

A Present From a Small Distant World

SATB choir a cappella

Music by Alex Eddington

Text by Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter
from the Voyager Spacecraft "Golden Record"

ca. 5:00

We cast this message into the cosmos. It is likely to survive a billion years into our future, when our civilization is profoundly altered and the surface of the Earth may be vastly changed. Of the 200 billion stars in the Milky Way galaxy, some -- perhaps many -- may have inhabited planets and spacefaring civilizations. If one such civilization intercepts Voyager and can understand these recorded contents, here is our message:

This is a present from a small distant world, a token of our sounds, our science, our images, our music, our thoughts, and our feelings. We are attempting to survive our time so we may live into yours. We hope someday, having solved the problems we face, to join a community of galactic civilizations. This record represents our hope and our determination, and our good will in a vast and awesome universe.

A Present From a Small Distant World

Text: Jimmy Carter, 39th President of the United States (Included on the "Golden Record" launched on the Voyager spacecraft, 1977)

Music: Alex Eddington (2019)

Repeat independently, with precise rhythm, in your own tempo. Singers should pause c. 2-3 seconds between each repetition.

ca. 10"

Independent tempo (♩ = 60-80)

Stagger entries

1 *p* Per a - spe - ra ad as - tra.* *pp*

Alto

2 *p* Per as - pe - ra ad as - tra.* *pp*

* "Through hardship to the stars"

This morse code inscription appears on the "Golden Record" aboard the Voyager 1 and 2 spacecraft, both launched in the summer of 1977 and now travelling out beyond the outer reaches of our solar system.

A **Poco rubato** ♩ = 56

1

A.

2

B.

p We cast this mes - sage We cast this mes - sage in - to the

Pno

p

Singers change material at their next repetition (effect is staggered change)

B

p
1. Per as - pe - ra ad as - tra.

mp
T. It is like - ly to sur - vive a
mp
B. Cos - mos. It is like - ly to sur - vive a

Pno

cresc. poco a poco

1. Per a - spe - - ra ad as - tra. *cresc. poco a poco*

mp
T. bil - lion years a
mp
B. bil - lion years a

Pno

C

mf

1. *Per as - pe - ra ad as - tra.*

A. *Singers change material at their next repetition (effect is staggered change)*

2. *mf*
Per a - spe - ra ad as - tra.

T. *f*
bil - lion years__ in - to our fu - ture,

B. *f*
bil - lion years__ in - to our fu - ture,

Pno *f*

1. *Gradually becoming whispered*

A.

2.

T. *mp* *f*
in - to our fu - ture, when our ci - vi - li - za - tion

B. *mp* *f*
in - to our fu - ture, when our ci - vi - li - za - tion

Pno *mp* *f*

(pp) whisper

S. Per as - pe - ra ad as - tra.

(pp) whisper

A. Per a - spe - ra ad as - tra.

T. is pro - - found - - ly al - tered

B. is pro - - found - - ly al - tered

Pno

D

S.

A.

mp and the sur - face of the Earth and the sur - face of the Earth may be vast - ly

p

T.

mp and the sur - face of the Earth and the sur - face of the Earth may be vast - ly

p

B.

mp

Pno

E Independent tempo ♩ = 72-100

ca. 7"

S. *Singers drop out one by one*

A.

T. *Repeat independently (including dynamics) with precise rhythm, in your own tempo. Singers should pause c. 1-2 seconds between each repetition.*

B. *Repeat independently (including dynamics) with precise rhythm, in your own tempo. Singers should pause c. 1-2 seconds between each repetition.*

Pno

pp changed. *mp* Per a - spe - ra ad as - tra. *pp*

pp changed. *mp* Per as - pe - ra ad as - tra. *pp*

pp

F Steadily ♩ = 96

1. *mp* Of the two hun - dred bil - lion stars, of the Mil - ky Way

2. *mp* Of the two hun - dred bil - lion stars of the Mil - ky Way ga - la - xy,

T.

B.

