Commissioned by the Washington ACDA 2019 Summer Institute Choral Commissioning Project.

What is Water?

Unison (opt. 2-Part), Piano

Dedicated to my students at Charles Wright Academy

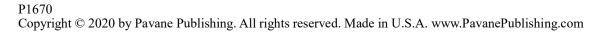
The world turns softly not to spill its lakes and rivers The water is held in its arms, And the sky is held in the water. What is water that pours silver and can hold the sky? ...HC

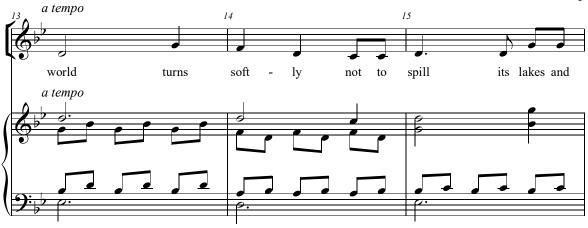
Hilda Conkling

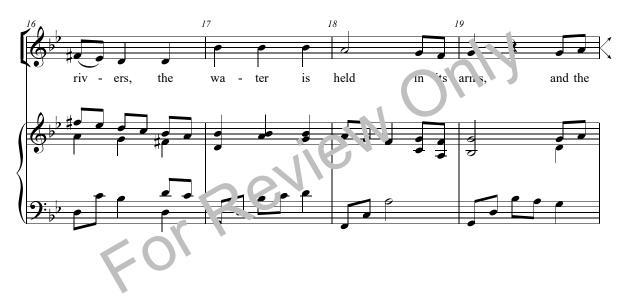
Judith Herrington

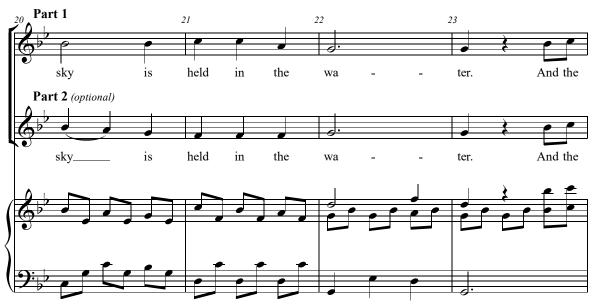


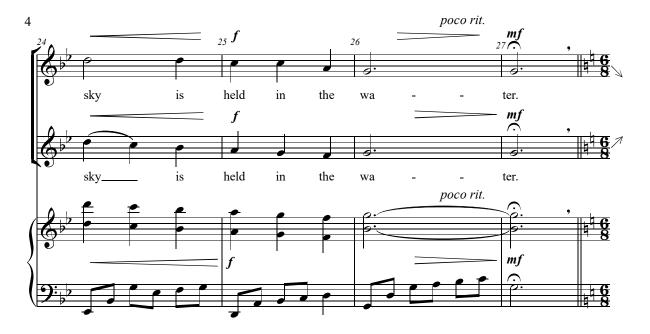


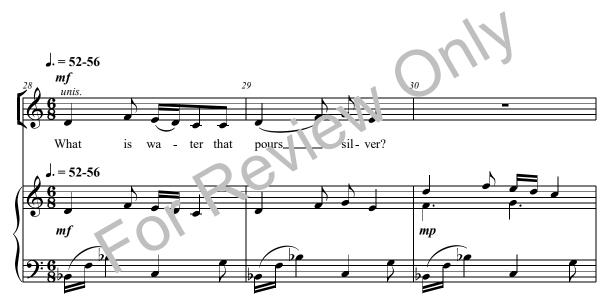


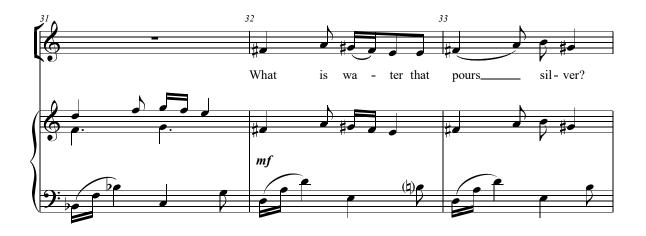




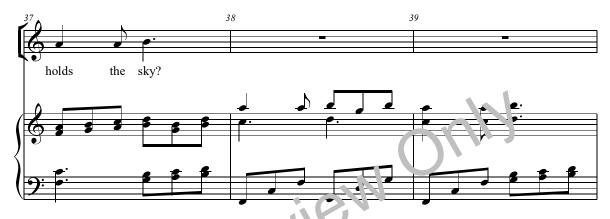






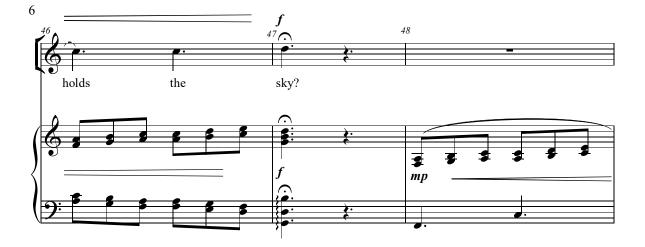




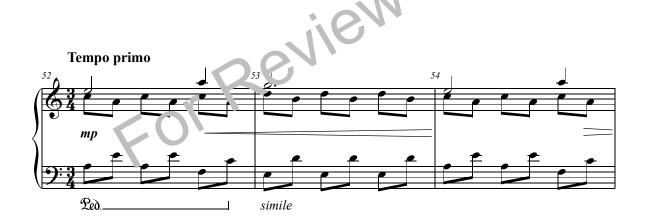


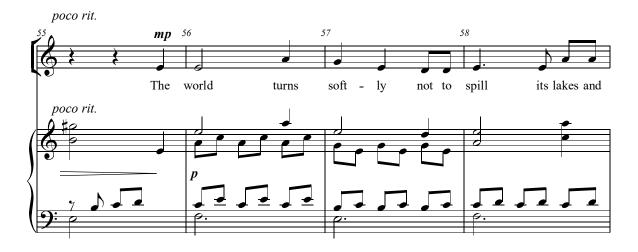


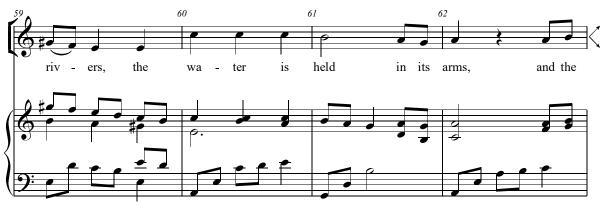


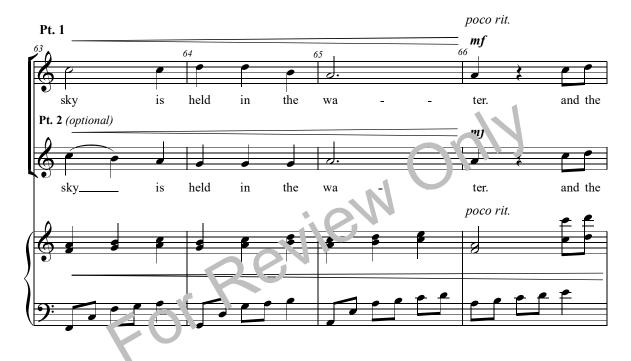


