

RAPHAEL FUSCO

One Single Breath

an oratorio for a new age

for

SATB soli, Chorus, winds, and strings

CHIAROSCURO PUBLICATIONS

One single breath is an original oratorio in English based on scripture and inspirational quotations from across the centuries. The libretto draws from different religions and philosophies to explore the principle of universal consciousness, the idea that all things are indeed connected.

Libretto

1. Introduction and Chorus

All things are connected like blood that unites us. We did not weave the web of life, we are merely a strand in it. Whatever we do to the web, we do to ourselves. (Chief Seattle)

2. Accompagnato (Baritone)

A human being is part of the whole called by us universe, a part limited in time and space. He experiences himself, his thoughts and feelings as something separated from the rest, a kind of optical delusion of his consciousness. This delusion is a prison for us, restricting us to our personal desires [and to affection for a few persons nearest us]. Our task must be to free ourselves from this prison by widening our circle of compassion to embrace all living creatures and the whole of nature in its beauty. (Albert Einstein)

Arioso (Baritone)

He who experiences the unity of life sees his own Self in all beings, and all beings in his own Self, and looks on everything with an impartial eye. (The Buddha)

4. Recitative (Tenor)

The Self is pure unblemished consciousness. Be quick! Realize it quickly and gain transcendental happiness! (Tripura Rahasya Book)

5. Aria (Tenor)

People travel to wonder at the heights of mountains, at the huge waves of the sea, at the vast compass of the ocean, at the circular motion of the stars; and they pass by themselves without wondering.” (St. Augustine)

6. Recitative (Alto)

Happiness is when what you think and what you say and what you do are in harmony. Where there is love there is life. (Ghandi)

Duet (Alto, Tenor)

Every heart sings a song, incomplete, until another heart whispers back. Those who wish to sing always find a song. At the touch of a lover everyone becomes a poet. (Plato)

8. Trio (Alto, Tenor, Bass)

There is geometry in the humming of the strings, there is music in the spacing of the spheres (Pythagoras)
Ask, and it will be given you; Seek, and you will find; Knock, and it will be opened to you. (Jesus)

9. Chorus

In the attitude of silence the soul finds the path in a clearer light, and what is elusive and deceptive resolves itself into crystal clearness. Our life is a long and arduous quest after Truth. (Ghandi)

10. Recit (Baritone)

Do not believe anything because it is said by an authority, or if it is said to come from angels, or from Gods, or from an inspired source. Believe it only if you have explored it in your own heart and mind and body and found it to be true. (The Buddha)

11. Accompagnato (Soprano)

You need not do anything. Remain sitting at your table and listen. You need not even listen, just wait. You need not even wait, just learn to be quiet, still and solitary. And the world will freely offer itself to you unmasked. It has no choice, it will roll in ecstasy at your feet. (Franz Kafka)

Aria (Soprano)

Do not dwell in the past, do not dream of the future, concentrate the mind on the present moment. The way is not in the sky. The way is in the heart. (The Buddha)

13. Chorale accompagnato

We are what we think. All that we are arises with our thoughts. With our thoughts we make the world. (The Buddha)

14. Chorus (Triple Fugue)

Cogito ergo sum. I think therefore I am. “Conquer yourself rather than the world.” (Descartes)
I Think therefore I am not, for only when the mind is silent I am. (Ilia Cioara)

2. Recitative (B)

Allegro moderato

Baritone

mf a piacere

3

mp

A hu-man being is part of the whole called by us u-ni-verse, a part li-mi-ted in time and space. He ex-

f

mf

mp

p

5

Poco meno

cresc.

mf dim.

mp misterioso

per - ien - ces him - self, his thoughts, his feel - ings as some - thing se - pa - ra - ted from the rest, a kind of

mp

mf

mp

8

Poco ritenuto, misterioso

a tempo Poco piu mosso

mf

op - ti - cal de - lu - sion — of his con - scious - ness. This de - lu - sion is a pri - son for us,

misterioso

con forza

mf

f

12

re - strict - ing us to our per - son - al de - sires. Our task must be to break our - selves free from this

mf

mf marcato

f

16

Più largo

pri-son by wi-den-ing our cir-cle of com - pas-sion to em - brace all liv-ing crea-tures and the whole of na-ture in its

ff *subito p*

3. Arioso (B)

21 Andante sostenuto $\text{♩} = 66$

beau - ty. He who ex - per-i-en-ces the u-ni-ty of life sees his own Self in all

p legato

pp *mp* *p* *mp*

27

beings, and all beings in his own self,

p *mf*

32

He who ex - pe - rien-ces the u - ni - ty of life, sees his

mp *mp*

37

own self in all beings, and all beings in his own self, and looks on all things with an im - par - tial

mp *dim.* *p*

43

eye.

pp *poco rit.* *ppp*