### University of Adelaide

Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

Elder Conservatorium of Music

# **Portfolio of Compositions and Exegesis:**

# **Composing for a Choral Spectrum**

Submitted in fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of

**Master of Music (MMus)** 

by

**Callie Wood** 

### A.2 Choral Music for Adults

- 2.1: Choral Music for Male Voices
- 2.2: Choral Music for Female Voices
- 2.3: Choral Music for Mixed Voices
- 2.4: Large Choral and Orchestral Work

# 2.1 Choral Music for Male Voices

2.11: The Orange Tree

### 2.11 The Orange Tree

For A Cappella ATTBaBaBB Choir

Duration: 3 minutes, 55 seconds

Words by C. J. Dennis, 1915

Music by Callie Wood, 2008

This piece was inspired by John Shaw Nielsen's poem The Orange Tree which he wrote while weeding an orange orchard in Mildura.

**Lyrics**\*By John Shaw Neilson.

NOTE: This piece is included in the print copy of the thesis held in the University of Adelaide Library.

\*Neilsen, John Shaw. 1934. "The Orange Tree." In Collected Poems of John Shaw Neilson. R.H. Croll, ed. Melbourne: Lothian Publishing Company.

\*\*Verses not included in the score.

### 2.2 Choral Music for Female Voices

2.21: Love's Coming

2.22: Song of Rain

### 2.21 Love's Coming

For SSA Women's Voices and Harp

Duration: 4 minutes, 18 seconds

Words by John Shaw Neilson, 1934

Music by Callie Wood

2007

Love's Coming is a choral work which aims to reflect the delicacy and subtlety of John Shaw Neilson's understated poem.

**Lyrics**\*By John Shaw Neilson, 1934.

NOTE: This piece is included in the print copy of the thesis held in the University of Adelaide Library.

\*Neilsen, John Shaw. 1934. "Love's Coming." In Collected Poems of John Shaw Neilson. R.H. Croll, ed. Melbourne: Lothian Publishing Company.

## 2.22 A Song of Rain

For SSA Women's Voices and Piano

Duration: 6 minutes, 55 seconds

Poem by C. J. Dennis, 1915

Music by Callie Wood

2008

Song of Rain was inspired by several years of drought resulting from a long *El Nino* weather cycle. The bone-dry summers and the brown dusty landscape seemed related to an internal creative drought. This piece was composed in celebration at the end of a creative drought. It was also composed as a kind of hopeful 'rain dance.'

### Lyrics

\*By C. J. Dennis, 1915 (Excerpt)

Because a little vagrant wind veered south from China Sea; Or else, because a sun-spot stirred; and yet again, maybe Because some idle god in play breathed on an errant cloud, The heads of twice two million folk in gratitude are bowed.

Patter, patter... Boolcoomatta,
Adelaide and Oodnadatta,
Pepegoona, parched and dry
Laugh beneath a dripping sky.
Riverina's thirsting plain
Knows the benison of rain.
Ararat and Arkaroola
Render thanks with Tantanoola
For the blessings they are gaining,
And it's raining – raining – raining!

Because a heav'n-sent monsoon the mists before it drove;

Because things happened in the moon; or else because High Jove,

Unbending, played at waterman to please a laughing boy.

The hearts through all a continent are raised in grateful joy.

Weeps the sky at Wipipee
Far Farina's folks are dippy
With sheer joy, while Ballarat
Shouts and flings aloft its hat.

Thirsty Thackaringa yells;

Taltabooka gladly tells

Of a season wet and windy;

Men rejoice on Murrindindie;

Kalioota's ceased complaining;

For it's raining – raining – raining!

Because a poor bush parson prayed an altruistic prayer, Rich with unselfish fellow-love that Heaven counted rare; And yet, mayhap, because one night a meteor was hurled Across the everlasting blue, the luck was with our world.

On the wilds of Winininnie

Cattle low and horses whinny,

Frolicking with sheer delight.

From Beltana to The Bight,

In the Mallee's sun-scorched towns,

In the sheds on Darling Downs,

In the huts at Yudnapinna,

Tents on Tidnacoordininna,

To the sky all heads are craning –

For it's raining – raining – raining!

Because the breeze blew sou'-by-east across the China Sea; Or else, because the thing was willed through all eternity By gods that rule the rushing stars, or gods long aeons dead, The earth is made to smile again, and living things are fed.

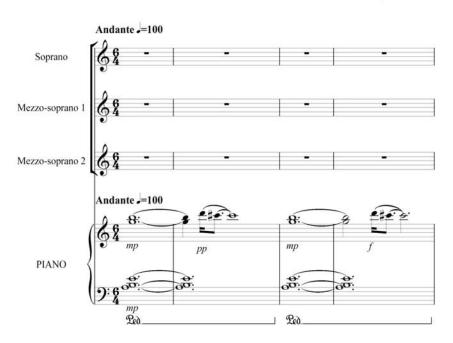
\*Dennis, C.J. 1915. "A Song of Rain." In *The Bulletin*. 22 April, 1915: 22. Sydney: Sydney Newspapers Limited.

