

About the Work

Earth's Elegy is a tone-poem that depicts the progression of the Earth as humanity steps foot onto its soil. It vividly shows how Earth was before humans and how humans have destroyed the natural environment. Towards the end of the piece, there is a somber, melancholy recitation of Emily Pauline Johnson's poem "Fire-Flowers", which is a poem of death and longing, but also a poem of life and hope. The piece concludes with a joyful re-statement of the main theme, which shows that even though there is still lots to be done to fix what humanity has destroyed, there is progress being made.

Text

"Fire-Flowers" *Emily Pauline Johnson*

And only where the forest fires have
 sped,
Scorching relentlessly the cool north
 lands,
A sweet wild flower lifts its purple head,
And, like some gentle spirit sorrow-fed,
 It hides the scars with almost human
 hands.

And only to the heart that knows of
grief,
 Of desolating fire, of human pain,
There comes some purifying sweet
 belief,
Some fellow-feeling beautiful, if brief.
And life revives, and blossoms once
 again.