

nathan james dearden

i breathe

for SATB choir (divided)
(2021)

Full Score

for Greg Beardsell and the National Youth Training Choir of Great Britain

i breathe was commissioned by the National Youth Choirs of Great Britain,
with kind support from Dorico (NYCGB's Principal Innovation Sponsor)

TEXT

These hills
have nothing to say
and go on saying it

Ken Jones

mountain path
star by star
the sky deepens

Paul Chambers

the valley white
with hawthorn trees
i breathe i breathe

Arwyn Evans
(Used with kind permission)

PERFORMER NOTE

MURMURINGS *

There are moments in this work where performers (or an optional selection of performers) are asked to 'murmur'. This is where each performer individually whispers/softly freely recites one, or a selection, of the following short phrases in the Welsh language:

	<i>Translation</i>	<i>Spoken pronunciation</i>
Y bryniau hyn	'These hills'	<i>uh bru-knee-y-eye hin</i>
dim byd i'w ddweud	'have nothing to say'	<i>dim b-eed ewe th-wide</i>
a bwrw ymlaen	'and go on'	<i>a boo-roo um-line</i>
anadlu	'breathing'	<i>an-ad-lee</i>

A performative aspect can be built into this piece, where either performer turns towards the audience on entry of their 'murmuring' or lift their heads from a dropped position. The reverse could happen for the ending of the work. This is merely a suggestion and is not compulsory for the performance of this work.

Duration: ca. 3 minutes 30 seconds

15

s. *mp* These hills, - *p* have no - thing *f* no - thing *f* These hills, *mp* These hills, - *p*

a. *mp* These hills, - *p* have no - thing *f* no - thing *f* These hills, *mp* These hills, - *p*

t. *mp* These hills, - *p* have no - thing *f* no - thing *f* These hills, *mp* These

b. *mp* These hills, - *p* have no - thing *f* no - thing *f* These hills, *mp*

s.g. *p* ss/sh _____ *f* [t] *p* ss/sh _____ *f* [t]

A

21

s. *mp* have_ no - thing *mp* These hills, - no-thing

a. *mp* have_ no - thing *mp* These hills, - no - thing no-thing

t. *mp* These _____ *gliss.* These hills, - no - thing no-thing

b. *p* These *mp* These hills, - no - thing no-thing

s.g. *f* ss/sh _____ *mf exhale* [t] huh *sim.* nuh thi(ng)

27 *pp* lightly *mp* *f*

s. no - thing to say These hills, have no - thing,

a. no - thing to say These hills, have no - thing

t. no - thing to say These hills, have no - thing,

b. no - thing to say These hills, have no - thing,

s.g. *p* *f*
ss/sh [ch]

pp lightly *mp* *f*



32 **B** *mp* *pp* smoothly, ethereal; in own time

s. — have no-thing, nn, ah, nn, ah, nn, nn, ah, nn,

a. *mp* *p* smoothly, ethereal; in own time
have no-thing, to say, ah, nn, ah, nn,

a. *p* *p*
— (ng), to say and go on

t. *p* *p*
— (ng), to say and go on

b. *p* *p*
— (ng), to say and go on

s.g. *mf* exhale *sim.* (return to part)
nuh thi(ng)

B *p* *mp* *p*

38

s. — ah, nn, nn, ah, nn, ah, nn, nn, ah, nn, ah, nn, nn, ah, nn, —

ah, nn, ah, nn, ah, nn, ah, nn, ah, nn, ah, nn, —

a. say - ing it to say and go on *cresc. poco a poco*

t. say - ing it to say and go on *cresc. poco a poco*

b. say - ing it to say and go on *cresc. poco a poco*



44

s. — ah, nn, nn, ah, nn, ah, nn, nn, ah, nn, ah, nn, nn, ah, nn, —

ah, nn, ah, nn, ah, nn, ah, nn, ah, nn, ah, nn, —

a. say - ing it to say and go on *cresc. poco a poco*

t. say - ing it to say and go on *cresc. poco a poco*

b. say - ing it to say and go on *cresc. poco a poco*

50 *f* (in time) (♩=♩)

s. ah, nn, nn, ah, nn, ah, nn, say - ing, say - ing,

ah, nn, ah, nn, ah, say - ing, say - ing,

a. say - ing it say - ing, say - ing, say - ing,

t. say - ing it say - ing, say - ing, say - ing,

b. say - ing it say - ing, say - ing, say - ing,

(♩=♩)