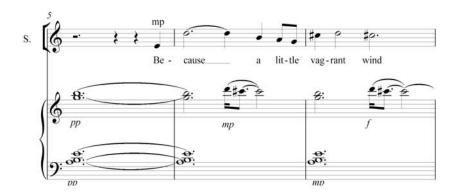
## Song of Rain: Score

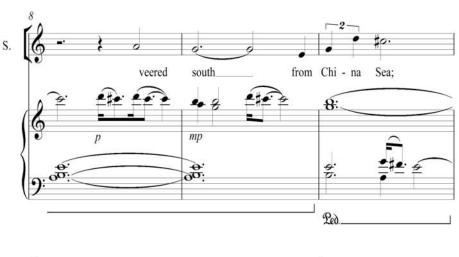
## A Song of Rain

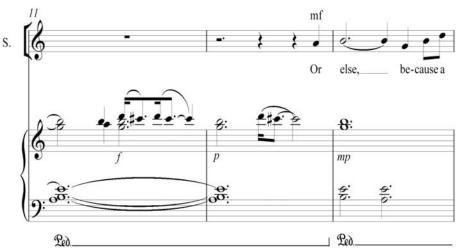
Text by C. J. Dennis (1876-1938)

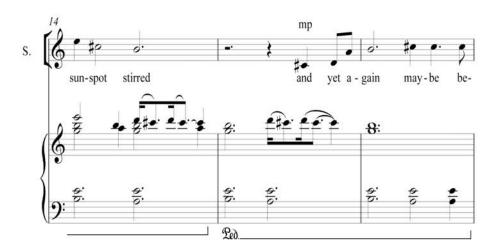
Music by Callie Wood

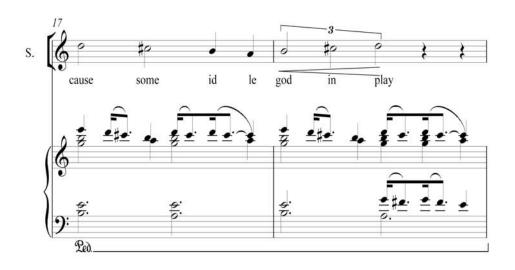


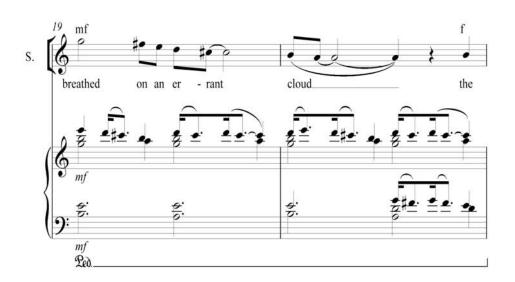


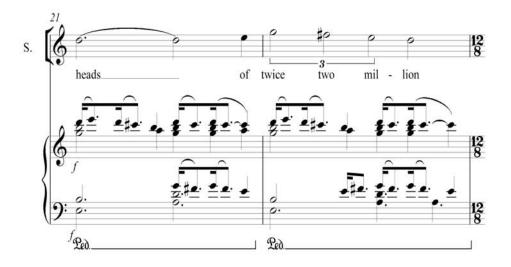


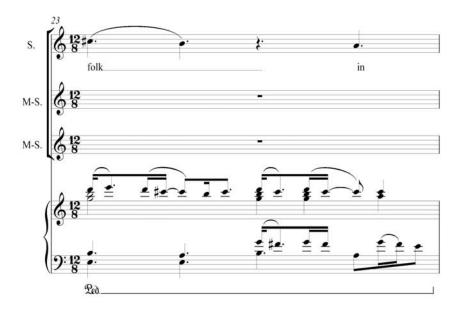




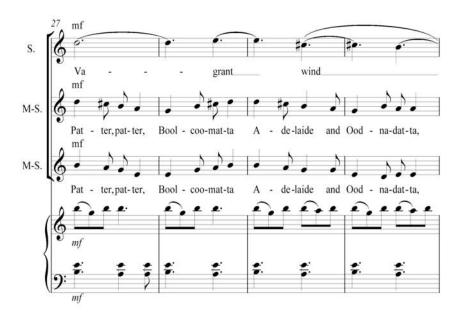




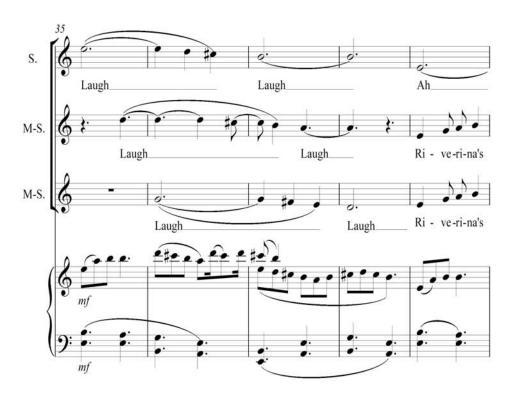


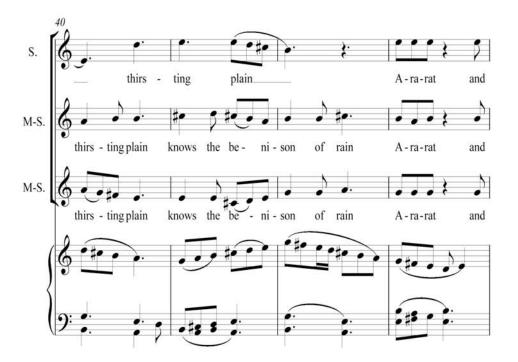








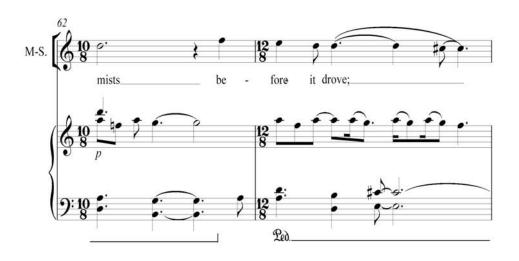


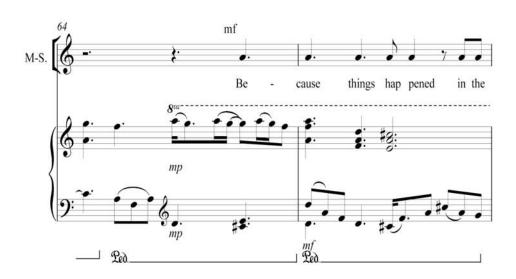


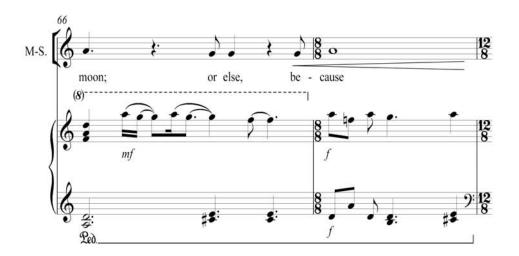






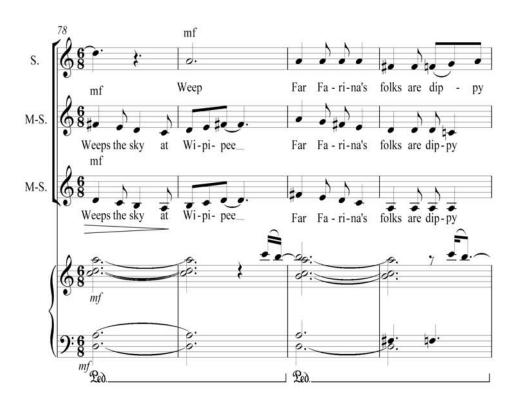




















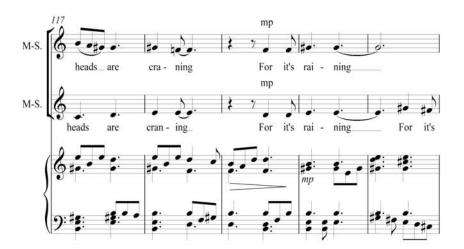




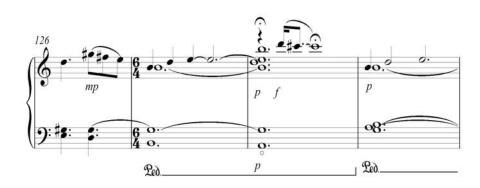


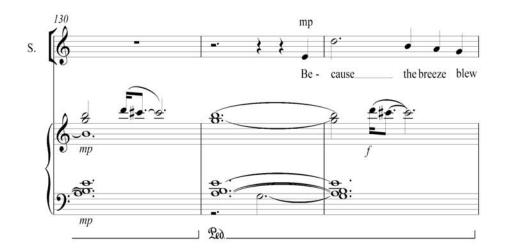


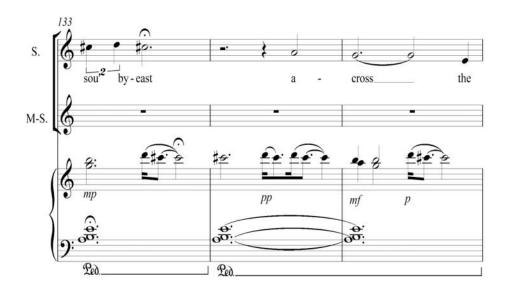








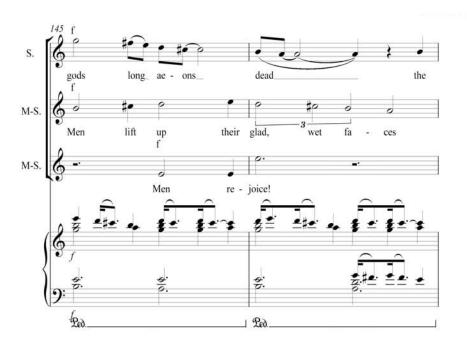




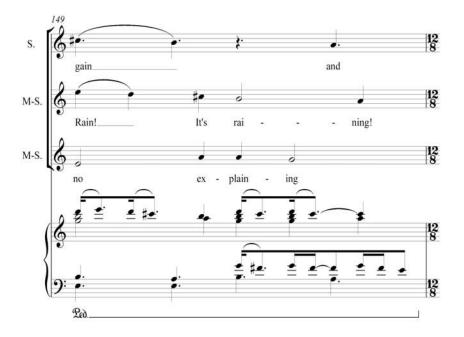


















### 2.3 Choral Music for Mixed Voices

2.31: Mangoes

# 2.31 Mangoes

For SSAATBaB A Cappella Voices

Duration: 3 minutes, 28 seconds

Words by Richard Tipping, 1975

Music by Callie Wood

2008

Mangoes is a rhythmically challenging piece inspired by Richard Tipping's poem, Mangoes. The idea of incorporating tango rhythms into the piece to create a kind of mango tango was also quite appealing.

