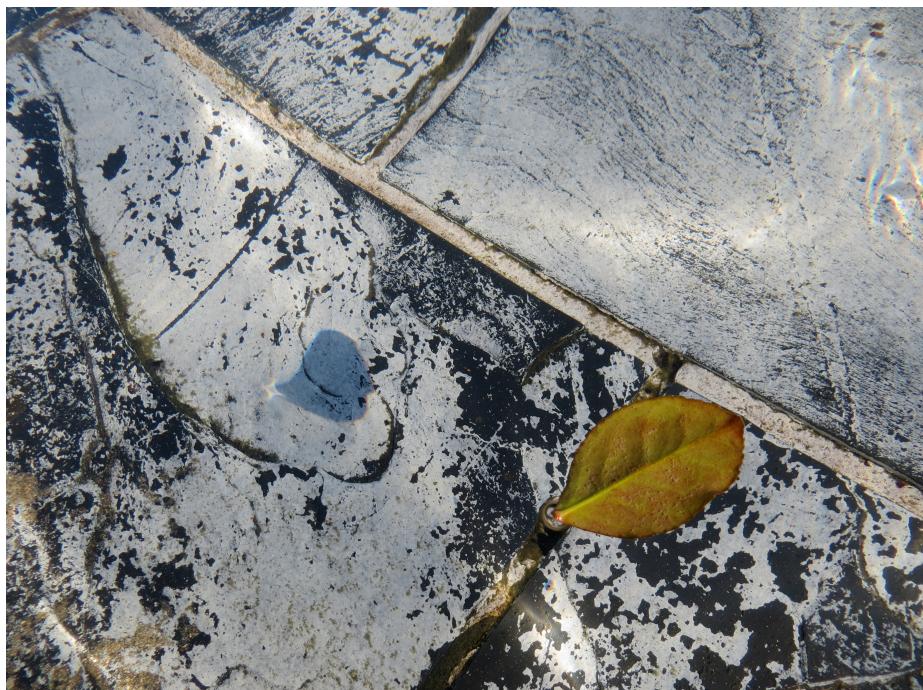


# Only Breath



For choir SSAATTBB

Eloise Nancie Gynn  
July 2014

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# Only Breath

For choir SSAATTBB

My place is placeless, a trace  
of the traceless. Neither body or soul.

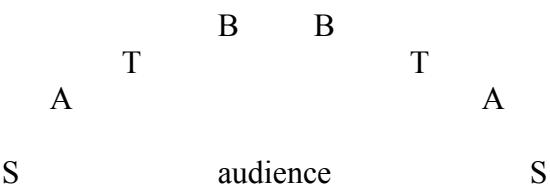
I belong to the beloved, have seen the two  
worlds as one and that one call to and know,

first, last, outer, inner, only that  
breath breathing human being.

Rumi.

Duration 8 minutes.

### Layout



Choir starts spread out throughout hall, loosely arranged in semicircle. As cued in the score, during the piece, choir moves slowly closer together.

*Only breath* was commissioned by MusArc, under the Sound And Music Portfolio scheme 2013/14.  
Excerpt from Only Breath by Rumi, used with permission from Coleman Barks, translator.

# Only Breath

Rumi (translated by Coleman Barks)

Eloise Gynn

\*Choir spread apart throughout hall,<sup>(ha)</sup>  
loosely arranged in semicircle SATBBTAS