55 **C** same tempo *pp* lightly like nymphs

s. say-ing it, and, say-ing it, go, say-ing it, on, say-ing it, and,

pp lightly like nymphs say-ing it, say-ing it, and go, say-ing it, say-ing it, and go,

a. *pp* lightly like nymphs say-ing it, and, say-ing it, go, say-ing it, on, say-ing it, and,

t. *p* sub. (ng), say - ing,

b. *p* sub. (ng), say - ing,

C same tempo *pp*

59

s. say-ing it, go, say-ing it, on, say-ing it, and, say-ing it, go,
 say-ing it, say-ing it, and go, say-ing it, say-ing it, and go,
 a. say-ing it, go, say-ing it, on, say-ing it, and, say-ing it, go,
 t. *mp smoothly*
 moun - - tain path star
 b. *mp smoothly*
 moun - - tain path star



63

s. say-ing it, on, say-ing it, and, say-ing it, go, go, go, go, go, go,
 say-ing it, say-ing it, and go, say-ing it, say-ing it, and go,
 a. say-ing it, on, say-ing it, and, say-ing it, go, say-ing it, on, *mp*
 t. by star, by star,
 b. by star by star

D

67 *mp* go, *pp (as before)* say-ing it, and, say-ing it, go, say-ing it, on,

mp and go, and go, and go, and go, and go, and go, and go, and go, and go, and go, and go, and go, and go, and go, and go,

pp (as before) — say-ing it, and, say-ing it, go, say-ing it, and, *gliss.*

pp (as before) and go, and go, and go, and go, and go, and go, and go, and go, and go, and go, and go, and go,

t. *mp* the sky,

b. *mp* the sky,

mp *pp (as before)*



71 say-ing it, and, say-ing it, go, say-ing it, on, *mf*

and go, and go, and go, and go, and go, and go, and go, and go, and go, and go, and go, and go, and go, and go, and go,

gliss. say-ing it, go, say-ing it, and, say-ing it, go, and go, and go, and go,

and go, and go, and go, and go, and go, and go, and go, and go, and go, and go, and go, and go,

t. the sky, deep - - -

b. the sky, deep - - -

mf

75 *p* E

s. sky, deep - - ens, (nn)

a. and go, and go, and go, and go, and go, and go, and go, and go, and go, and go, and go, and go, and go,

t. *p* - ens deep - - ens, (nn)

b. *p* - ens deep - - ens, (nn)



79 *mp warmer* E

s. the val - ley white

a. and go, and go, and go, and go, and go, and go, and go, and go, and go, and go, and go, and go, and go,

t. *mp warmer* the val - ley white

b. *mp warmer* the val - ley white

95 *p > pp*

s. i breathe, i breathe, i

(as before)

nn, ah, nn, ah, nn, nn, ah, nn, ah, nn, nn, ah, nn, ah, nn,

a. *p > pp*

i breathe, i breathe, i

t. *p > pp*

i breathe, i breathe, i

b. *p > pp*

i breathe, i breathe, breathe, Murmurings * i

s.g. (return to s.g) *ppp staggered, freely, individually*



101

Repeat freely, independently *pp*

s. breathe, i, introduce soft exhalations fade away

Repeat freely, independently *pp*

a. breathe, i, fade away

Repeat freely, independently *pp*

t. breathe, introduce soft exhalations fade away

Repeat freely, independently *pp*

b. breathe, i, fade away

s.g. XII: fade away

6-10"

Repeat freely, independently *pp*

XI: fade away

X: fade away