

They Are Mother
GP-C009.1
SATB div, SA soli, string quintet

Jennifer Lucy Cook

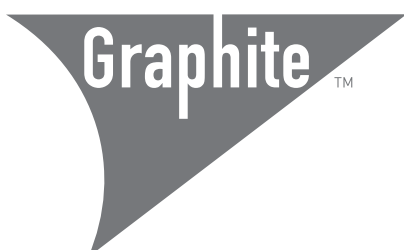
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FULL SCORE - STRING QUINTET

Jennifer Lucy Cook

They Are Mother

for SATB div. choir, SA solo group, and string quintet



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Text:

What shall I call this force I know
Who do I come to when I wonder
The space that holds me when I'm low
More than a parent, friend, or lover

They are Mover
They are Maker
They are Mother, mm
They are Mother, mm

They are the breath I see in cold
The ready muscle in the sprinter
They are the glitter and the gold
The steady heat lamp in the winter

They are Mover
They are Maker
They are Mother, mm
They are Mother, mm

They nod and know
They need nothing
They're god and grow
They bleed blessings
They nod and know
They need nothing
They're god and grow
They bleed blessings

They are solitude
They are multitude
They are gratitude
Gratitude

Laugh lines around the all-seeing eye
And I can lean into the sky
Laugh lines around the all-seeing eye
And I can lean into the sky

What shall I call this force I know
Who do I come to when I wonder

They are Mover
They are Maker
They are Mother, mm
They are Mother, mm
They are Mother, mm
They are Mother, mm

- Jennifer Lucy Cook

From the Composer:

When I was working on the words for this piece, I consulted with my friend Reverend Alex Reegan, who is a trans man and interfaith minister, to create a text that embodies the energy of the feminine divine that is present in any gender. I chose to use they/them pronouns, which capture both the nonbinary and the nonsingular mystery and grandeur of the divine creating force, and by doing so, welcomes everyone into the work.

I wanted to explore the many aspects of the divine; pairing a grounded Mother Nature with a joyous playful being who is capable of laughter, a force that is present in the large and small moments, the noise and the silence, and most importantly, the divine creative spark in each of us. That all-inclusive, loving creative spirit shows up for me in the potential for movement (“the ready muscle in the sprinter”), the pleasures of modern life, (“the steady heat lamp in the winter”), and serves as a reminder not to take myself too seriously (“laugh lines around the all-seeing eye”). In identifying a creator this way, I channel these same qualities into my own life and my own identity, and it's my hope that the audience for “They Are Mother” finds themselves within it too.

- Jennifer Lucy Cook

Commissioned by the Utah Valley University Chamber Choir
Winner of the Chorus Austin Composition Prize, 2022
String arrangement commissioned by the Syracuse University Singers; John Warren, artistic director

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for SATB div. choir, SA solo group, and string quintet

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Words and Music by
Jennifer Lucy Cook

Grounded (♩ = 82)

notable. elevated.

Soprano *mp*
Mm ah mm ah Mm ah mm ah

Alto *mp*
Mm ah mm ah Mm ah mm ah

Tenor *mp*
Mm ah mm ah mm ah Mm ah mm ah mm ah

Bass *mp*
Mm ah mm ah mm ah Mm ah mm ah mm ah

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Violin I *p* *sub. p* *f* *mf* *p* *sub. f* *mf*

Violin II *p* *f* *mf* *f* *mf*

Viola *p* *f* *mf* *f* *mf*

Violoncello *p* *f* *mf* *f* *mf*

Double Bass *pizz.* *f* *mf* *f* *mf*

notable. elevated.



4

S Mm ah mm ah Mm ah mm ah What shall I call this force I know

A Mm ah mm ah Mm ah mm ah Mm ah Mm ah mm Ah

T Mm ah mm ah mm ah Mm ah mm ah mm ah Mm ah mm ah mm ah Mm ah mm ah mm ah

B Mm ah mm ah mm ah Mm ah mm ah mm ah Mm ah mm ah mm ah Mm ah mm ah mm ah

Vln. I *sim.*

Vln. II *sim.*

Vla. *sim.*

Vc. *sim.*

Db. *sim.*

8

optional, or a few voices only

S Who do I come to when I won-der The space that holds me when I'm

A Mm ah Mm ah mm ah mm ah Mm ah Mm ah

T Mm ah mm ah mm ah Mm ah mm ah mm ah Mm ah mm ah mm ah

B Mm ah mm ah mm ah Mm ah mm ah mm ah Mm ah mm ah mm ah

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Db.

