

# The earth is turning

based on a chant of unknown origin

arranged by Sheena Phillips  
for SSAA chorus with percussion (frame drum and  
bongos, conga, or djembe)

The piece builds on a chant that I learned from from Gordon Franklin, director of choral activities at Columbus State Community College, Columbus, Ohio from majestic round into whirling dance through space.

You can hear a recording by the Columbus Women's Chorus on my website.

duration 3:00

perusal copy – not for performance

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# The earth is turning

based on a chant of unknown origin

SSAA, frame drum, congas / bongos / djembe

Sheena Phillips

$\bullet = 108$

*mp*

S1 The earth is turn - ing, \_\_\_\_\_

S2 The earth is turn - ing, \_\_\_\_\_

A1

A2

piano  
(for rehearsal only)

percussion  
frame drum  
*mp*

8

S1 turn - ing al - ways round to morn - ing, \_\_\_\_\_ and from morn - ing round to night. \_\_\_\_\_

S2 turn - ing al - ways round to morn - ing, \_\_\_\_\_ and from morn - ing round to night. \_\_\_\_\_

A1

A2

*mf*

The

*mf*

The

8

The musical score is written for four vocal parts (S1, S2, A1, A2), piano, and percussion. It is in 4/4 time with a key signature of two flats (Bb and Eb). The tempo is marked as quarter note = 108. The score is divided into two systems. The first system covers measures 1-7, and the second system covers measures 8-15. The vocal parts have lyrics: 'The earth is turn - ing, \_\_\_\_\_' for S1 and S2, and 'turn - ing al - ways round to morn - ing, \_\_\_\_\_ and from morn - ing round to night. \_\_\_\_\_' for S1 and S2. The piano part provides harmonic support, and the percussion part features a frame drum with a steady rhythmic pattern. Dynamics include *mp* (mezzo-piano) and *mf* (mezzo-forte).

the earth is turning 2

13

S1

S2 *mf*  
The earth is turn - ing, \_\_\_\_\_

A1  
earth is turn - ing, \_\_\_\_\_ turn - ing al - ways round to morn - ing, \_\_\_\_\_

A2  
earth is turn - ing, the earth is turn - ing, the earth is

13

18 *mf*

S1  
The earth is turn - ing, \_\_\_\_\_ turn - ing al - ways

S2  
turn - ing al - ways round to morn - ing, \_\_\_\_\_ and from morn - ing

A1  
and from morn - ing round to night. \_\_\_\_\_ The earth is

A2  
turn - ing, the earth is turn - ing, the earth is turn - ing, the

18

the earth is turning 3

23

S1 round to morn-ing, and from morn-ing round to night. The

S2 round to night. The earth is turn - ing,

A1 turn - ing, turn - ing al - ways round to morn-ing,

A2 earth is turn - ing, turn - ing a - round, turn-ing a-round,

28

S1 earth is turn - ing, turn - ing al - ways round to

S2 turn-ing al - ways round to morn-ing, and from morn - ing round to

A1 and from morn-ing round to night. The earth is turn-ing,

A2 turn-ing a - round, turn-ing a-round, turn - ing al - ways round to

bongos / congas / djembe

the earth is turning 4

34

S1  
morn-ing, and from morn-ing round to night. The

S2  
night. The earth is turn-ing,

A1  
turn-ing al-ways round to morn-ing,

A2  
morn-ing, turn-ing and turn-ing al-ways round to eve-ning, turn-ing and

34



The piano accompaniment for measures 34-40 consists of a grand staff with treble and bass clefs, and a percussion line below. The piano part features a steady eighth-note accompaniment in the bass clef and chords in the treble clef. The percussion line has a consistent rhythmic pattern of eighth notes.

41

S1  
earth is turn-ing,

S2  
turn-ing al-ways round to morn-ing,

A1  
and from morn-ing round to night. *f*

A2  
turn-ing al-ways round to night. Turn-ing a -

41



The piano accompaniment for measures 41-47 continues with the same grand staff and percussion structure. The piano part maintains the eighth-note accompaniment and chordal texture. The percussion line remains consistent. A dynamic marking of *f* (forte) is present in measure 45.

the earth is turning 5

46 *f*

S1 turn - ing a - round, turn - ing a - round

S2 turn - ing a - round, turn - ing a - round, turn - ing a - round

A1 turn - ing a - round, turn - ing a - round, turn - ing a - round

A2 round, turn - ing a - round, turn - ing a -

50 *f* add hand claps on the beat

S1 turn - ing, turn - ing, turn - ing, turn - ing,

S2 turn - ing, turn - ing, round to morn - ing, turn - ing, turn - ing,

A1 turn - ing, turn - ing, round to morn - ing, turn - ing, turn - ing,

A2 round, round to morn - ing, turn - ing, turn - ing a -

50 start claps, on the beat, and continue thru end of piece - audience may join in

(other percussion tacet)

the earth is turning 6

54 *mf*

S1 turn - ing, round to morn-ing, turn - ing, round to eve-ning,

S2 turn - ing, round to morn-ing, turn - ing, round to eve-ning,

A1 turn - ing, round to morn-ing, turn - ing, round to eve-ning, the

A2 round, turn - ing, turn-ing a - round,

*mf*

54

(claps continue)

58 *mp*

S1 turn - ing, round to morn-ing, turn - ing, round to eve-ning,

S2 turn - ing, round to morn-ing, turn - ing, round to eve-ning,

A1 earth is turn - ing,

A2 turn - ing, round to morn-ing, turn - ing, round to eve-ning,

58

(melody 8vb)

the earth is turning 7

62

S1  
turn - ing, round to morn-ing, turn - ing, round to eve-ning, turn - ing, round to

S2  
turn - ing, round to morn-ing, turn - ing, round to eve-ning, turn - ing, round to

A1  
turn - ing al - ways round to

A2  
turn - ing, round to morn-ing, turn-ing and turn - ing, round to eve-ning, turn - ing, round to

62

67

S1  
morn-ing, turn - ing, round to eve-ning, turn - ing, round to morn-ing,

S2  
morn-ing, turn - ing, round to eve-ning, turn - ing, round to morn-ing,

A1  
morn - ing, and from morn - ing

A2  
morn-ing, turn - ing, round to eve-ning, turn-ing and turn - ing, round to morn-ing,

67

the earth is turning 8

72 *mf* *leggiero*

S1 turn - ing, round to eve-ning, turn - ing, round to morn-ing. The

S2 turn - ing, round to eve-ning, turn - ing, round to morn-ing.

A1 round to night.

A2 *mf* *leggiero*  
turn - ing, round to eve-ning, turn - ing, round to morn-ing, turn-ing a -

72

S1 76 earth is turn-ing, the earth is turn-ing, *mf*

S2 *mf* *leggiero* The

A1 turn - ing round to morn-ing, turn - ing round to eve-ning,

A2 round, turn - ing, turn-ing a - round, turn - ing, turn-ing a -

76

the earth is turning 9

80

S1  
turn - ing al - ways round to morn - ing,

S2  
earth is turn - ing, the earth is turn - ing,

A1  
turn - ing round to morn - ing, turn - ing round to eve - ning,

A2  
round, turn - ing, turn - ing a - round, turn - ing, turn - ing a -

80

84

S1 *f*  
turn - ing from morn - ing to eve - ning and then to night.

S2 *f*  
turn - ing from morn - ing to eve - ning and then to night.

A1 *f*  
turn - ing from morn - ing to eve - ning and then to night. *f*

A2  
round, turn - ing, turn - ing to eve - ning, turn - ing, turn - ing to night.

84