

Stuart MacRae

Earth ever green the ways

for solo voice

(2021)

Earth ever green the ways

for solo voice (mezzo-soprano or contralto range)

The text is made from a selection of translated 'kennings' from the Norse Poetic Edda. These kennings are poetic ways of describing objects and phenomena using imagery. In the poem 'The words of All-wise' Thor delays the dwarf Alvismal, who wants to marry Thor's daughter, by testing his knowledge of the terms used by different races for various natural phenomena.

I have selected various phrases used to describe Earth, Sky, Moon, Sun and Clouds. The piece goes through these sequentially, characterising each of the phenomena differently in the musical setting; but phrases from earlier stanzas frequently reappear, interrupting the flow of the text and music.

In order to clarify this I have colour-coded the lyrics in the score as follows:

Earth - green
Sky - light blue
Moon - purple
Sun - red
Clouds - grey

See next page for full text.

The singer should aim to subtly mark the differences between these through vocal colour and dynamics, without introducing pauses between differently coloured passages (except where rests are marked).

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Duration: approx. 5 minutes

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Earth

Ever green the ways

The loamy field

The grower.

Sky

The fair roof, weaver of winds;

Upworld, height, the dripping hall.

Moon

Flame, glimmer the whirling wheel.

The hastener and teller of time.

Glimmer.

Sun

The fair wheel, ever-bright

Deceiver of Dvalin;

All-glowing orb of the sun.

Clouds

Helm of secrets

Kites of the wind

Hope of rain and water.

Weather-might.

Earth, Sky, Moon, Clouds, Sun

Ever green the ways.

Earth ever green the ways

Words and music: STUART MACRAE

steadily, unhurried but with purpose ♩ = c.52

p Earth Ev-er green the ways The loam-y field The grow-er.

2 *mp* *p* *more animated, febrile* *sub.mf* *mp* *f* *sub.p*

Earth Ev-er green the Sky Ev-er The fair roof Ev-er green

3 *mf* *mf*

weav - er_ of_ winds; the ways Up-world, height, The loam-y

6 *ff* *p* *mp* *p* *f* *p* *long*

field height, the loam-y the drip-ping field hall_ The grow-er.

8 quicker, flowing ♩ = c.66-72

weav - - - er Moon Flame, glim - mer,.

10 *mp* *pp*

glim - mer the whirl - ing wheel. weav - er of winds;

2

12 *pp* more calmly ♩ = c.60 *mp* quicker, flowing ♩ = c.72 *p*

weav - er of winds; The has-ten-er and tel-ler__ of

14

time__ Glim-mer__ Earth Ev-er green the ways

17 *f* exuberant and capricious, *molto rubato* *p*

Sun__ The fair__ wheel, the whirl-ing wheel__

19 *f*

Ev - er - bright__ Sun,__

21 *mp* *p*

sun__ Glim-mer De-ceiv-er of Dval-in (nn)__

23 *molto* *p* gently

(nn)__ De-ceiv-er of Dval-in (nn)__ De-ceiv-er of Dval-in;__

25 *mf* *mf*

All - glow - ing__ orb weav-er of of the sun.____