11

S low More than a par-ent, friend, or lov - er — They are Mov - er, they are

A mm Ah _____ Mm ah Mm ah mm ah They are Mov - er, they are

T Mm ah mm ah mm ah Mm ah mm ah mm ah Mm ah They are Mov - er, they are

B Mm ah mm ah mm ah Mm ah mm ah mm ah Mm ah They are Mov - er, they are

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Db.

15

S Mak - er, they are Moth - er, mm — They are Moth - er mm — Mm ah mm ah —

A Mak - er, they are Moth - er, mm — They are Moth - er mm — Mm ah mm ah —

T Mak - er, they are Moth - er, mm — They are Moth - er mm — Mm ah mm ah mm ah

B Mak - er, they are Moth - er, mm — They are Moth - er mm — Mm ah mm ah mm ah

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Db.

19

S Mm ah mm ah Mm ah Mm ah ma ma ma ma ma

A Mm ah mm ah Mm ah Mm ah mm Ah

T Mm ah mm ah mm ah They are the breath I see in cold

B Mm ah mm ah mm ah Mm ah mm ah mm ah Mm ah mm ah mm ah

Vln. I pizz. *sim.* *sub. p* *sub. f* *notable elevated.*

Vln. II *sim.* TM

Vla. *sim.*

Vc. *sim.*

Db.

22

S Mm ah Mm ah ma ma ma ma ma ma ma ma Mm ah Mm ah

A Mm ah Mm ah mm ma ma ma ma ma ma ma ma ma Mm ah Mm ah

T The read-y musc-le in the sprin - ter They are the glit-ter and the

B Mm ah mm ah mm ah Mm ah mm ah mm ah Mm ah mm ah mm ah

Vln. I arco pizz.

Vln. II arco pizz.

Vla.

Vc.

Db.

25

S ma ma mama ma ma ma ma Mm ah Mm ah mama ma ma ma mama mama ma ma

A mm Ah Mm ah Mm ah mm ma ma ma ma ma ma ma mama ma ma

T gold the steady heat lamp in the win - ter

B Mm ah mm ah mm ah Mm ah mm ah mm ah Mm ah

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Db.

28

S ma ma ma ma ma ma ma ma They are Mov - er, they are Mak - er, they are

A ma ma ma ma ma ma ma ma They are Mov - er, they are Mak - er, they are

T They are Mov - er, they are Mak - er, they are

B They are Mov - er, they are Mak - er, they are

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Db.

31

SA solo group *f*
 ma ma ma ma ma ma da da da dn da da da

S
 Moth-er, mm— They are Moth-er, mm— They are Moth-er, mm— They are

A
 Moth-er, mm— They are Moth-er, mm— They are Moth-er, mm— They are

T
 Moth-er, mm— They are Moth-er, mm— They are Moth-er, mm— They are

B
 Moth-er, mm— They are Moth-er, mm— They are Moth-er, mm— They are

Vln. I *arco* *p* *f* *sim.*

Vln. II *f*

Vla. *arco* *f* *sim.*

Vcl. *f* *sim.*

Db. *f*

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34

rit. -----

SA solo group

S

A

T

B

mm ma na na na na na ma ma ma ma ma

Moth - er mm They are Moth - er mm They are Moth - er mm They are

Moth - er mm They are Moth - er mm They are Moth - er mm They are

Moth - er mm They are Moth - er mm They are Moth - er mm They are

Moth - er mm They are Moth - er mm They are Moth - er mm They are

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Db.

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Like a secret (♩ = 63)

37

p

S Moth-er mm— They nod and know They need no - thing They're

p

A Moth-er mm— They nod and know They need no - thing They're

T Moth-er mm—

B Moth-er mm—

Vln. I sul pont. *p* sul pont. TM

Vln. II arco *p* sul pont.