**Lyrics**\*By Richard Tipping, 1975

NOTE: This piece is included in the print copy of the thesis held in the University of Adelaide Library.

\*Tipping, Richard. 1975. "Mangoes." In Domestic Hardcore. St Lucia, Qld: University of Queensland Press.

# 2.4 Large Choral and Orchestral Work

2.41 Seven Summits (Prelude and First Movement)

# 2.41 Seven Summits (Prelude and First Movement)

For SSAATBaB Voices and Orchestra

Duration: 18 minutes, 41 seconds

Words and Music by Callie Wood

# **Composer's Notes**

Seven Summits was inspired by Brigitte Muir's book *The Wind in My Hair* (1998, Penguin Books). Brigitte Muir was the first Australian to climb the Seven Summits, the highest mountain on each continent, and the first Australian woman to climb Mount Everest.

Each movement will represent one of the mountains that Brigitte climbed.

#### Prelude: Denali

*Prelude: Denali* was composed as an orchestral prelude to the larger choral work (in progress), *Seven Summits*. This piece was inspired by Brigitte Muir's description of climbing Mt Denali. Mt Denali is the highest mountain in North America. Mt Denali, or Mt McKinley, is situated in Denali National Park in Alaska. Denali is the name given to the mountain by the indigenous people of that area and means 'the high one.'

