

A Choral Dialectic for Unaccompanied SATB Choir

- Secretary Michael

"Clean Water" Choral Dialectic by Secretary Michael

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# What is a Choral Dialectic?

A "choral dialectic" is a four-movement choral work (with or without instruments) in which a rational argument about any subject is battled-out musically. There's only one rule: every choral dialectic must use the following four titles for its four movements:

#### 1. "PRINCIPLE"

Each dialectic begins with a statement of some sort. This will be the subject matter for the entire work. Oftentimes the statement is an ideal - an expression of how something might be in a perfect world.

#### 2. "ARGUMENT"

In this movement, the "Principle" begins its journey through the meat grinder. The Argument's job is to pick apart the principle, either supporting it or challenging it.

### 3. "COUNTERARGUMENT"

In this movement, the "Principle" gets supported or challenged again, but this time from a contrasting perspective. If the previous argument was sweet, this one will probably be sour. If the previous was about abundance, this one will probably be about scarcity.

#### 4. "RESOLUTION"

Now that the "Principle" has been analyzed from different angles, some sort of final understanding will have to emerge. Maybe there will be growth, a new way of being, a new way of living in the world, a new "Principle". Or maybe not.

# Clean Water

1.	Principle	4
2.	Argument	8
3.	Counterargument	15
4.	Resolution	.22

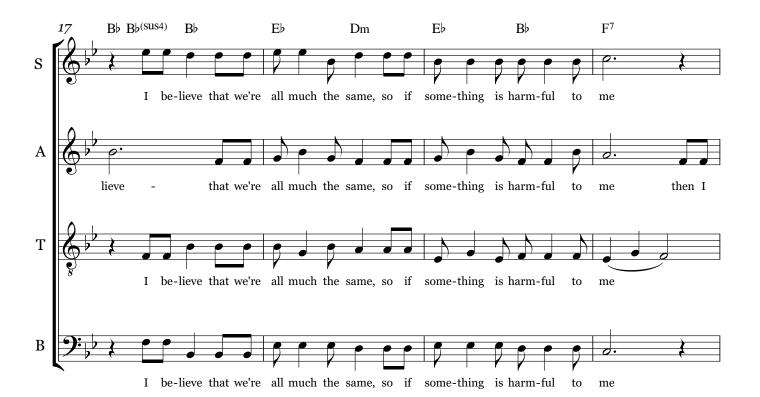
Duration: Less than 12 minutes

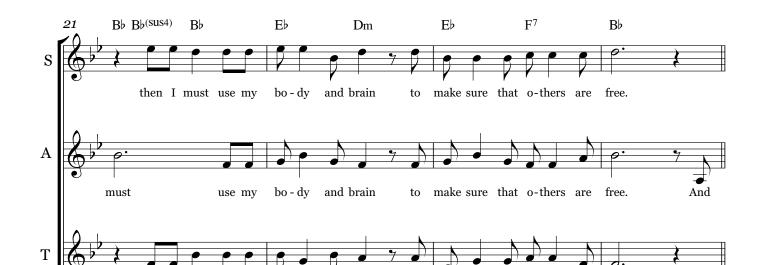
# **Principle**

(from the "Clean Water" choral dialectic)

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to make sure that o-thers are free.

