cette chu-te lib - re sans signe d'êt - re ber - cés.

B - let: cette chu-te lib - re sans signe d'êt - re ber - cés.

Vc **rit.**

D a tempo

37

** Echoed Whispers

flame, scarlet, saffron, gold we carry the leaves that cede to the wind cede to the wind, let go

S *mp* (eh) Oo

A *mp* Oo

T *mp* Oo

B *mp* continue with staggered breathing (eh) Oo

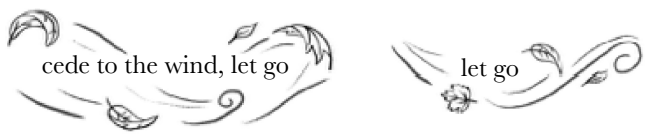
Vc *mp* free bowing **D** a tempo improvise on long tones with colouristic effects, as in opening

Perc. *mp* sprinkle in sparse atmospheric / colouristic things to the end (ex.) scrape, brush, or roll on suspended cymbal; occasional ringing metals **atmospheric**

**Echoed whispers: a handful of singers loudly whisper the given text beginning one after another, moving from one side of the choir to the other (like a ripple in water), and overlapping their entries. The graphic shows approximate timing.

Grand Lac

41
Whispers



S

A

T

B

rit.

Vc

Perc.

rit.

CENTRAL CANADA

SOLITARY SPEAKER:

The word Ontario was derived from the Huron-Wyandot words onitariio, meaning “beautiful lake,” and kanadario, meaning “sparkling” or “beautiful” water.

The word Québec springs from the Mikmaq kepék, meaning “strait” or “narrows.”

GRAND LAC:

une danse de gestes
qui déferlent, reculent :
nos vagues écumeuses
se rattachant au bleu.

les remous d’une danse
étant difficiles à posséder,
c’est la danse de toute chose
que vous convoitez.

en onitariio et au kepék,
on attrape les feuilles
lâchées de l’arbre,
emportées au vent.

bien plus douloureux
est notre ballet :
cette chute libre
sans signe d’être bercés.

[flame, scarlet, saffron gold
we carry the leaves that cede to the wind
let go.]¹

¹ The bracketed stanza is excerpted from an earlier version of the poem, which the composer included in their musical realization.