### Kilimanjaro Part 1: Freedom Song

*Freedom Song* was inspired by a feeling of personal liberation and was composed as an affirmation. It was also inspired by Brigitte Muir's description of the vibrant and colourful African town that she stayed in before making her ascent of Mt Kilmanjaro.

### Kilimanjaro Part 2: Uhuru Peak

The text for this piece was inspired by Brigitte Muir's description of the liberating experience of bathing in a mountain stream on Mt Kilimanjaro.

The locals call Mt Kilimanjaro "Uhuru," which means freedom.

This piece is suitable for a large adult treble choir with orchestral accompaniment.

#### Lyrics

# Kilimanjaro Part 1: Freedom Song

By Callie Wood, 2008

Rejoice now

For you are free

And alive with hope

It's a hard road Have hope!

You have strength
To climb the mountains
You see ahead

Rejoice now
For all your dreams
Lead to freedom.

# Kilimanjaro Part 2: Uhuru Peak

By Callie Wood, 2008

clouds flutter round the peak children playing hide and seek fly me to the mountain

green depths confine me
I struggle through
this jungle
seeking Uhuru

I bathe in a stream of Uhuru cleansed I dance in thin air

thoughts drift like snow crystallize into mountains flow away beneath my feet

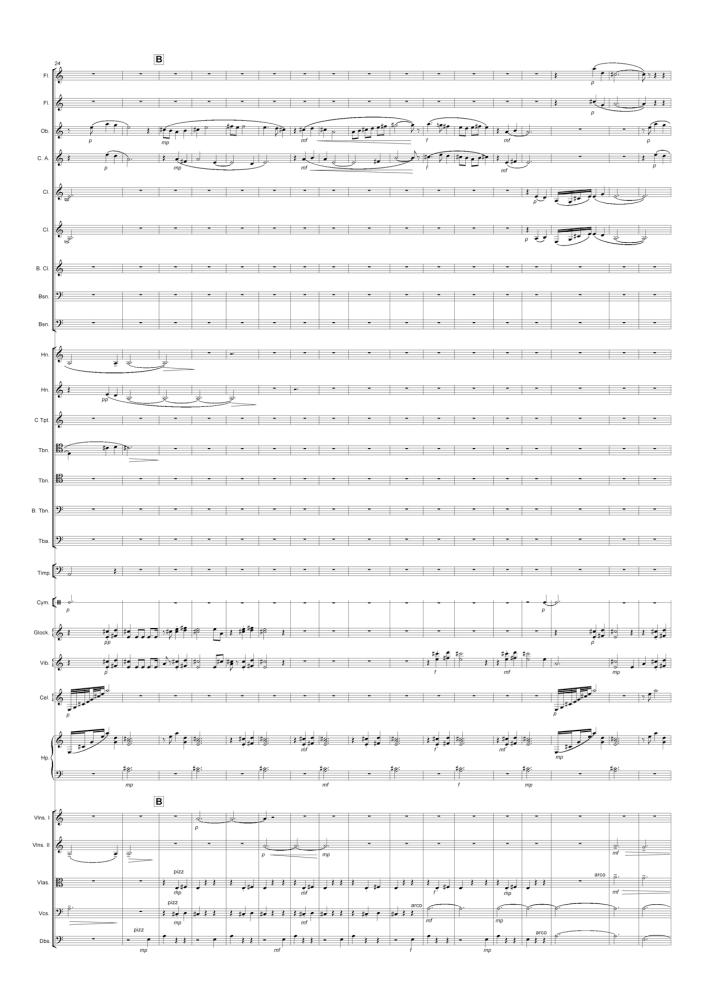
I bow to the snow-blade summit
body bent
against wild currents
of snow