make sure that o-thers are

then I must use my

then I must use my

bo - dy

bo - dy

and brain

and brain

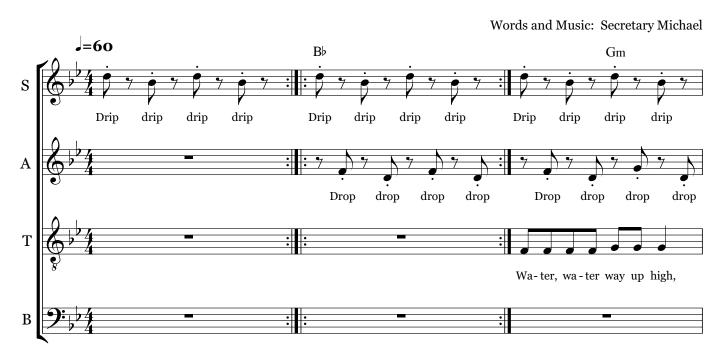
to



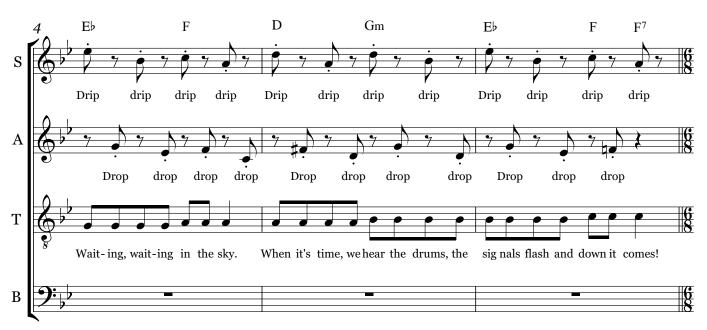


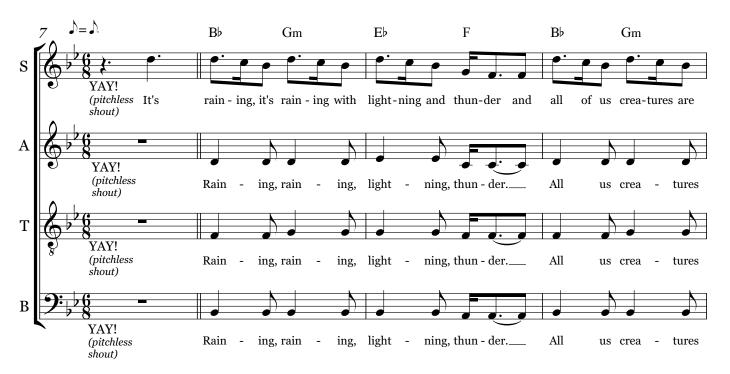
# Argument

(from the "Clean Water" choral dialectic)

