

# The Four Elements

*for SATB voices*

by Kirsten Johnson

The Fire, Air, Earth and water did contest  
Which was the strongest, noblest and the best,  
Who was of greatest use and might'est force;  
In placide Terms they thought now to discourse,  
That in due order each her turn should speak;  
But enmity this amity did break  
All would be chief, and all scorn'd to be under  
Whence issu'd winds & rains, lightning & thunder  
The quaking earth did groan, the Sky lookt black  
The Fire, the forced Air, in sunder crack;  
The sea did threat the heav'ns, the heav'n's the earth,  
All looked like a Chaos or new birth:  
Fire broyled Earth, & scorched Earth it choaked  
Both by their darings, water so provoked  
That roaring in it came, and with its source  
Soon made the Combatants abate their force  
The rumbling hissing, puffing was so great  
The worlds confusion, it did seem to threat  
Till gentle Air, Contention so abated  
That betwixt hot and cold, she arbitrated  
The others difference, being less did cease  
All storms now laid, and they in perfect peace  
That Fire should first begin, the rest consent,  
The noblest and most active Element.

by Anne Bradstreet (1612 - 1672)

# The Four Elements

Anne Bradstreet  
(1612-1672)

Kirsten Johnson

**Broadly** ♩ = 72

SOPRANO *f* < *mp*  
The fire, the fire, the fire, the fire, the fire, k k k

ALTO *f* < *mp*  
The fire, the fire, the fire, the fire, the fire, k k

TENOR *f* < *mp*  
The fire, the fire, the fire, the fire, the fire, k k k

BASS *f* < *mp*  
The fire, the fire, the fire, the fire, the fire, k k k k k k

6 **Slower** ♩ = 60

*mp* Blow with pursed lips (unpitched)  
k k k k k k k k Air

Blow with full cheeks (unpitched) *mp*  
k k k k k k k k Air

Blow with pursed lips (unpitched) *mp* *f* < >  
k k k k k k k k Air Earth and

Blow with full cheeks (unpitched) *f* < >  
k k k k k k k k k Earth and

11

*p* (whole-tone) 6 6  
Ah

*p* (whole-tone) 6 6  
Ah Wa - - ter,

*p*  
wa - - - ter, wa - - - ter.

12

(whole-tone) *p* 6 6 6 6 6 6 *keep soft* 6  
Ah

Wa - - - ter, wa - - - ter, ah (whole-tone) *keep soft* 6

Wa - - - ter, wa - - - ter, wa - - - ter, wa - *keep soft* 3

Wa - - - ter, wa - - - ter, wa - *keep soft* 3

14 **In one** ♩ = 46

*mf* Did con- test, which was the stron- gest nob- lest and best;

*mf* Did con- test, which was the stron- gest nob- lest and best;

*mf* ter. Did con- test, which was the stron- gest nob- lest and best;

*mf* ter. Did con- test, which was the stron- gest nob- lest and best;

21 *cresc.* *ff* *mf*

Who was of great - est use and might' - est force! In pla - cid terms they

*cresc.* *ff* *mp*

Who was of great - est use and might' - est force! ooh

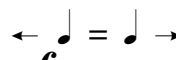
*cresc.* *ff* *mp*

Who was of great - est use and might' - est force! ooh

*cresc.* *ff* *mp*

Who was of great - est use and might' - est force! ooh

29



thought to dis-course, that in due or-der each her turn should speak.\_\_\_\_ But *f*

\_\_\_\_\_ aah \_\_\_\_\_ But *f*

\_\_\_\_\_ aah \_\_\_\_\_ But *f*

\_\_\_\_\_ aah \_\_\_\_\_ But *f*

36

en - mi-ty this am - i - ty did break; All would be chief, and all scorn'd to be

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en - mi-ty this am - i - ty did break; All would be chief, and all scorn'd to be

## Give space ♩ = 72

43

*mf* (whole-tone)

un der.\_\_\_\_ ooh\_\_\_\_\_

*f*

un der.\_\_\_\_ Whence issu' d winds\_\_\_\_\_ winds\_\_\_\_\_

*mf* (whole-tone)

un der.\_\_\_\_ ooh\_\_\_\_\_

*f*

un der.\_\_\_\_ Whence issu' d winds\_\_\_\_\_ winds\_\_\_\_\_

48

*mf*

rain, light' ning and

Blow through loose cheeks, no pitch *f* *port.* *ff*

winds,\_\_\_\_ puh, ta, puh, ta, [etc] *f* *port.* *ff*

rain, Clap softly with hollow hands *f* *port.* *ff*

winds\_\_\_\_\_ *f* *port.* *ff*

and

## Faster ♩ = 100

52 Stamp feet Stamp feet

thun - der!

Stamp feet Stamp feet

thun - der!

Stamp feet *mf*

thun - der! The quak - ing earth did groan, the

Stamp feet *mf*

thun - der! The quak - ing earth did groan\_ the

*Dort.*

55 Blow with full cheeks (unpitched) *mf* Continues on....

the fire, the forced air, in sun - der

Blow with full cheeks (unpitched) *mf*

the fire, the forced air, in sun - der

Blow through cupped hands (unpitched vocalisation)

sky lookt black, Whoosh, whoosh Whoosh, whoosh kuh, kuh, kuh, kuh [etc.]

Blow through cupped hands (unpitched vocalisation)

sky lookt black, Whoosh, whoosh Whoosh, whoosh kuh, kuh, kuh, kuh [etc.]