

Shamán
GP - S006
SATB, T solo, a cappella

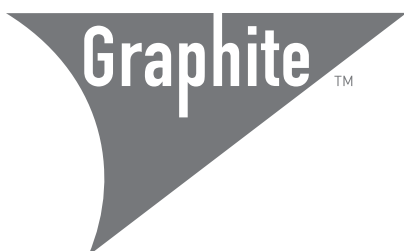
Joshua Shank

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Homar Sánchez Díaz

Shamán (The One Who Knows)

for a cappella SATB div. choir with tenor solo



notable. elevated.

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Lyrics:

Con tan sólo una palabra se detiene el viento,
y con dos palabras tiembla el suelo, tiembla el suelo.

Abres las lluvias a tu paso,
vuelcas los ríos hacia atrás.
Y las llamas, tus amigas,
danzan, danzan sin parar.

Tú que con tus manos calmas los volcanes,
tú que por tu aliento sopla el huracán,
Deja que un día vuelva lo que yo he perdido
Deja que este tiempo deje de pasar.

- Homar Sánchez Díaz

Program Notes:

The word shaman means the one who knows. In this piece, the text takes the form of a dialogue between nature's spirits – the gods of wind, fire, water, and earth and humankind. Yet the voices are not solemn invocations; rather, they carry an edge of irony. The spirits mock the illusion of human power: “With just a word you can stop the wind, with two words the earth trembles...” Their tone suggests that what humans call mastery over nature is but a fragile pretension.

As the music unfolds, the elemental forces are given voice – storms, rivers, flames, volcanoes – all seemingly at the command of the human figure. But beneath this imagery lies a reversal: it is the spirits themselves who are speaking, teasing, and exposing human arrogance.

At the end, irony yields to a more haunting plea. The spirits address humankind with words that could be heard as a lament: “Let what I have lost return one day, let this time itself cease to flow.” In this moment, the gods turn the mirror back on us, reminding us of our constant desire for restoration and escape from time's passage.

Homar Sánchez Díaz



Homar Sánchez Díaz was born in San Luis Potosí, Mexico, in 1990. A biophysicist by profession and a physics teacher, he is a self-taught musician, conductor, and composer with a deep interest in the ethnic and pre-Hispanic rhythms, the folk music from the different regions of Mexico and the new experimental and performative approaches of music. He is a pioneer of Virtual Choirs and a cappella vocal ensembles, the winner of the Julián Carrillo Music Composition Prize in 2021 and Director of Vuela Alto choir and the male ensemble The Tones. He studied with maestros Marco Ugalde and José Miramontes Zapata. His arrangements and compositions have been performed by various ensembles in Mexico and around the world.

Translation:

With just a single word, the wind is stilled,
and with two words the earth trembles, trembles.

You open the rains at your passing,
you turn the rivers back in their course.
And the flames, your faithful friends,
dance, dance without end.

You, who with your hands calm the volcanoes,
you, whose breath sets the hurricane blowing,
let what I have lost return one day,
let this time itself cease to flow.

Interpretively, the piece should not be sung as a triumphal incantation, but as a ritual tinged with ambiguity – half-mockery, half-prayer. The music must breathe with elemental force: the wind should feel sudden, the earth trembling, the flames restless and dancing. Yet always there is an undercurrent of irony, as if the voices of nature were smiling grimly at our illusions of control.

- Homar Sánchez Díaz

Performance Note:

M. 73 should be a ritual chant, performed with a fiery passion. Begin with longer, ornamented notes, then gradually move alongside the choir, evolving into rhythmic whispers – like a soul crying out as it burns and is finally reduced to ashes.

Dedicated to Berenice Reyes, Ricardo Morles, and Ramón Zúñiga, who made this piece possible.

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Shamán

(The One Who Knows)

for SATB div. choir a cappella with tenor solo

Words and Music by
Homar Sánchez Díaz

Moderato ♩ = 90

notable. elevated.

Soprano

Alto

Tenor

Bass

Piano

mf marcato

mf

for rehearsal only

Om dem dem__ dom ba re ba re ba dom dem dem__ dom ba ram

(whispered)

ha__

3

Soprano

Alto

Tenor

Bass

Piano

mf

for rehearsal only

da re__ ba re__ ba re__ ba da rom da rom dam dom__ da ram

Om dem dem__ dom ba re ba re ba dom dem dem__ dom ba ram

(whispered)

ha__

Graphite™

notable. elevated.