7

S. *p*

S. *gliss.*

A. *p*

A. *p*

My \_\_\_\_\_

(whispered) *mp* My place is

T. *mf*

My place My place is place-less place-less repeat ad lib until A

T. *mf*

My place place-less My place is place-less repeat ad lib until A

B. *mf*

My place My place is place-less place-less repeat ad lib until A

B. *>p* *mf* My place is place - less place - less repeat ad lib until A *accel.* . . . . .

10

S. *whispered*  
*mf*  
place-less place-less

(whispered)  
*mp* 3  
My place is place-less place - less

(whispered)  
*mp* 3  
My place is place-less place-less

place - less place-less

T. *accel.* ..... *rit* .....

T. *accel.* ..... *rit* .....

B. *accel.* ..... *rit* .....

B. *f* *rit* .....

4

12 **A** A tempo

S. (who) (who)

S. whisper place-less place-less (who) (who) mm

A. (who) (who)

A. mp place-less place-less (who) (who) mm

T. (who) suck air in (who)

T. (ha) (ha ha ha ha) (who)

B. (ha) (ha ha ha) (who)

B. (who) suck air in (who)

16

S. mm *gliss.* My my place

S. *gliss.* My My place

A. mm *gliss.* My my place My place is **p**

A. *gliss.* My My place My place is **p**

T. *mf* whisper trace less place-less *mf* (ha) tutti **p** mm

T. *mf* whisper trace less breathe out *mf* (ha)

B. *mf* whisper trace less *mf* (ha) **p** mm

B. *mf* whisper trace less breathe out *mf* (ha) **p** mm

The musical score consists of six staves, each representing a different voice part. The voices are: Soprano (S.), Alto (A.), Alto (A.), Tenor (T.), Bass (T.), and Bass (B.). The music is in common time, with a key signature of one sharp. Measure 16 begins with a dynamic of *mf*. The soprano and alto voices sing "mm" followed by a *gliss.* and the lyrics "My my place". The second alto and tenor voices sing "My My place". The first alto sings "mm" followed by a *gliss.* and the lyrics "My my place" followed by "My place is" with a dynamic of **p**. The second alto and tenor sing "My My place" followed by "My place is" with a dynamic of **p**. The bass voices begin with a dynamic of *mf*, singing "whisper trace less place-less". They then sing "breath out" with a dynamic of *mf*, followed by "tutti" and a dynamic of **p**, and finally "mm". The bass voices then sing "trace less" and "breath out" again. The bass voices begin with a dynamic of *mf*, singing "whisper trace less". They then sing "breath out" with a dynamic of *mf*, followed by "mm". The bass voices then sing "trace less" and "breath out" again.

21

S. *mf* whisper      **p**      *mp*      *gliss.*      **p**

place-less      a trace of the trace      -      -      less

S. *mf* whisper      (whispered in own time)      *mp*

place-less      trace of the trace-less      place-less      trace-less

A. *mp*      **p**      *mp*      *gliss.*      **p**

place-less      a trace of the trace      -      -      less

A. *mp*      **p**      *mp*      **p**

place-less      a trace of the trace      -      -      less

T. *mp*      **p**      *mp*      **p**

My

B. *mp*      **p**      *mp*      **p**

My

24

S. *mf* <— 3 —> *mp* 3 —> *mf*  
ss ss ss ss ss Nei - bo - nor soul  
(ss) ther dy soul  
ss Nei - bo - nor soul  
(ss) ther dy soul  
ss soul  
ss soul  
ss soul  
ss soul  
ss soul

T. *mf*

B. *mf*

B. *mf*

==

29

S. *p* <— > *f*  
trace less bo - dy nor soul like the wind  
(who)

A. *p* <— > *f*  
trace less bo - dy nor soul like the wind  
(who)

T. *p* <— > *mp*  
trace less bo - dy nor soul I am

B. *p* <— > *p*  
trace less bo - dy soul

Choir starts to move closer into semicircle SATBBTAS

36

S. suck air in

A. suck air in (who)

A. suck air in (who)

T. (who)

T. I am

B. I am



41

S. di - vine whole

S. di - vine whole

A. di - vine whole

A. di - vine whole

T. —

B. —

**B**

46

S. -

A. -

T. *to the below -*

B. *I belong I belong to the below -*



50

S. *I am of the di vine*

S. *whole*

A. *of the di vine*

A. *whole*

T. *-ed whole*

B. *ed whole of of the di vine*

Sing individually  
vary the length of pause to come in just after the singer before  
(echo effect)

Allow some silence after  
last singer stops  
before next phrase.

**C**

55

I belong I belong

I be long I belong

I belong I belong

Bass: *ppp*



**D**

59

I be - long to the belov - ed

I be long to the belov - ed

I be long to the belov - ed

Bass: *sfp*

soul

Bass: *sfp*

soul

**E**

63 *mf* 3 *mf* solo *mf* *mp* tutti

S. two worlds as one ah call

S. two worlds as one *mp* one and one that

A. two worlds as one *mp* *mf* *mp* and

A. two worlds as one *mp* *mf* *mp*

T. -

B. -

Choir moves even closer together until F

68

S. — to and know—

S. call to and know **p** know

A. one that call to— **p** know—

A. and one that call to and know **p** know—

T. — call to and know— **p** 3 know— **pp**

T. — call to and know— **p** 3 know— **pp**

B. — call to and know— **p** 3 call to and know— **pp** know—

B. — call to and know— **p** 3 call to and know— **pp** know—



Choir close together (still in SATBBTAS formation)

73 **f** F

S. first, last, out - er in - ner— **p**

A. first, last, out - er, in - ner— **p**

T. first last, out - er in - ner **p**

B. know— out - er in - ner **p**

S. 80 **G** *sempre p*

brea - thing      breath - ing      breath - ing



The fragments are to be repeated freely in any order for the specified time duration. Freely vary length of rests.

**1** Aleatoric

S. 83  $\text{♩} = 60$

breath - ing

S. brea - thing      brea - thing

8 - 10"



**2**

A.  $\text{♩} = 72$  *sempre p*

breath - ing

A. brea - thing      brea - thing

10 - 15"

T.  $\text{♩} = 84$  *sempre p*

breath - ing

T. brea - thing      brea - thing

14

**3**

90  
2 soli (L and R)

tutti aa

breath - ing

**4** (a tempo)  $\text{♩} = 60$

Sopranos, Altos and Tenors:  
\*Sound to become more breathy and whispery with diminuendo.

A. breath - ing  
*3*

A. breath-ing breath

T. breath - ing  
*8*

T. breath-ing breath  
*8*

B.  $\text{p}$

mm

**5**

ppp

Stop

ppp

Stop

**6**  $\text{p}$  ppp

mm