

Choral Music of Karen P. Thomas

# Prayer of Black Elk

*TTBB and piano*

by Karen P. Thomas

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# Prayer of Black Elk

For TTBB and piano

by Karen P. Thomas

*Commissioned by University Unitarian Church*

Available in three voicings – SATB, SSAA, TTBB

Hear me four quarters of the world.  
A relative I am!  
Give me the strength to walk the soft earth.  
Give me the eyes to see and the strength to understand.  
Look upon these faces of children without number,  
that they may face the winds  
and walk the good road till the day of quiet.  
This is my prayer; hear me.  
- Black Elk, Sioux leader

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# Prayer of Black Elk

For the Service of Installation of the Reverend Jon M. Luopa at University Unitarian Church,  
Seattle, Washington, on October 24, 1999. Commissioned by the Ministerial Serach Committee.

Text by  
Black Elk

Music by  
Karen P. Thomas

1  $\bullet = 120$

Tenor 1

Tenor 2

Baritone

Bass

Piano

*mp*

*cresc.*

*8vb*

*loco*

*con ped.*

9

T 1

T 2

Bari

Bass

Pno.

*mf* *cresc.*

15

T 1

T 2

Bari

Bass

Pno.

*f*

Hear me, hear me, hear me,

hear me, hear me, hear me,

Hear me, Hear me, hear me,

Hear me, hear me, hear me,

20

T 1  
four quar - ters of the world.

T 2  
four quar - ters of the world.

Bari  
four quar - ters of the world.

Bass  
four quar - ters of the world.

Pno.

25

T 1  
Hear me, hear me, hear me,

T 2  
hear me, hear me, Hear me,

Bari  
Hear me, Hear me, hear me,

Bass  
Hear me, hear me, hear me,

Pno.

31

T 1  
four quar-ters of the world.

T 2  
four quar-ters of the world.

Bari  
four quar-ters of the world.

Bass  
four quar-ters of the world.

Pno.

36

T 1  
A re-la-tive, a re-la-tive I am!

T 2  
A re-la-tive, a re-la-tive I am!

Bari  
A re-la-tive, a re-la-tive I am!

Bass  
A re-la-tive, a re-la-tive I am!

Pno.

42

T 1  
A re-la-tive, a re-la-tive

T 2  
A re-la-tive, a re-la-tive a

Bari  
A re-la-tive, a re-la-tive a

Bass  
A re-la-tive, a re-la-tive, a re-la-tive

Pno.

*Red.*

48

T 1  
I am!

T 2  
re-la-tive I am!

Bari  
re-la-tive I am!

Bass  
I am!

Pno.

\*

54 *rit. poco a poco*

T 1

T 2

Bari

Bass

54 *rit. poco a poco*

Pno.

59 *poco meno mosso*

T 1

T 2

Bari

Bass

59 *poco meno mosso*

Pno.

*dim. poco a poco* *mf* *mp*



65 *mp*

T 1

T 2

Bari

Bass

Give me the strength,

Give me the strength,

Give me the strength,

Give me the strength,

Pno.

71

T 1

T 2

Bari

Bass

give me the strength, give me the strength to walk the

give me the strength, give me the strength to walk the

give me the strength, give me the strength to walk the

give me the strength, give me the strength to walk the

Pno.

76

T 1  
soft earth. Give me the eyes,

T 2  
soft earth. Give me the eyes,

Bari  
soft earth. Give me the

Bass  
soft earth.

Pno.

81

T 1  
give me the eyes, give me the

T 2  
give me the eyes, give me the

Bari  
eyes, give me the eyes,

Bass  
Give me the eyes, give me the eyes,

Pno.

86 *cresc.* *rit.*

T 1  
eyes to see and the strength to un - der - stand.

T 2  
eyes to see and the strength to un - der - stand.

Bari  
and the strength to un - der - stand.

Bass  
and the strength to un - der - stand.

Pno.  
*cresc.* *rit.*

90 *Broadly* *f*

T 1  
Look u-pon these fa-ces of child - ren with - out num-ber, that they may

T 2  
Look u-pon these fa-ces of child - ren with - out num-ber, that they may

Bari  
Look u-pon these fa-ces of child - ren with - out num-ber, that they may

Bass  
Look u-pon these fa-ces of child - ren with - out num-ber, that they may

Pno.  
*f* *Broadly*

95

T 1 *dim.* to *p*  
 face the winds and walk the good road walk the good road the day of qui - et.

T 2 *p*  
 face the winds and walk the good to the day of qui - et.

Bari *p*  
 face the winds and walk the good road *dim.* to the day of qui - et.

Bass *p*  
 face the winds and walk the good road to the day of qui - et.

Pno. *dim.* *p*

100 *poco meno mosso* *pp*

T 1 *pp*  
 This is my prayer, this is my prayer; hear me.

T 2 *pp*  
 This is my prayer, this is my prayer; hear me.

Bari *pp*  
 this is my prayer; hear me.

Bass *pp*  
 this is my prayer; hear me.

Pno. *pp*

*Tempo Primo*

109

T 1

T 2

Bari

Bass

109 *accel.* *Tempo Primo*

Pno.

*mp* *cresc.*

*Sub* *loco* *con ped.*

117

T 1

T 2

Bari

Bass

117

Pno.

*mf* *cresc.*

124 *f*

T 1  
Hear me, hear me, hear me, four

T 2  
hear me, hear me, hear me, four

Bari  
Hear me, Hear me, hear me, four

Bass  
Hear me, hear me, hear me, four

Pno. *f*

130

T 1  
quar - ters of the world.

T 2  
quar - ters of the world.

Bari  
quar - ters of the world.

Bass  
quar - ters of the world.

Pno.

135

T 1  
Hear me, hear me, hear me, four

T 2  
hear me, hear me, Hear me, four

Bari  
Hear me, Hear me, hear me, four

Bass  
Hear me, hear me, hear me, four

Pno.

141

T 1  
quar-ters of the world. A

T 2  
quar-ters of the world. A

Bari  
quar-ters of the world. A

Bass  
quar-ters of the world. A

Pno.

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Thank you for your understanding.

146

Musical score for measures 146-151. The score is for five parts: T 1, T 2, Bari, Bass, and Pno. (Piano). Each part has a staff with a treble or bass clef and a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). The music is represented by horizontal lines with small black dashes indicating notes. The piano part is written in grand staff notation (treble and bass clefs).

152

Musical score for measures 152-157. The score is for five parts: T 1, T 2, Bari, Bass, and Pno. (Piano). Each part has a staff with a treble or bass clef and a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). The music is represented by horizontal lines with small black dashes indicating notes. The piano part is written in grand staff notation (treble and bass clefs).



158 *cresc.* *ff* *rit.* *A Tempo*

T 1  
a re - la - tive am.

T 2  
a re - la - tive *cresc.* *ff* | am.

Bari  
a re - la - tive *cresc.* *ff* | am.

Bass  
a re - la - tive *cresc.* *ff* | am.

158 *rit.* *A Tempo*

Pno.  
*ff*

165 *poco meno mosso*

T 1

T 2

Bari

Bass

165 *poco meno mosso*

Pno.