

SING UNTO THE SKY, Marrolli
SBMP 1836

SSA
hand drum

Sing Unto the Sky

Words and Music by
Karen Marrolli



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About the composer

Karen Marrolli is the Director of Music Ministries at Central United Methodist Church in Albuquerque, NM. She has previously served as Director of Music Ministries at Trussville First United Methodist Church in Trussville, AL, as Director of Choral Ministries at the United Church of Santa Fe in Santa Fe, NM, and as the Artistic Director of the Zia Singers, the Cantu Spiritus Chamber Choir, and the Santa Fe Men's Camerata. Marrolli holds the DMA degree in Choral Conducting from Louisiana State University (2010), where she studied Choral Conducting with Dr. Kenneth Fulton.

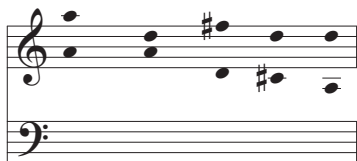
She earned her BM in Music Theory and Composition (1997) and her MM in Choral Conducting and Sacred Music (2000) from Westminster Choir College before relocating to Charleston, SC, where she lived for seven years prior to pursuing doctoral studies. While in Charleston, she founded Lux Aeterna, a chamber choir who presented candlelight concerts in honor of such events as World AIDS Day, the September 11th attacks, and Child Abuse Awareness Month. These concerts always consisted of readings, often written by survivors of traumatic events, interspersed with choral music. The concerts progressed from a sense of darkness to light and were meant to give hope to those who were in a process of healing.

In addition to being a classically-trained composer and conductor, Karen is a prolific singer-songwriter who can be seen performing her own songs at various events in and around Albuquerque. Called "provocative" and "powerful" by listeners, her songwriting is autobiographical and stems from influences that range from piano-driven singer-songwriters such as Tori Amos and Regina Spektor to the acoustic folk sounds of Americana and Irish Traditional Music.

Website: karenmarrollimusic.com



Ranges



Solo 1 Solo 2 S S A



**rehearsal tracks & free download of the Hand Drum part
available at SBMP.com**

*Commissioned for the Voces Furoris ensemble from Fountain Inn High School,
(Fountain Inn, SC) – Sarah Wahl and Todd Gillespie, Directors.*

Sing Unto the Sky

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Joyfully ♩. = 52

Altos (opt. solo) *mf*

A

Hand Drum

TONES 6

BASS 8

mf

4

on the sa - cred earth, and nur - ture in each grow - ing thing a

8

Sopranos (opt. solo) *mf*

S

A

like the gen - tle flow'rs and grass from -

song of sweet birth, and like the gen - tle flow'rs and grass from -

12

Tutti

field to moun - tain high, we'll bless the sun and cleans - ing rains and

Tutti

field to moun - tain high, we'll bless the sun and cleans - ing rains and

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16

the

sing un-to the sky. the sky.

sing un-to the sky, the sky, the sky, the

20

A

We will walk gen-tly here up-on the sa-cred

sky, We will walk gen-tly here up-on the sa-cred

24

and

earth, and nur-ture in each grow-ing thing a song of sweet re-

earth, and nur-ture in each grow-ing thing a song of sweet re-

28 *mp*

birth, and like the gen - tle flow'rs and grass from field to moun - tain

mp

birth, and like the gen - tle flow'rs and grass from field to moun - tain

mp

32 *f*

high, we'll bless the sun and cleans - ing rains and sing un - to the

f

high, we'll bless the sun cleans - ing rains and sing un - to the

f

36 Solo 1 or Small Group *mp*

We will sing un - to the

p

sky, the sky, the sky.

p

sky, the sky, the sky.

p

40 **B**

Stems Down = Stomp

(Solo 1 or Small Group)

mf

sky! We can be care-tak-ers of the Moth-er we call

mf

We will walk gen-tly here up-on the sa-cred earth, and

mf

We will walk gen-tly here up-on the sa-cred earth, and

mf

44

Stems Up = Clap

home, we can be guar-dians of the wa-ter that gives life.

nur-ture in each grow-ing thing a song of sweet re-birth, and

nur-ture in each grow-ing thing a song of sweet re-birth, and

48

mp

We can be still and lis - ten to the song of the wind.

mp *f*

like the gen - tle flow'rs and grass from field to moun - tain high, we'll

mp *f*

like the gen - tle flow'rs and grass from field to moun - tain high, we'll

f

52

(Solo 1 or Small Group) *f* *mp*

We can heal a bro - ken world, and sing un - to the

(Solo 2 or Small Group) *mf*

Let us give thanks for all cre -

mp

S bless the sun and cleans - ing rains and sing un - to the sky,

A bless the sun and cleans - ing rains and sing un - to the sky,

mp

56 C

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PREVIEW

59

Moth - er we all home, we can be guar - dians of the

Let us give thanks for all cre - a - tion.
 and

earth, and nur - ture in each grow - ing thing a

earth, and nur - ture in each grow - ing thing a

62

wa - ter that gives life. *mf* We can be still and

We can heal a bro - ken world. *mf* We can hon - or

song of sweet re - birth, *mp* and like the gen - tle

song of sweet re - birth, *mp* and like the gen - tle

65

lis - ten to song of the wind. *f* We can

ev - 'ry dawn. *f* We can hon - or ev - 'ry dawn. *f* We can heal a

flow'rs and grass from field to moun - tain high, *f* we'll bless the sun and

flow'rs and grass from field to moun - tain high, *f* we'll bless the sun and

f

1836-9

69 *mf* *mp* *mf*

heal a bro - ken world. the

bro - ken world. the sky,

mp *mf*

cleans - ing rains and sing un - to the sky, the sky, the

mp *mf*

cleans - ing rains and sing un - to the sky, the sky, the

mp *mf*

73 Stomp and Clap

sky, the sky.

mf *f* *ff*

the sky, the sky.

f *ff*

sky, the sky, the sky.

f *ff*

sky, the sky, the sky.

f *ff*

Sing Unto the Sky

We will walk gently here
Upon the sacred earth,
And nurture in each growing thing
A song of sweet rebirth,
And like the gentle flowers and grass
From field to mountain high,
We'll bless the sun and cleansing rains
And sing unto the sky.

We can be caretakers of the mother we call home.
We can be guardians of the water that gives life.
We can be still and hear the song of the wind.
We can heal a broken world,
And sing unto the sky.
Let us give thanks for all creation.
We can honor every dawn.
We can heal a broken world,
And sing unto the sky.

—Karen Marrolli

“Sing Unto the Sky” was inspired by the wild beauty of High Desert of New Mexico, a place of varied landscapes and little water. The delicate relationship between resources and inhabitants in this area of the world highlights our responsibility to be good stewards of the earth. The music is meant to be a simple theme that builds upon itself continuously throughout the song, perhaps illustrating both a growing urgency and a growing and varied chorus of voices coming together to give thanks for creation and pledging care for its resources.

The director has flexibility in this piece to use solos or unison voices, and as the piece goes on they can choose to use a soloist or semichorus on the additional lines, depending on the ensemble. In measure 56 of the solo or semichorus, the high A is preferred, but alternatively the F can be sung depending on the range of the soloist- or, if using a semichorus, both notes could be sung together. Care should be taken in the final verses to bring out the solo lines above the choral texture, either through nuanced dynamics or creative spacing of the singers. Body percussion (stomps and claps) should follow the dynamics of the vocal lines.



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