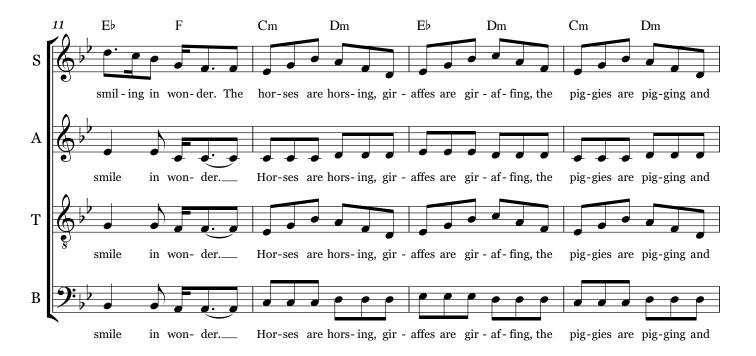


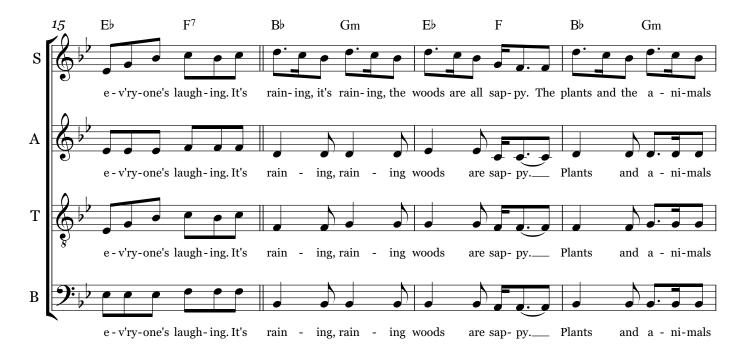




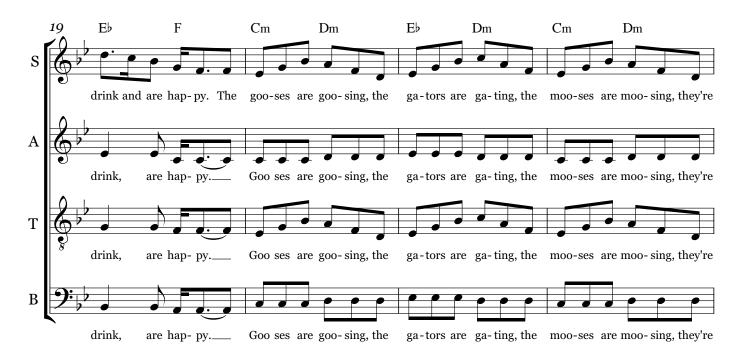


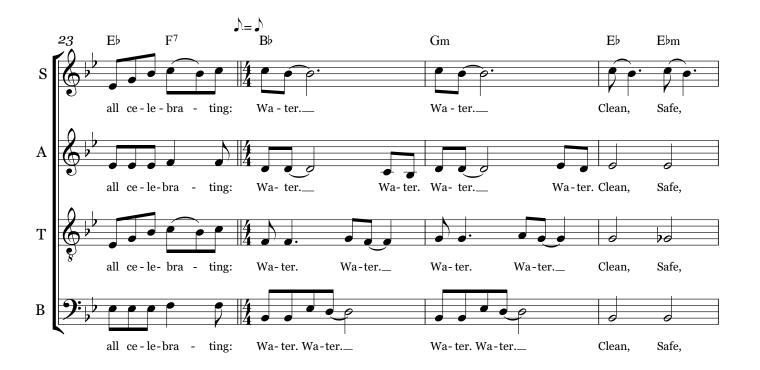




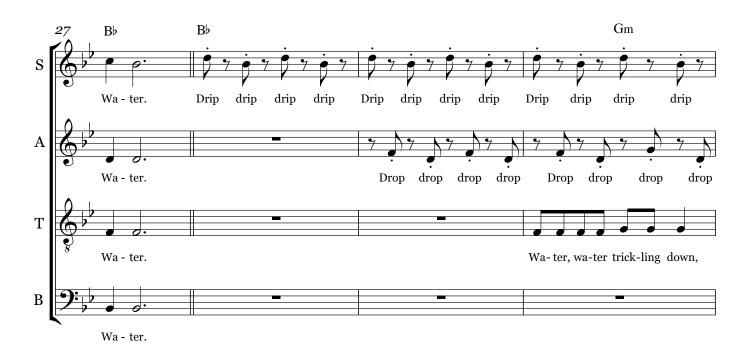


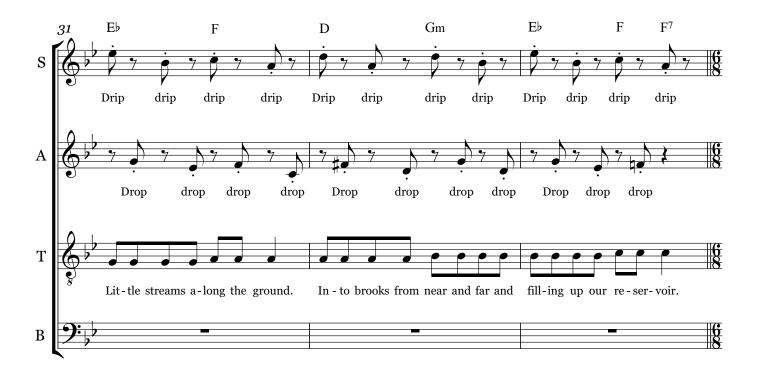






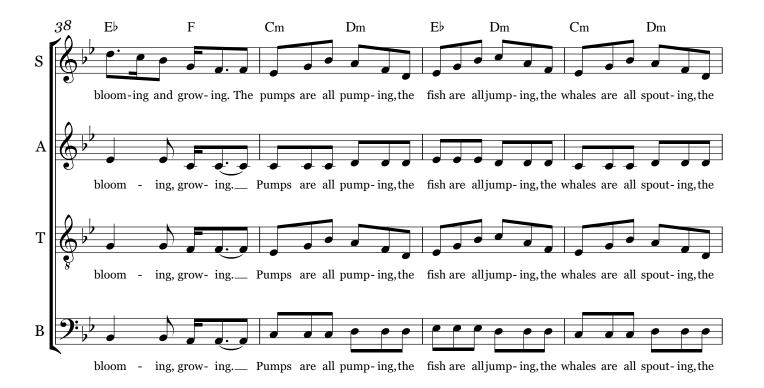