I rise early solitary the morning star reflects dawn

# Seven Summits (prelude and first movement): Score



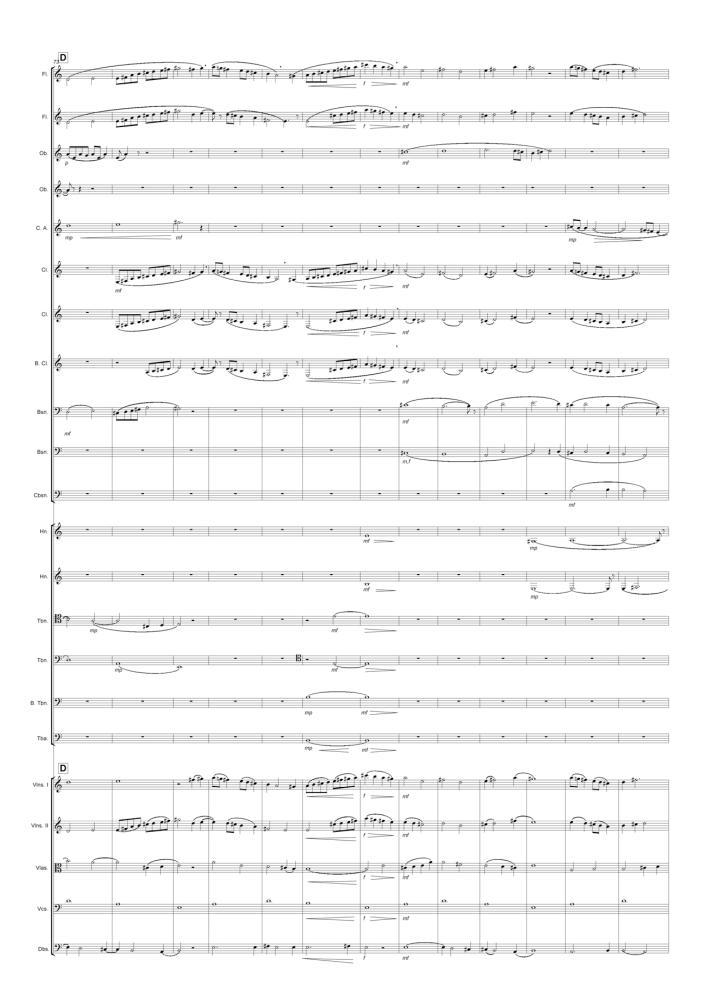


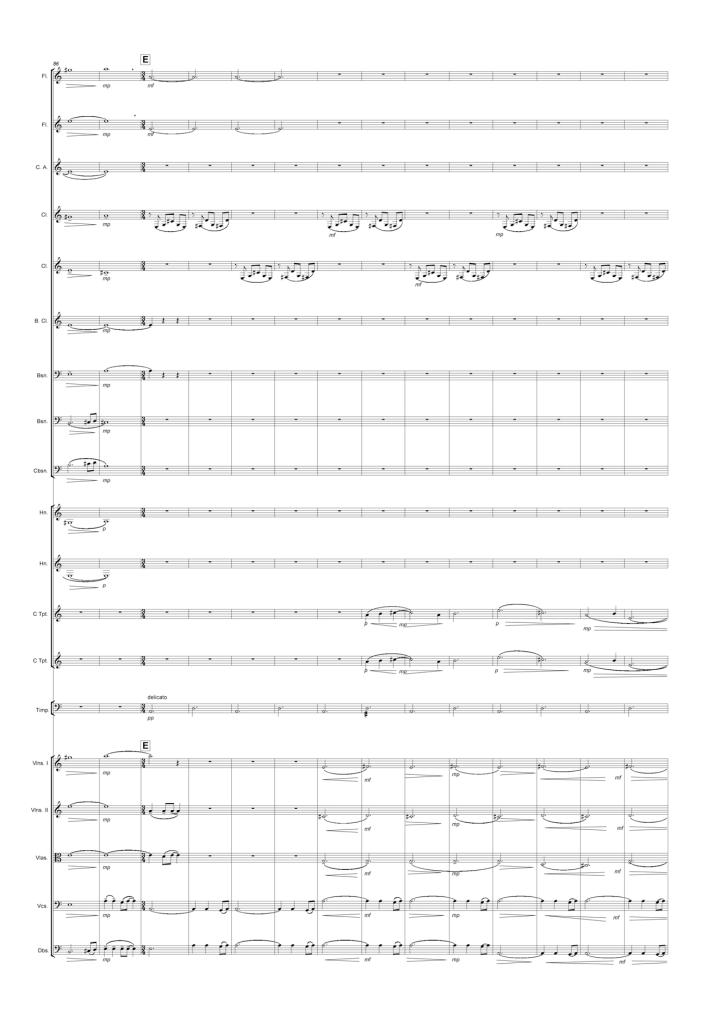
