(whispered)

5

Solo

S

A *mf* da re ba re ba re ba da re ba rem dam dom da ram

T da re ba re ba re ba da rom da rom dam dom da ram

B Om dem dem dom ba re ba re ba dom dem dem dom ba ram

7

Solo

S *mf* oh ah

A da re ba re ba re ba da re ba rem dam dom da ram

T da re ba re ba re ba da rom da rom dam dom da ram

B Om dem dem dom ba re ba re ba dom dem dem dom ba ram

9 *f*

Solo

S da ram da ram dam da ra da ba ra ba ra ra oh

S oh ah da *fp*

A da re ba re ba re ba da re ba rem dam dom da ram da da ra ba

T da re ba re ba re ba da rom da rom dam dom da ram da ra ba ra ba

B Om dem dem dom ba re ba re ba dom dem dem dom ba ram do rom do rom

f

12 **A**

S da ra ba ra ba Con tan só - lo u - na pa - la - bra se de - tie - ne el vien - to

A ra ba ra Con tan só - lo u - na pa - la - bra se de - tie - ne el vien - to

T da ra ba ra ba Oh

B do rom do rom Om dem dem dom ba re ba re ba dom dem dem dom ba ram

f

15 *mp*
 S oh
 A *mp*
 T *mp*
 B *mp*
 Con tan só - lo u - na pa - la - bra se de - tie - ne el vien - to
 Con tan só - lo u - na pa - la - bra se de - tie - ne el vien - to
 Om dem dem dom ba re ba re ba dom dem dem dom ba ram

17 *sfp* *sfp* *sfp* *f*
 S do do do Y con dos pa - la - bras tiem - bla el sue -
 A *sfp* *sfp* *f*
 T *mf* *f*
 B *mf* *f*
 do do Y con dos pa - la - bras tiem - bla el sue - lo tiem - bla el sue - lo Y con dos pa - la - bras tiem - bla el sue -
 do do Y con dos pa - la - bras tiem - bla el sue - lo tiem - bla el sue - lo Y con dos pa - la - bras tiem - bla el sue -
 Y con dos pa - la - bras tiem - bla el sue - lo tiem - bla el sue - lo Y con dos pa - la - bras tiem - bla el sue -

20

mf scatter breathe

S - lo tiem-bla_el sue - lo oh ah

A - lo tiem-bla_el sue - lo da re ba re ba re ba da re ba rem_dam dom_da ram

T - lo tiem-bla_el sue - lo da re ba re ba re ba da rom da rom dam dom_da ram

B - lo tiem-bla_el sue - lo Om dem dem_dom ba re ba re ba dom dem dem_dom ba ram

mf

mf

mf

mf

notable, elevated.

23

S oh ah

A da re ba re ba re ba da re ba rem_dam dom_da ram

T da re ba re ba re ba da rom da rom dam dom_da ram

B Om dem dem_dom ba re ba re ba dom dem dem_dom ba ram

mf

mf

mf

mf

notable, elevated.

B

For perusal purposes only. Do not copy.

S A T B

A - bres las llu - vias a tu pa - so... vuel - cas los rí - os ha - cia a - trás

28

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S A T B

vuel - ca ha - cia a - trás... Y las lla - mas, tus a - mi - gas dan - zan, dan - zan sin pa - rar.

33 *f* *mf*

S *f* *mf*
 Y las lla - mas, tus_a - mi - gas dan - zan, dan - zan sin pa - rar. oh_____

A *mf*
 Y las lla - mas, tus_a - mi - gas dan - zan, dan - zan sin pa - rar. da re ba____ re ba re ba

T *mf*
 Y las lla - mas, tus_a - mi - gas dan - zan, dan - zan sin pa - rar. da re__ ba re__ ba re__ ba

B *f* *mf*
 Y las lla - mas, tus_a - mi - gas dan - zan, dan - zan sin pa - rar. Om dem dem dom ba re ba re ba

38 *sub. p*

S *sub. p*
 ah oh_____

A *sub. p*
 da re ba rem__ dam dom__ da ram da re ba____ re ba re ba

T *sub. p*
 da rom da rom dam dom__ da ram da re__ ba re__ ba re__ ba

B *sub. p*
 dom dem dem__ dom ba ram Om dem dem__ dom ba re ba re ba

C

40

S *f* ah _____ Tú que con tus ma - nos cal - mas los_ vol - ca - - nes.

A *f* da re ba rem_ dam dom_ da ram Tú que con tus ma - nos cal - mas los_ vol - ca - - nes.

T *fp* da rom da rom dam dom_ da ram Oh _____ oh _____

B *fp* dom dem dem_ dom ba ram Oh _____ oh oh

43

S Tú que por tu a - lien - to so - pla el hu - ra - cán_ De - ja que un - día vuel - va lo_ que yo he - per - di -

A Tú que por tu a - lien - to so - pla el hu - ra - cán_ De - ja que un - día vuel - va lo_ que yo he - per - di -

T De - ja que un día

B oh _____ oh oh De - - - ja que un día

46

S
do De - ja que es - te tiem - po de - je de - pa - sar - - sar

A
do De - ja que es - te tiem - po de - je de - pa - sar - - sar

T
vuel - va tiem - po de - pa - sar tiem - po de - je de - pa - sar

B
vuel - va Oh dum dum dum dum

49

S
Tú que con tus ma - nos cal - mas los - vol - ca - - - nes.

A
Tú que con tus ma - nos cal - mas los - vol - ca - - - nes.