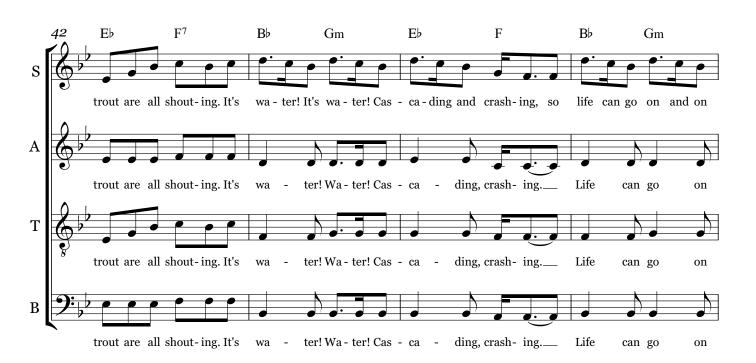


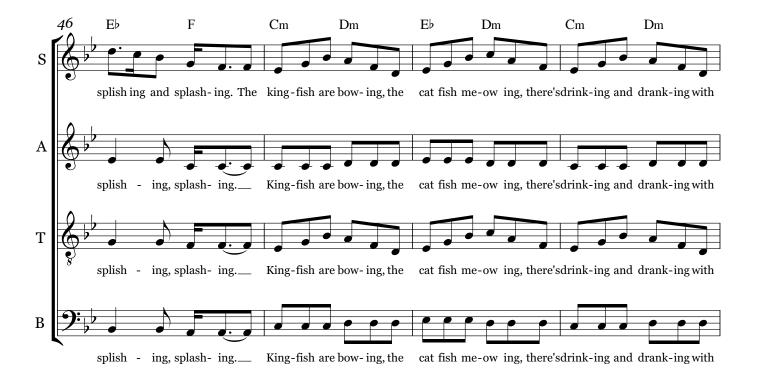




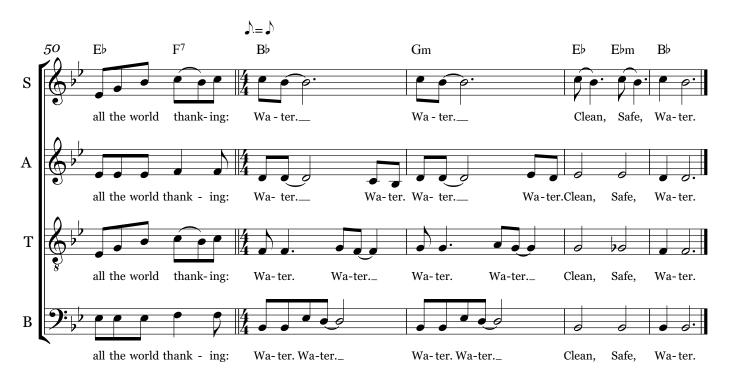












# Counterargument

(from the "Clean Water" choral dialectic)

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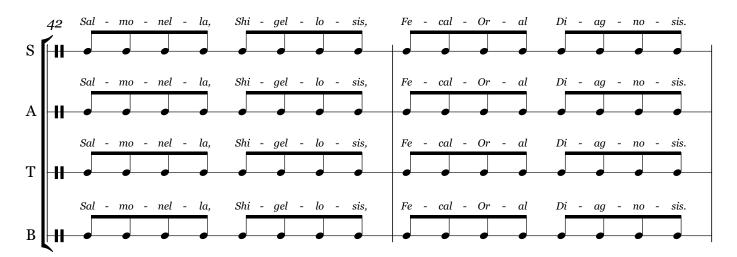




