

In beauty may I walk

based on a Navajo poem (in English translation)

set to music by Sheena Phillips
for SATB and flute obbligato

duration c. 4:00

perusal score
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In beauty may I walk

In beauty may I walk
All day long may I walk
Through the returning seasons may I walk
Beautifully will I possess again
Beautifully birds
Beautifully joyful birds
On the trail marked with pollen may I walk
With grasshoppers about my feet may I walk
With dew about my feet may I walk
With beauty may I walk
With beauty before me may I walk
With beauty behind me may I walk
With beauty above me may I walk
With beauty all around me may I walk
In old age wandering on a trail of beauty, lively, may I walk
In old age wandering on a trail of beauty, living again, may I walk
It is finished in beauty
It is finished in beauty

Anonymous translation into English from the Navajo

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My source for this poem was *The Rattle Bag* ed. Seamus Heaney and Ted Hughes (Faber & Faber, London, 1982)

In beauty may I walk

SATB, flute or soprano recorder

Navajo sayings

music by Sheena Phillips

Andante ♩ = 110

flute
(or soprano recorder)

freely

5

9

SA *mp* S div.

8 8 8

In beau - - - ty *mp* may I walk

TB *mp*

may I walk

14

SA

8 8 8

All day long may I walk

TB

may I walk

in beauty 2

20

fl.

SA

TB

Through the re - turn - ing sea - sons may I walk

may I walk

25

fl.

SA

TB

mf

Beau - ti - ful - ly will I pos - sess a - gain

mf

Beau - ti - ful - ly will I pos - sess a - gain

28

fl.

SA

p solo

Beau-ti-ful-ly birds Beau-ti-ful-ly joy - ful birds

in beauty 3

33 *mp* tutti *p* *leggiero e poco staccato*

SA
On the trail marked with poll-en may I walk With grass-hop-pers a -

TB
On the trail marked with poll-en may I walk With grass-hop-pers a -

37

fl.

SA
bout my feet may I walk With dew a-bout my

TB
bout my feet may I walk With dew a-bout my

41 *piu mosso* ♩ = 96 *mf*

fl.

SA
feet may I walk With beau - - ty

TB
feet may I walk With beau - - ty

in beauty 4

47

fl.

SA

TB

may I walk _____ With beau-ty be - fore me

may I walk _____ With beau-ty be - fore me

p

3

54

fl.

SA

TB

may I walk _____ With beau-ty be - hind me _____ With

may I walk _____ may _____ I walk

p

poco a poco cresc.

3

61

fl.

SA

TB

beau - ty a - bove me _____ With beau-ty all a - round me

may _____ I walk

mf

f

3

in beauty 5

67

fl.

SA

TB

f

mp

f

mp unis. TB

may I walk In old age, wander-ing

may I walk wander-ing on a trail of beau-ty wander-ing

76

fl.

SA

TB

on a trail of beau-ty, live-ly, may I walk

on a trail of beau-ty may I walk

87

fl.

SA

TB

p

p unis. TB

In old age, wander-ing on a trail of beau-ty,

wander-ing on a trail wander-ing on a trail of beau-ty

in beauty 6

94

fl.

SA

TB

mf

mf

liv - - - - ing a - gain, liv - - - - ing a - gain,

100

fl.

SA

TB

p

p

soli
It is fin - ished in beau - ty

may I walk Beau - - - ty

106

fl.

SA

TB

p

soli
It is fin - ished in beau - - - ty

Beau - - - ty