

Dances:

FOR THE BEAUTY OF THE EARTH

Choreography: Beth Teegarden

Music: John Rutter - Hinshaw Music #HMC-550 (SATB),#HMC-449 (SA)

This dance was part of the Sunday morning service of the 2008 Conference

Dancers: This written choreography is for 10 dancers. This dance must have a minimum of 4 but can include as many as you need to have (I have done this in a workshop using about 20 people!). You **must** have an even number of dancers.

Special props or outfits: none

Dancers begin as a cluster of people in the middle of the dance area.

Verse 1:

For the beauty of the earth,

From the right side of the cluster, 4 dancers will move to the right with this combination: step, turn, step, step, kneel. You should begin on the right foot and kneel on the right leg. Arms stay down until you begin to kneel and then they come over the head open to the sides as they come down. The "kneel and arms" should happen on "earth". As the dancers move to the right they do not have to be in a certain formation.

For the beauty of the skies,

From the left side of the cluster, 4 dancers will move to the left doing the same combination as the other dancers except they will begin on the left foot and instead of kneeling they will stand feet together, left arm extended out to the side. Then the right arm reaches across the body to meet the left arm and continues moving in an "arch" above the head and down to the right side. Now both arms should be extended out to the sides. This arm movement happens on "skies". Once again a formation is not necessary, just make sure the sides are balanced and nobody is hidden behind someone else. There are still 2 dancers who are left in the cluster who haven't moved yet.

For the love which from our birth

Both right and left sides of dancers shift their weight to the "inside leg" and tondué point the other leg out to the side. (for the right side they are now standing on the left leg with right leg pointed and the left side is standing on the right leg with the left leg pointed). The focus should be towards the center and the arms should be like they're holding a baby. The right side holds the baby toward the left and the left side towards the right. The other 2 dancers still have not moved yet.

Over and around us lies, over and around us lies;

Now the 2 dancers move! While the other dancers hold the "baby" pose, one dancer will circle around the right side of dancers and the other dancer will circle around the left side of dancers. This happens at the same time, should begin from the center and they should return to their original places. The arms should just naturally come forward and lead the dancer.

Refrain:

Lord of all, to thee we raise

All dancers face into the center and form a circle. Raise the right arm up on "Lord of all" and the left arm up on "thee we raise".

This our joyful hymn of praise.

Dancers will turn to a partner and do "swirls". Dancers will extend right arm out and the left arm back and come back-to-back with their partners. They will then walk around 1 full turn keeping their backs together. They will then go to the next partner and do the same "swirl" but the left arm should be out front and the right arm is extended back. This is like a grand right-and-left. Another way to make sure the swirls are going in the right direction is the partners should have the same shoulder touching each other as they turn. Ex. Both dancers right shoulders then left shoulders, etc.

Each swirl should take 8 counts. This means the first swirl happens on "This our joyful hymn of" and the second swirl on "praise" and the third swirl on the 2 measures of accompaniment before verse 2.

Verse 2:

For the beauty of each hour

After the swirls the dancers should still be in a circle but in different places from where they began the swirls. 5 dancers need to do 2 chene turns to the right, lunge on the right leg and raise the right arm up in front of the dancer with the palm facing up. The focus is to the right angle, not the center.

Of the day and of the night,

On "Of the day" the other 5 dancers will walk 2 steps to the left, releve (stand on your toes) on both feet with arms overhead in a ballet 5th position. The arms will give the image of the "sun". On "of the night" the dancers will step forward with the left leg into a lunge and also bend at the waist into a flat back keeping the arms in the 5th position. This will give the image of the "sun setting". Make sure the head stays parallel with the body and looking down. The focus is to the left angle, not the center.

Hill and vale and tree and flower

The group of dancers on the right will releve with feet apart in second position. Arms will be open above the head. This "up" move will happen on "hill". On "vale" dancers will come from the releve, face left and lunge on the left leg. The arms will come down on each side of the left leg that's in the lunge. You want the look of up and down as in "Hill and Vale". The left side of dancers (who have been holding the "night" move) will do the same movement on "tree and flower". They will end on a right lunge. All movement happens with the melody line of music, not the echo.

Sun and moon and stars of light;

Dancers will bring the back leg to the leg that is in a lunge and stand straight facing front. As the back leg comes in the same arm will come across to meet the other arm out to the side. The arm will continue to move in an arch over the head and end straight out to the other side. For the right side of dancers their right arm will be moving. The left side will have the left arm moving. This should be a continuous movement using the whole phrase. The right side will move first when the ladies sing and the left side will move second when the men sing.

Refrain:

Same as above.

Verse 3:

For the joy of human love,

Coming out of the 3rd swirl dancers go to the next person and hug.

Brother, sister, parent, child,

Dancers form a "family pose" one on the right and one on the left. Have 1 or 2 dancers kneel and other dancers stand close behind. All dancers need to cross the right arm over the left and clasp the hands of the dancers on either side of them. This will look like everyone is connected.

Friends on earth, and friends above,

Keeping hands clasped as long as you can dancers begin to raise arms up and open when they no longer can hold hands together. The arms continue around and come back and clasp hands again.

For all gentle thoughts and mild:

Dancers move back to their spot in the circle when they did the "human love hug".

Refrain:

Same as above but only do 2 swirls.

Verse 4:

For each perfect gift of thine To our race so freely given,

From the circle choose every other person who will walk to the center of the circle. This will make 2 circles, an inner circle and an outer circle. The dancers walking in will raise their arms waist high with palms turned up and hands together as if receiving something. On "thine" they will raise arms over their head (still holding what they "received"), turn and place the gift in the hands of someone in the outer circle. The outer person will turn on "race" and everyone opens the arms out on "given". Both circles are now facing out so they are giving to everyone.

Graces human and divine,

The outer circle turns back to their partner and kneels. The inner circle will raise the left leg up in an arabesque. The inner circle will hold the hands of the outer circle and use them as a source for balance.

Flowers of earth and buds of heaven;

The dancer doing the arabesque will walk a circle around the dancer who was kneeling. The dancer kneeling can now stand. The dancer walking will go back to their place in the circle before they made the inner circle.

Refrain:

Same as above. You will do 3 swirls and they will get slower as the music changes tempo. After the 3rd swirl the dancers will form a cluster like the beginning, turn and face a focal point (cross, altar, table etc) and raise arms in praise.