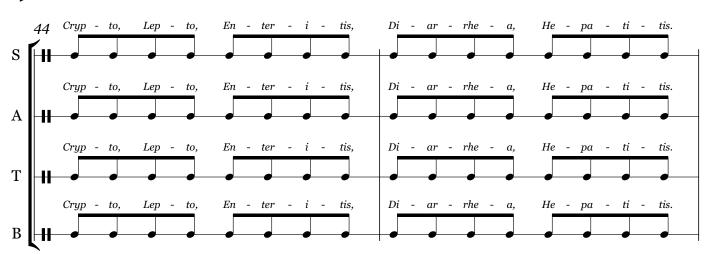




## Forceful and Punctuated:

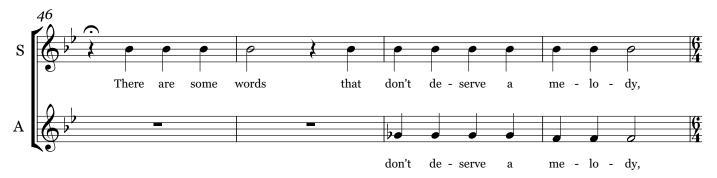


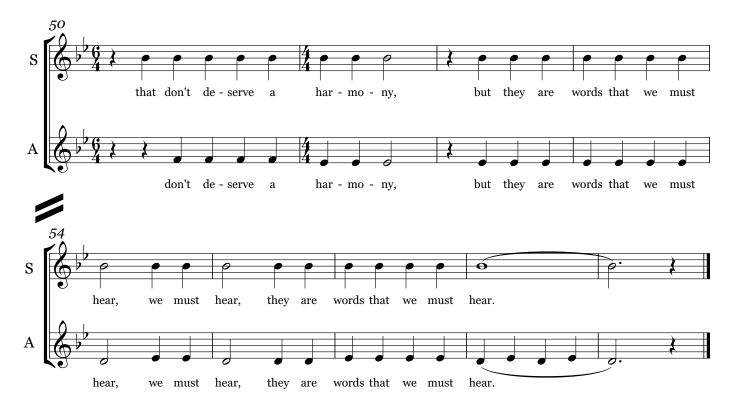






Rather softly after a settling pause:





#### GLOSSARY OF WATERBORNE DISEASES:

Typhoid: Typhoid Fever (up to 104 degrees!) is caused by the Salmonella bacterium passed on from the feces of infected people. Some people (like Typhoid Mary) show no symptoms but can still infect others. Only humans are effected.

Cholera: Cholera is an infection of the small intestine caused by the Vibrio bacterium passed on from the feces of infected people. Cholera causes severe diarrhea. Only humans are effected.

Salmonella: a rod-shaped bacterium; one type (Salmonella typhi) causes typhoid fever, other types cause food poisoning.

Shigellosis: Shigellosis is a disease caused by the Shigella bacterium passed on from the feces of infected people. It causes severe dysentery (bloody diarrhea).

Fecal-Oral: Waterborne diseases are largely the result from feces (fecal) contamination of the water which then enters the mouth (oral).

Crypto: Cryptosporidiosis is a disease caused by the potozoan parasite Cryptosporidium. It infects the intestines. It is spread when it forms dormant cysts which are passed on through the feces to contaminate water.

Lepto: Leptospirosis is caused by the corskscrew-shaped bacterium Leptospira. It is spread from the urine of infected animals. Among its possible symptoms, a person can turn yellow in color.

Enteriris: a medical term that refers to inflammation of the small intestine (a common result of waterborne diseases).

Diarrhea: the official definition is "having at least 3 loose or liquid bowel movements in one day". Diarrhea is a common symptom of waterborne diseases. (Maybe the pathogens cause frequent bowel movements so that they can spread to more and more people). Diarrhea can lead to dehydration and death. (Over a million people - mostly children - die from diarrhea every year).

Hepatitis: inflamation of the liver; two of the viruses that cuase hepatitis (Hepatitis A and Hepatitis E) can be spread through contaminated water;

There are plenty of additional waterborne disease words that I wasn't clever enough to fit into the meter and rhyme scheme. Words such as: Schistosomiasis (snail fever), Giardiasis (beaver fever), Dracunculiasis (Guinea worm disease), Taeniasis (tapeworm disease), Campylobacteriosis...

Learning about these fecal-oral diseases and parasites leads us to be more conscientious about washing our hands before eating (to protect ourselves) and washing our hands after using the restroom (to protect others). It also leads us to help those whose water does not serve as the prevention of disease but rather as the source of disease.

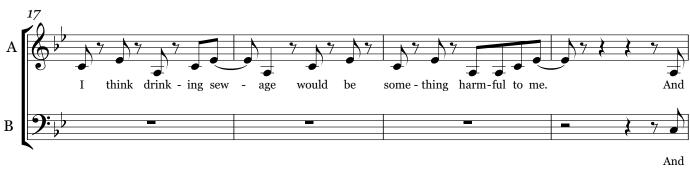
<sup>\*</sup> Source of Waterborne Disease information: Wikipedia

# Resolution

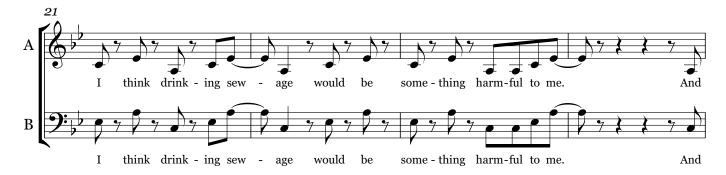
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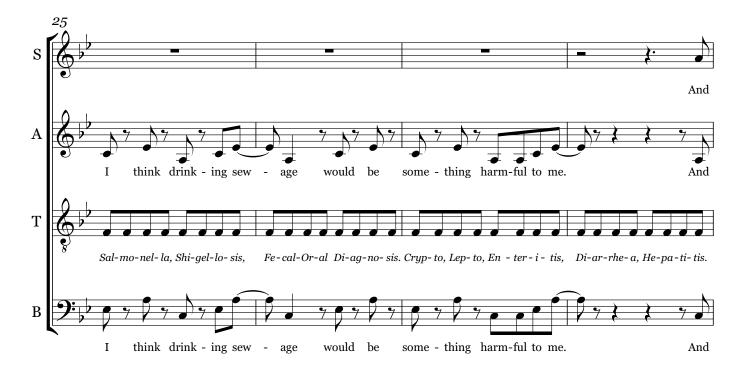