Vla. *p*

Vc. arco *mf*

Db. *mp*

Graphite notable. elevated.

40

S god and grow, They bleed bless - ings They nod and know They need

A god and grow, They bleed bless - ings They nod and know They need

T They nod and know They need

B They nod and know They need

Vln. I ord. *mp*

Vln. II ord. *mp*

Vla. ord. *mp*

Vc. *mp*

Db.

Graphite notable. elevated.

43

S no - thing They're god and grow, They bleed bless-ings — They are sol-i-tude They are

A no - thing They're god and grow, They bleed bless-ings — They are sol-i-tude They are

T no - thing They're god and grow, They bleed bless-ings — They are sol-i-tude They are

B — no - thing They're god, god and grow, They bleed bless-ings — They are sol-i-tude They are

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Db.

accel.

47

S mul - ti - tude They are grat - i - tude — They are grat - i - tude — They are

A mul - ti - tude They are grat - i - tude — They are grat - i - tude — They are

T mul - ti - tude They are grat - i - tude — They are grat - i - tude — They are

B mul - ti - tude They are grat - i - tude — They are grat - i - tude — They are

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Db.

f *mf* *f* *mf*

p *f* *mf* *p* *f* *mf*

f *mf* *f* *mf*

f *mf* *f* *mf*

f *mf* *f* *mf*

Joyfully (♩ = 90)

50

S *ff*
 grat - i - tude Laugh lines a-round the all - see - ing eye And

A *ff*
 grat - i - tude Laugh lines a-round the all - see - ing eye And

T *ff*
 grat - i - tude Laugh lines a-round the all - see - ing eye And

B *ff*
 grat - i - tude Laugh lines a-round the all - see - ing eye And

Vln. I *p mf f ff*
arco *TM*

Vln. II *f ff*

Vla. *f ff f*

Vc. *f ff*
arco

Db. *f ff*

53

S
 I can lean up in - to the sky Laugh lines a-round the all - see - ing eye

A
 I can lean up in - to the sky Laugh lines a-round the all - see - ing eye

T
 I can lean up in - to the sky Laugh lines a-round the all - see - ing eye

B
 I can lean up in - to the sky Laugh lines a-round the all - see - ing eye

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Db.

56

S And I can lean up in - to the sky Ah

A And I can lean up in - to the sky Ah

T And I can lean up in - to the sky Ah

B And I can lean up in - to the sky Ah

Vln. I *mp*

Vln. II *mp*

Vla. *mp*

Vc. *mp*

Db. *mp*

Meditative *rit.*

60

S Ah Mm ah Mm ah Mm ah

A Ah Mm ah Mm ah Mm ah

T Ah Mm ah Mm ah Mm ah

B Ah Mm ah Mm ah Mm ah

Vln. I *p*

Vln. II *p*

Vla. *p*

Vc. flautando

Db. *p*

65 **Grounded, as before** (♩ = 82)

mp

S Mm ah mm ah— Mm— ah mm ah— Mm— ah mm ah— Mm— ah mm ah—

mp

A Mm ah mm ah— Mm— ah mm ah— Mm— ah mm ah— Mm— ah mm ah—

mp

T Mm ah mm ah mm ah Mm ah mm ah mm ah Mm ah mm ah mm ah Mm ah mm ah mm ah

mp

B Mm ah mm ah mm ah Mm— ah mm ah mm ah Mm— ah mm ah mm ah Mm— ah mm ah mm ah

Vln. I *p f mf p f mf p f p f*

Vln. II *f mf f mf f mf*

Vla. *f mf f mf sim.*

Vc. *f mf f mf sim.*

Db. *f mf f mf sim.*

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69

S: What shall I call this force I know Who do I come to when I

A: Mm ah Mm ah mm Ah Mm ah Mm ah

T: Mm ah mm ah mm ah Mm ah mm ah mm ah Mm ah mm ah mm ah

B: Mm ah mm ah mm ah Mm ah mm ah mm ah Mm ah mm ah mm ah

Vln. I: *p* *f* *mf* *sim.* *notable. elevated.* TM

Vln. II: *f* *mf* *sim.* TM

Vla.:

Vc.:

Db.:

72

S: won - der They are Mov - er They are Mak - er They are

A: mm ah They are Mov - er They are Mak - er They are

T: Mm ah They are Mov - er They are Mak - er They are

B: Mm ah They are Mov - er They are Mak - er They are

Vln. I:

Vln. II:

Vla.:

Vc.:

Db.:

75

SA solo group *ff* ma ma ma ma ma ma

S *f* Moth - er mm They are Moth - er mm They are

A *f* Moth - er mm They are Moth - er mm They are

T *f* Moth - er mm They are Moth - er mm They are

B *f* Moth - er mm They are Moth - er mm They are

Vln. I *p* *f* *mf* *sim.*

Vln. II *f* *mf*

Vla. *f* *tr*

Vc. *f* *sim.*

Db. *f*

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notable. elevated.

77

SA solo group
 S
 A
 T
 B

da da da dn da da da da mm ma na na na na na

Moth - er mm They are Moth - er mm They are

Moth - er mm They are Moth - er mm They are

Moth - er mm They are Moth - er mm They are

Moth - er mm They are Moth - er mm They are

Vln. I
 Vln. II
 Vla.
 Vc.
 Db.

arco

f

Graphite notable. elevated.

79

SA solo group
 S
 A
 T
 B

ma ma ma ma ma

Moth - er mm They are Moth - er mm They are

Moth - er mm They are Moth - er mm They are

Moth - er mm They are Moth - er mm They are

Moth - er mm They are Moth - er mm They are

Moth - er mm They are Moth - er mm They are

Vln. I
 Vln. II
 Vla.
 Vc.
 Db.

pizz.

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81

SA solo group
ma ma ma ma ma ma ma da da da da da

S
Moth - er mm They are Moth - er mm They are

A
Moth - er mm They are Moth - er mm They are

T
8 Moth - er mm They are Moth - er mm They are

B
Moth - er mm They are Moth - er mm They are

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Db.

83

SA solo group
da da da ma ma ma ma ma ma ma ma

S
Moth - er mm They are Moth - er mm They are

A
Moth - er mm They are Moth - er mm They are

T
8 Moth - er mm They are Moth - er mm They are

B
Moth - er mm They are Moth - er mm They are

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.
(as alto line was sung)

Db.

85

sfzp

f vocal fall, like letting out a sigh

S
Moth - er mm

sfzp

f vocal fall, like letting out a sigh

A
Moth - er mm

sfzp

f vocal fall, like letting out a sigh

T
8 Moth - er mm

sfzp

f vocal fall, like letting out a sigh

B
Moth - er mm

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sfzp

f

Vln. I

arco
sfzp

f

Vln. II

sfzp

f

Vla.

sfzp

f

Vc.

arco
sfzp

f

Db.

sfzp

f

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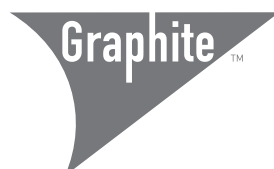


Jennifer Lucy Cook (she/her) is a composer and lyricist based in Los Angeles. Jen specializes in music for the stage and screen, choral music, and pop songwriting. Recent choral commissions include Cantorum Chamber Choir, Opus Voices, and the UVU Chamber Choir. She is the recipient of the Edwin Fissinger Composition Award, the Chorus Austin Composition Prize and the Cantus Emerging Composer Award. She is an alumni of the Johnny Mercer Foundation Writer's Grove with Goodspeed Musicals, and her theater commissions include Full House Theatre Co., British Youth Musical Theatre, and Shakespeare's Globe Theatre in London. Her musical recaps of the Bachelor recently went viral on TikTok.

Despite writing music in such a wide range of genres, Jen's music is united by a keen love for storytelling with song. She prioritizes specific, highly emotional lyrics, melodic earworms, and infectious rhythmic grooves, and conceives of every piece from a dramatic, narrative-driven perspective. She earned a Master's degree in Musical Theater Writing from Goldsmiths University in London and a Bachelor's in Media Music from Brigham Young University.

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