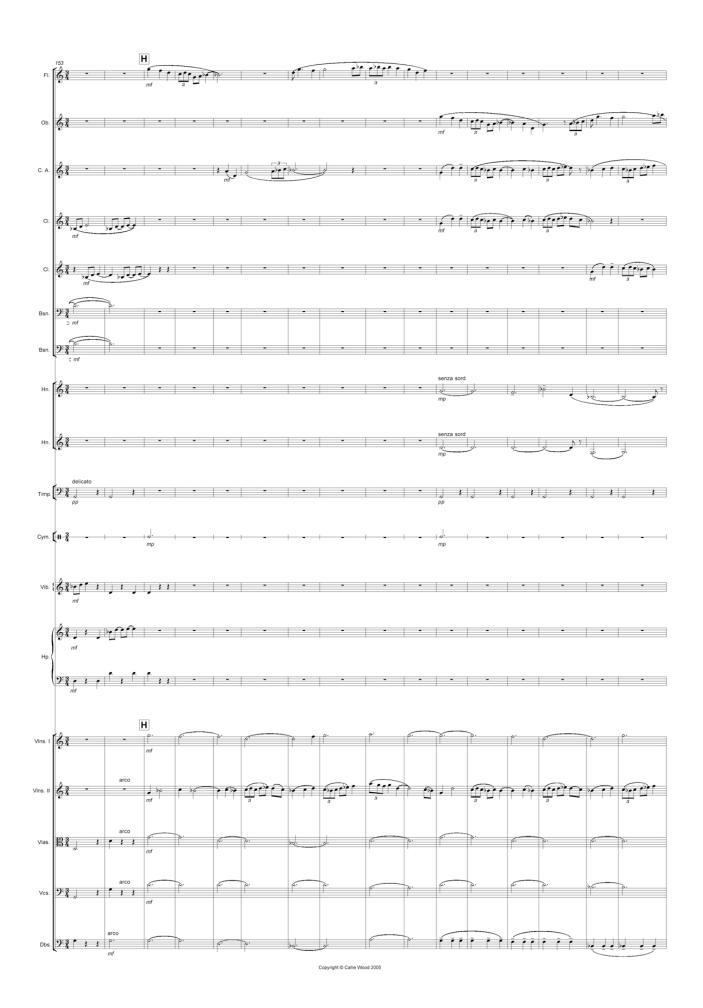


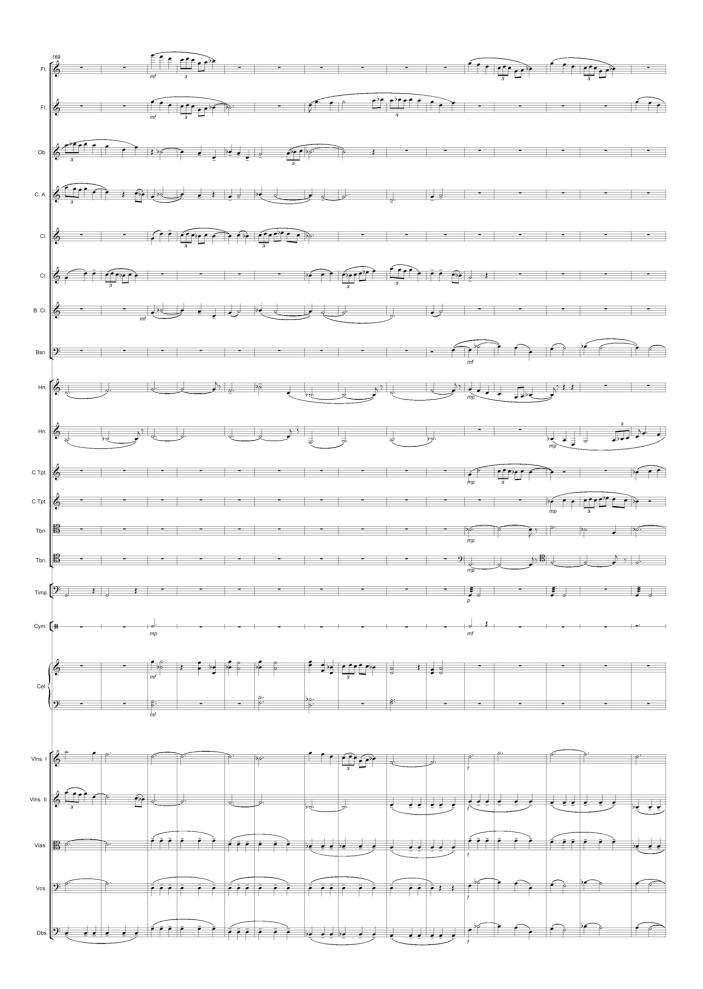




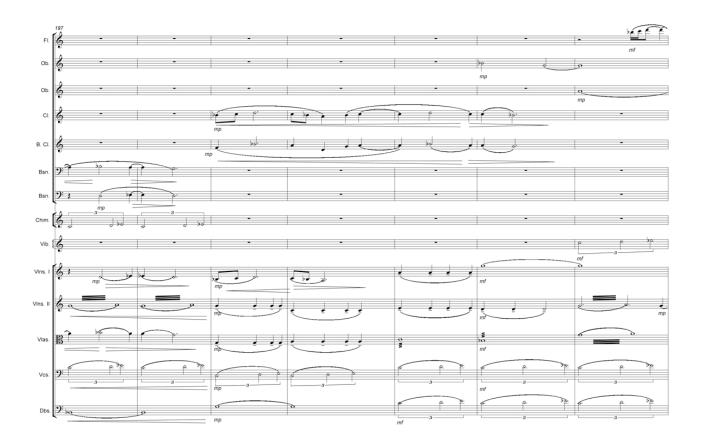




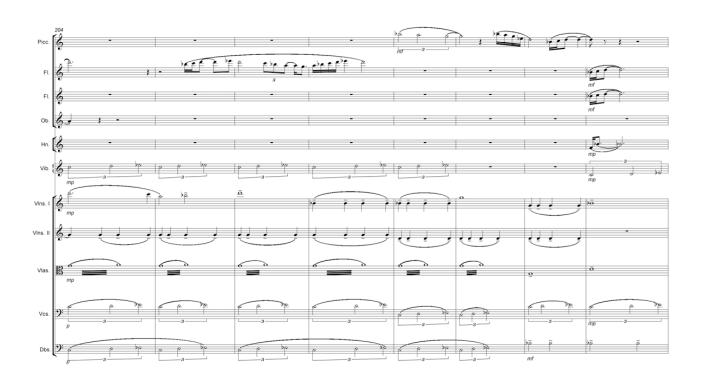