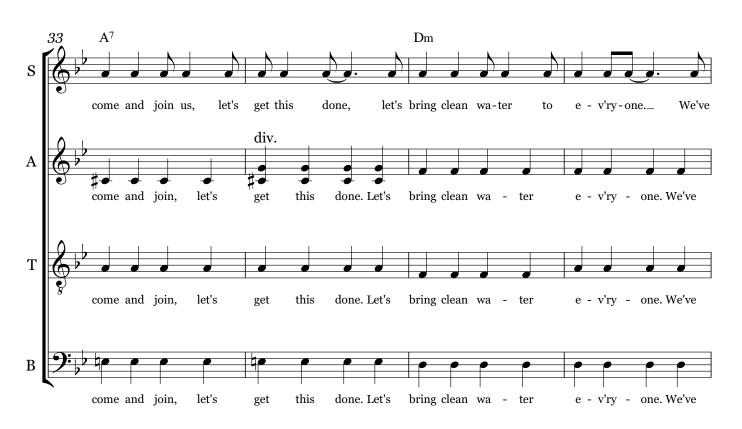


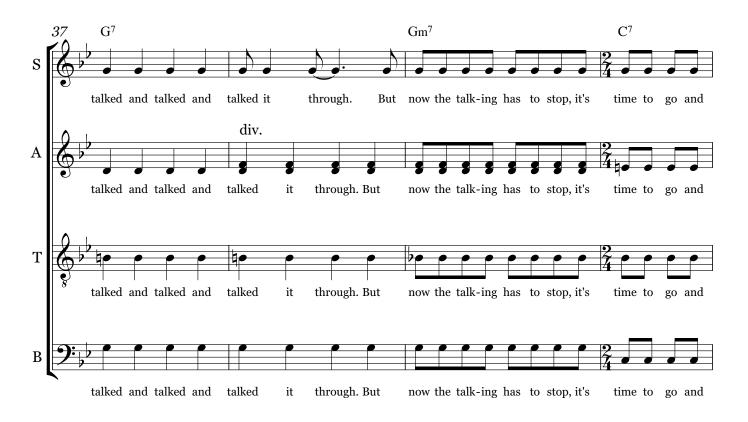




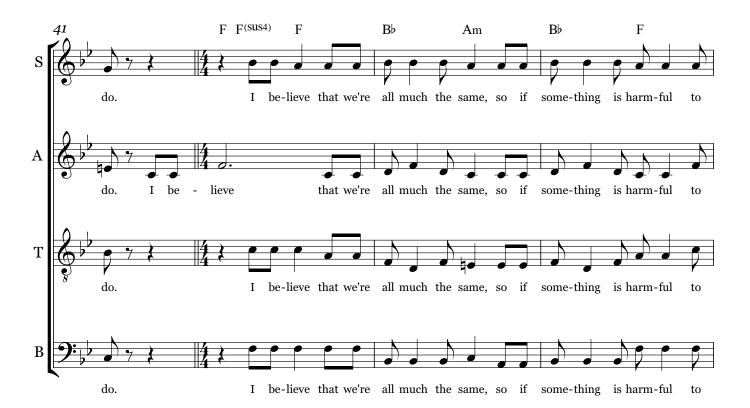


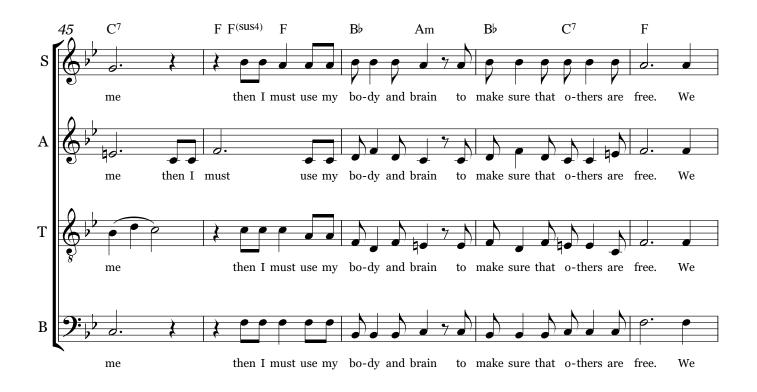




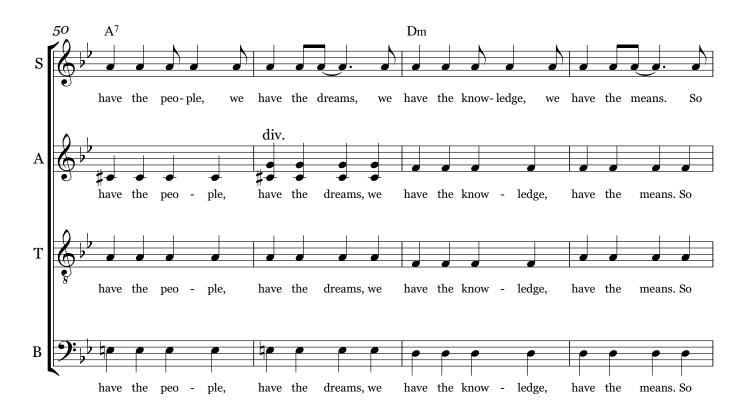


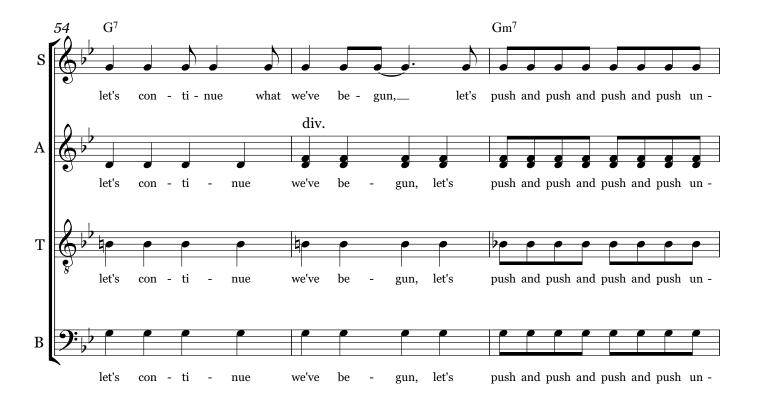




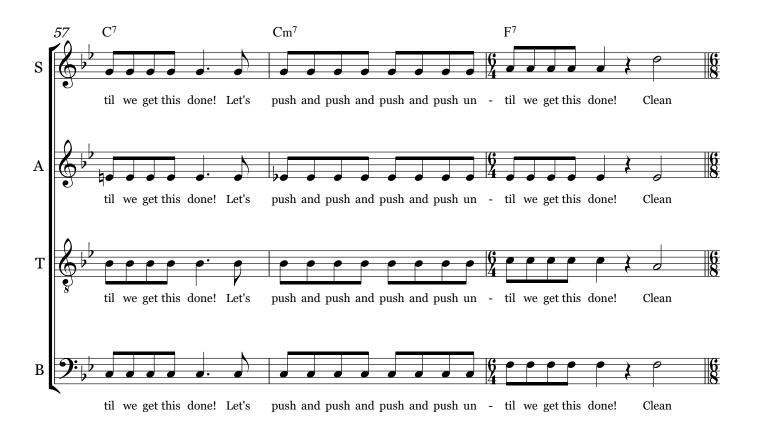


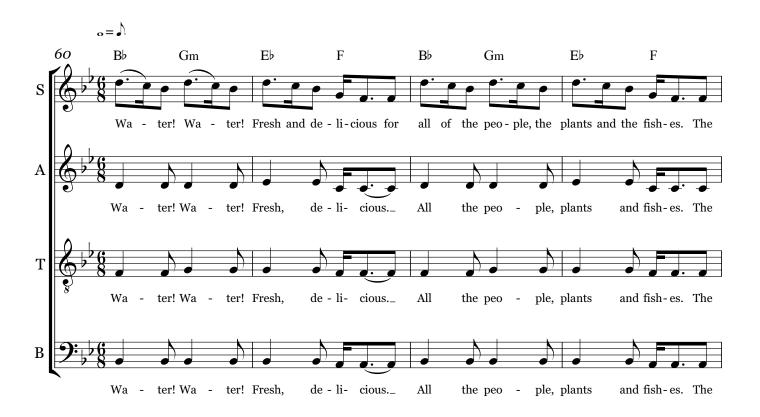




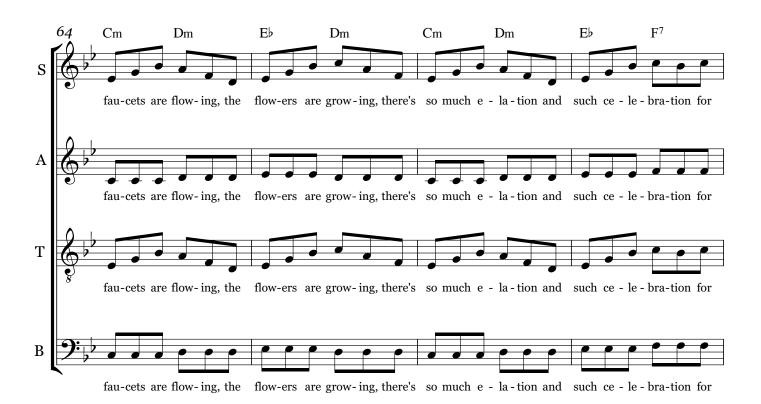
















Some clean water projects that might be worth contributing to:

The Water Project (thewaterproject.org)
Charity: Water (charitywater.org)
Water.org (water.org)
The World Bank (worldbank.org)
Shoeman Water Projects (shoemanwater.org)
African Water Facility (africanwaterfacility.org)
Water Wells For Africa (waterwellsforafrica.org)
Africa Heartwood Project (africaheartwoodproject.org)
World Vision (worldvision.org)
Water Aid (wateraid.org)
Water for Life (un.org)

But whichever organization you choose, please first check its transparency and effectiveness:

Charity Navigator (charitynavigator.org) Charity Check (charitycheck101.org) Charity Choices (charitychoices.com)

# Recent Works by Secretary Michael

### Jo Puma - Wild Choir Music

Collection of 36 traditional "Sacred Harp" arrangements with new secular lyrics for our diverse society. This collection has removed the 3 barriers