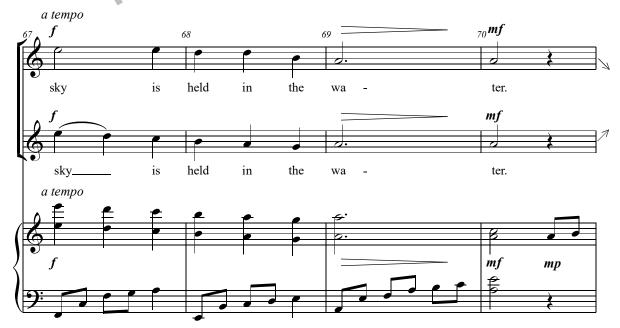














molto rit.



Hilda Conk^{1;} . g (19.)- 1986)

As a child Hilda Conkling was an uniquely gifted and extraordinary poet. Her mother, Gruce Conkling was a poet, writer, accomplished pianist and a professor at Smith College, Northampton, Massachusetts. Hilda's childhood was filled with experiences walking in nature, reading and imaginative play.

Hilda had a close relationship with her mother and would create poetry to share with her. Her mother recognized Hilda's gift of poetry, and would treasure and record her poems. Amy Lowell, a noted poet, described Hilda's poetry as "uninhibited and instinctive."

Water (What is Water?) was written when she was 5 or 6 years old. Imagine her love of language and keen observation skills at such an early age. As you sing this piece, consider her environment and the experiences that inspired and intrigued her to write these words.



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