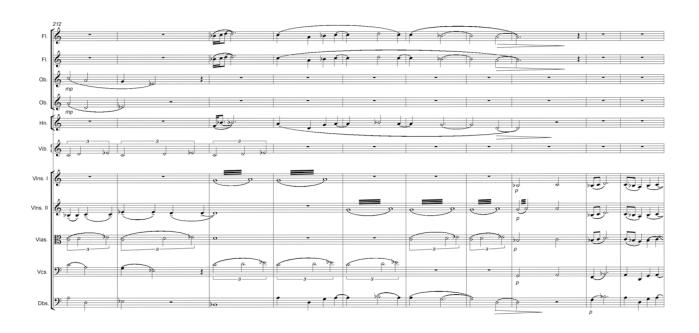








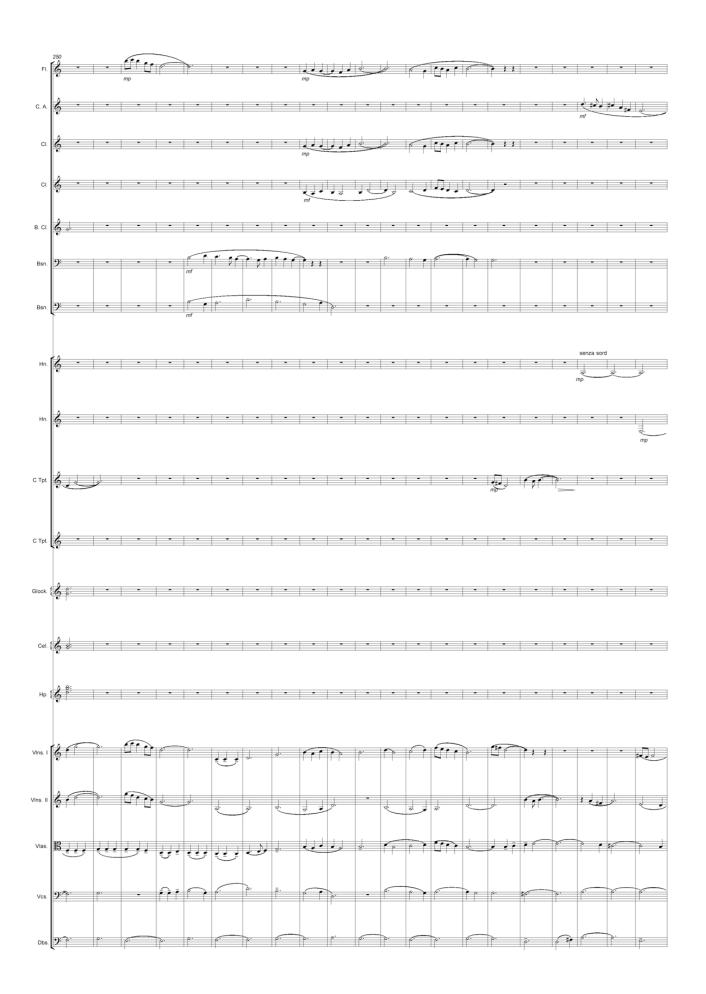




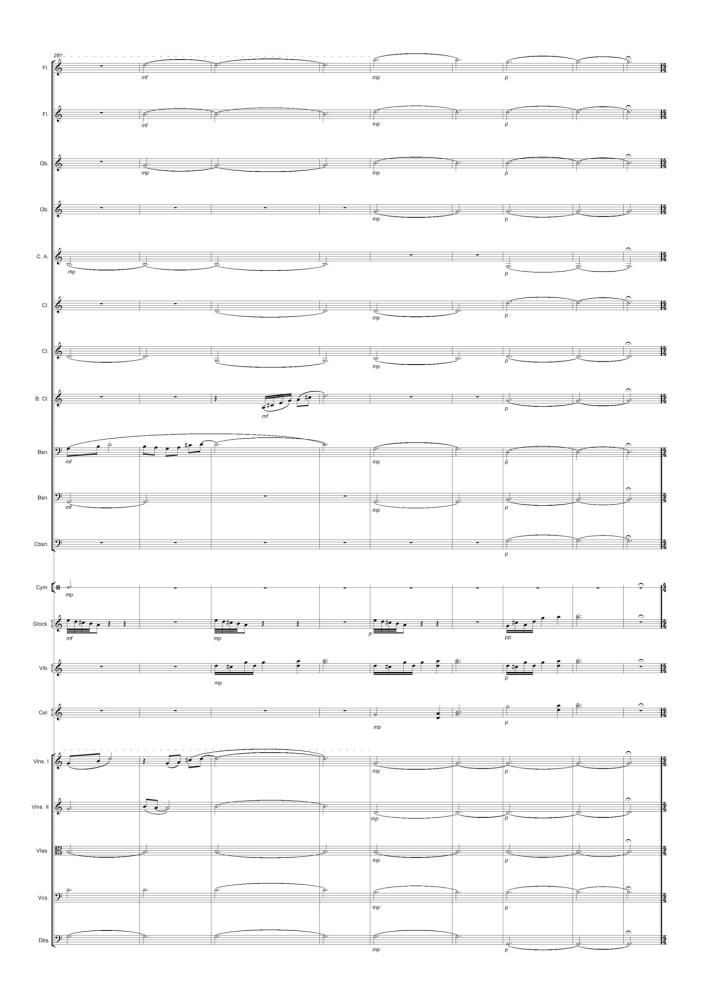
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# Kilimanjaro