T
da re - ba re - ba re - ba da rom da rom dam dom - da ram

B
Om dem dem - dom ba re ba re ba dom dem dem - dom ba ram

51

S *perusal purposes only. Do not copy.*
 Tú que por tu a - lien - to so - pla el hu - ra - cán

A
 Tú que por tu a - lien - to so - pla el hu - ra - cán

T *notable. elevated.*
 da re ba re ba re ba TM da rom da rom dam dom da ram

B
 Om dem dem dom ba re ba re ba dom dem dem dom ba ram

53

S *perusal purposes only. Do not copy.*
 De - ja que un - día vuel - va lo que yo he - per - di - - - - do

A
 De - ja que un - día vuel - va lo que yo he - per - di - - - - do

T *notable. elevated.*
 da re ba re ba re ba TM da rom da rom dam dom da ram

B
 Om dem dem dom ba re ba re ba dom dem dem dom ba ram

55

For perusal purposes only. Do not copy.

S De - ja que es - te tiem - po de__ je de__ pa - sar - - - - sar

A De - ja que es - te tiem - po de__ je de__ pa - sar - - - - sar

T da re__ ba re__ ba re__ ba TM da rom da rom dam dom__ da ram

B Om dem dem__ dom ba re ba re ba dom dem dem__ dom ba ram

D

For perusal purposes only. Do not copy.

S ah

A ah (whispered) ha__

T da re__ ba re__ ba re__ ba TM

B Om dem dem__ dom ba re ba re ba dom dem dem__ dom ba ram dom dom dem dem__ dom ba re ba re ba

60

(whispered)

S *perusal purposes only. Do not copy.*
ha_____

A da re ba_____ re ba re ba

T da rom da rom dam dom da ram TM da re ba re ba re ba

B dom dem dem dom ba ram dom dom dem dem dom ba re ba re ba

62

(whispered)

Solo *perusal purposes only. Do not copy.*
ha_____

S oh_____

A da re ba rem dam dom da ram da re ba_____ re ba re ba

T da rom da rom dam dom da ram da re ba re ba re ba

B dom dem dem dom ba ram dom dom dem dem dom ba re ba re ba

64

f

Solo

da ram da ram dam da ra

S

ah oh

A

da re ba rem dam dom da ram da re ba re ba

T

da rom da rom dam dom da ram da re ba re ba re ba

B

dom dem dem dom ba ram dom dom dem dem dom ba re ba re ba

notable. elevated.

66

fp

Solo

da ba ra ba ra ra ra oh

S

ah da da ra ba ra ba

A

da re ba rem dam dom da ram da da ra ba ra ba ra

T

da rom da rom dam dom da ram da ra ba ra ba da ra ba ra ba

B

dom dem dem dom ba ram dom do rom do rom do rom do rom

notable. elevated.

E

ff
S Oh ah oh Oh ah oh ah

ff
A dom dom dom da rom dom dom da rom dom dom da rom dom dom

ff
T do ba ro ba rom ah

ff
B Om da rom dom da rom Om da rom dom da rom

71

ff
S Oh ah oh Oh ah oh ah

ff
A dom dom dom da rom dom dom da rom dom dom da rom dom dom

ff
T do ba ro ba rom ah

ff
B Om da rom dom da rom Om da rom dom da rom

73 Improv, moanings and whispers

Solo *f* *decresc. poco a poco*

S Oh ah oh Oh ah oh ah

A *f* *decresc. poco a poco*
dom dom dom da rom dom dom da rom dom dom da rom dom dom

T *f* *decresc. poco a poco*
do ba ro ba rom ah

B *f* *decresc. poco a poco*
Om da rom dom da rom Om da rom dom da rom

75

Solo *mf*

S Oh ah oh Oh ah oh ah

A *mf*
dom dom dom da rom dom dom da rom dom dom da rom dom dom

T *mf*
do ba ro ba rom ah

B *mf*
Om da rom dom da rom Om da rom dom da rom

77

Solo

S Oh ah oh Oh ah oh ah

A dom dom dom da rom dom dom da rom dom dom da rom dom dom

T do ba ro ba rom ah

B Om da rom dom da rom Om da rom dom da rom

79

Solo

S Oh ah oh Oh ah oh ah *p*

A dom dom dom da rom dom dom da rom dom dom da rom dom dom *p*

T do ba ro ba rom ah

B Om da rom dom da rom Om da rom dom da rom

81

Solo

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morendo poco a poco

S Oh ah oh Oh ah oh ah

p *morendo poco a poco*

A dom dom dom da rom dom dom da rom dom dom da rom dom dom

T

p *morendo poco a poco*

B Om da rom dom da rom Om da rom dom da rom

morendo poco a poco

83

Solo

For perusal purposes only. Do not copy.

S Oh ah oh Oh ah oh ah Oh ah oh

A dom dom dom da rom dom dom da rom dom dom da rom dom dom

T

p *morendo poco a poco*

B Om da rom dom da rom Om da rom dom da rom Om da rom dom da rom

morendo poco a poco

86

Solo

S

Oh ah oh ah Oh ah oh Oh ah oh ah

A

T

B

Om da rom dom_ da rom Om da rom dom_ da rom Om da rom dom_ da rom

89

pp

S

Oh ah oh Oh ah oh ah Oh ah oh Oh ah oh ah

A

T

B

pp