Pno *mp*

1 *mf*
ga - la - xy, some, per - haps ma - ny, may may _____

2 *mf*
some, per - haps ma - ny, may may have in - ha - bi - ted

T. *p muttering* *cresc. and accel. molto*
May have in - ha - bi - ted

B. *p muttering* *cresc. and accel. molto*
in - ha - bi - ted pla - nets

Pno *mf*

C# = Db *f*

1 _____ have in - ha - bi - ted pla - nets and space - fa - ring ci - vi - li - za - tions. _____

2 *f*
pla - nets may have pla - nets and space - fa - ring ci - vi - li - za - tions. _____

T. *(f)*

B. *(f)*

Pno C# = Db *f*

G

mp

S. If one such ci - vi - li - za - tion in - ter - cepts

mp

A. If one such ci - vi - li - za - tion in - ter - cepts

mp

T. ci - vi - li - za - tion

mp

B. If one such ci - vi - li - za - tion in - ter - cepts

mp

Pno

S. Vo - ya - ger and can un - der - stand these re - cor - ded con - tents,

A. Vo - ya - ger and can un - der - stand these re - cor - ded con - tents,

T. Vo - ya - ger and can un - der - stand these re - cor - ded con - tents,

B. Vo - ya - ger and can un - der - stand these re - cor - ded con - tents,

Pno

H accelerando poco a poco.....

S. here is our_

A. *p* *cresc. poco a poco*
here is our_ mes - sage:

T. *p* *cresc. poco a poco* *mp* *cresc. poco a poco*
here is our_ message: here is our_ mes - sage: here is our

Pno *p* *cresc. poco a poco*

S. mes - sage: here is our_ mes - sage: here is our_

A. here is our_ mes - sage: here is our_ mes - sage:

T. mes - sage: here is our_ mes - sage: here is our

B. *mp* *cresc. poco a poco*
here is our_ mes - sage: here is our_ mes - sage:

Pno

.....♩ = 126

f

S. mes - sage: here is our_ here is our_ mes - sage:

f

A. here is our_ here is our_ here is our mes - sage:

f

T. _ mes - sage: mes - sage: here is our here is our_ mes - sage:

f

B. here is our_ mes - sage: here is our mes - sage:

Pno

I Declarative ♩ = 108

ff

S. This is a pre - sent from a small dis - tant world, a to - ken of our sounds, our

ff *mf*

A. This is a pre - sent from a small dis - tant world, a to - ken of our sounds, our

ff *mf*

T. This is a pre - sent from a small dis - tant world, a to - ken of our sounds, our

ff *mf*

B. This is a pre - sent from a small dis - tant world, a to - ken of our sounds, our

Pno

poco rit. *p* **J** a tempo

S. sci - ence, our i - ma - ges, our mu - sic, our thoughts, our fee - lings. We are at -

A. sci - ence, our i - ma - ges, our mu - sic, our thoughts, our fee - lings. We are at -

T. sci - ence, our i - ma - ges, our mu - sic, our thoughts, our fee - lings. We are at -

B. sci - ence, our i - ma - ges, our mu - sic, our thoughts, our fee - lings. We are at -

Pno

mf *p* *mf*

S. -temp - ting to sur - vive our time so we may live in - to yours. We hope

A. -temp - ting to sur - vive our time so we may live in - to yours. We hope

T. -temp - ting to sur - vive our time so we may live in - to yours.

B. -temp - ting to sur - vive our time so we may live in - to yours.

Pno

K **T/B: Independent tempo** $\text{♩} = \text{c. } 60\text{--}80$

p *mf* *dim. poco a poco*

S. some - day, We hope some - day, ha - ving solved the prob - lems

A. some - day, We hope some - day, ha - ving solved the prob - lems

*Repeat independently with precise rhythm, in your own tempo.
Singers should pause c. 2-3 seconds between each repetition.
Each repetition is slightly slower.*

T. *p*
Per a - spe - ra ad as - tra.

B. *p*
Per as - pe - ra ad as - tra.

Pno *p* *mf* *dim. poco a poco*

S. *p*
that we face, to join a com - mu - ni - ty of ga - lac - tic ci - vi - li - za - tions.

A. that we face,

T. *Singers decelerate each repetition, then drop out one by one.*

B.

Pno *p*

*Spoken on pitch, natural speech rhythm, each singer at their own pace.
Stagger entries.*

ca. 20"

pp

S. This record represents our hope and our determination,
and our good will in a vast and awesome universe.

pp

A. This record represents our hope and our determination,
and our good will in a vast and awesome universe.

pp

T. This record represents our hope and our determination,
and our good will in a vast and awesome universe.

pp

B. This record represents our hope and our determination,
and our good will in a vast and awesome universe.

pp

Pno

Duration: ca. 5:00