that have kept this music out of our schools: inappropriate lyrics, poor shape-note legibility, and nonstandard use of standard solfege names. Now we all have a chance to experience this exciting early American music. (Book available; check for free download: www.machinistsunion.org/works. html)

### Secular Hymnal

Collection of 144 favorite hymn tunes from around the world. The hymn tunes have been re-notated and given thoughtful egalitarian lyrics that promote peace. Many public schools use them for choral sight-reading practice. Available in both unison/guitar and SATB choir editions. Now we all have a chance to share in these musical treasures. (Books available; check for free download: www.machinistsunion.org/works.html)

#### **Twimfina**

A peace-themed musical play for singing groups of all ages. The story is about a young woman named "Twimfina" (an acronym for "The World Is My Family, I'm Not Afraid") who runs off to a hostile country. It is scored for voice and piano. The play is divided into 21 segments, many of which can stand alone. This allows an acting group to perform individual segments instead of the entire 2.5 hour play. (Book available; check for free download: www.machinistsunion.org/works.html)

#### **Choral Dialectics**

A "choral dialectic" is a 4-movement choral work (with or without instruments) in which a rational argument is battled-out musically. There's only one rule: every choral dialectic must use the following four titles for its four movements: "Principle" - "Argument" - "Counterargument" - "Resolution"

Secretary Michael has begun working on a series of 6 choral dialectics, some of which are available now; the rest will become available as they are completed in future years. (Books available; check for free downloads: www. machinistsunion.org/works.html)

### Aren't We the Lucky Ones

A book-length story about a group of college science students who share an understanding that people don't truly have a free will. There are no "good people" or "bad people", just lucky and unlucky ones. This insight carries with it the responsibility to protect the "unlucky" from the wrath of the "lucky". The students form a community in order to live out their ideals. (Book available - both paperback and digital).

### Joy of Piggyback Songs

Dozens of fun, short choral works in which more than one melody is sung at the same time. Book (and free internet download) will become available after it is completed.

"Please help create public choirs that are free from religious and nationalistic content so that all singers feel welcome."