Part 1: Freedom Song









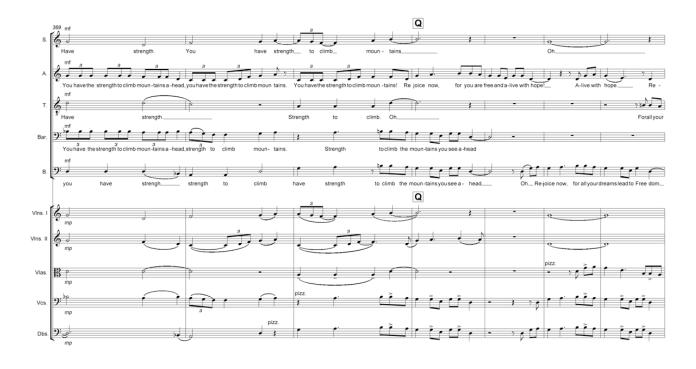








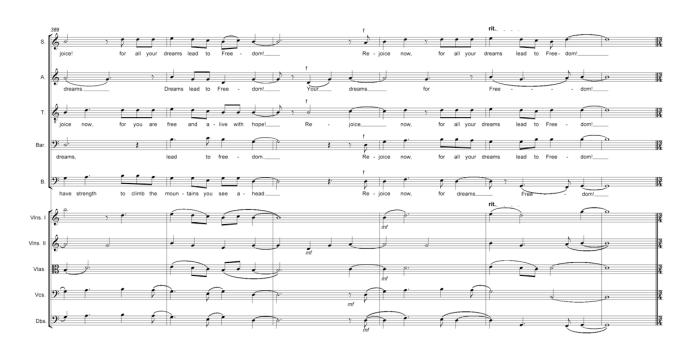
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