



Commissioned by Sister Singers Network and premiered on July 26, 2014

# LINEAGE

Words by  
Margaret Walker

SSA a cappella and percussion\*

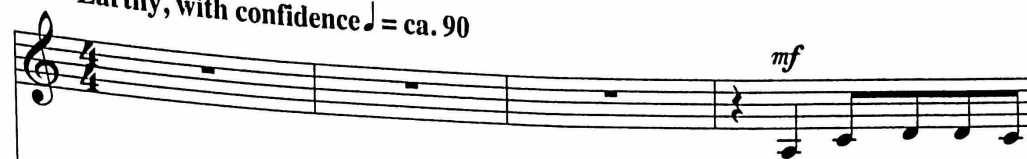
Music by  
Andrea Ramsey

Tutti Unison  
Voices

Sandpaper Blocks  
or Cabasa

High Drum  
Low Drum

Earthy, with confidence ♩ = ca. 90

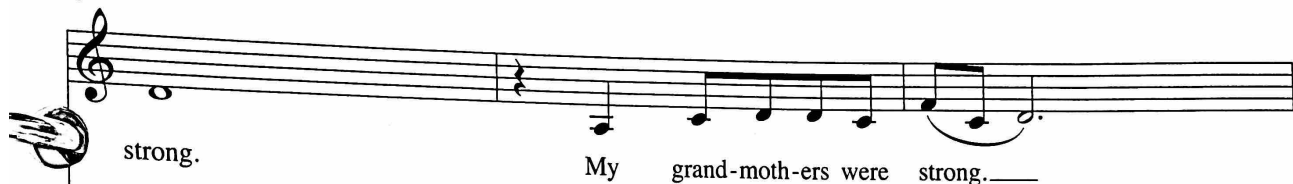


Earthy, with confidence ♩ = ca. 90

My grand-moth-ers were



5

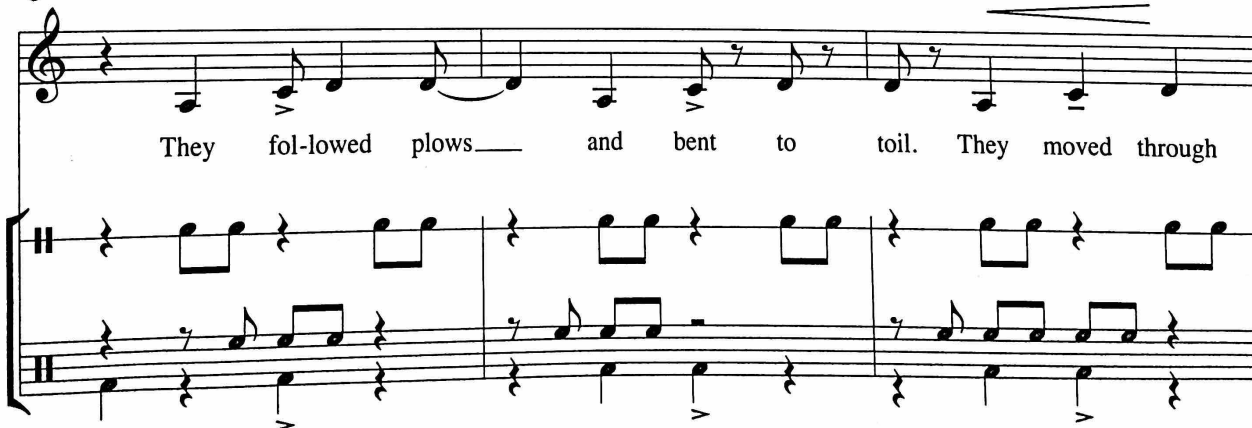


strong.

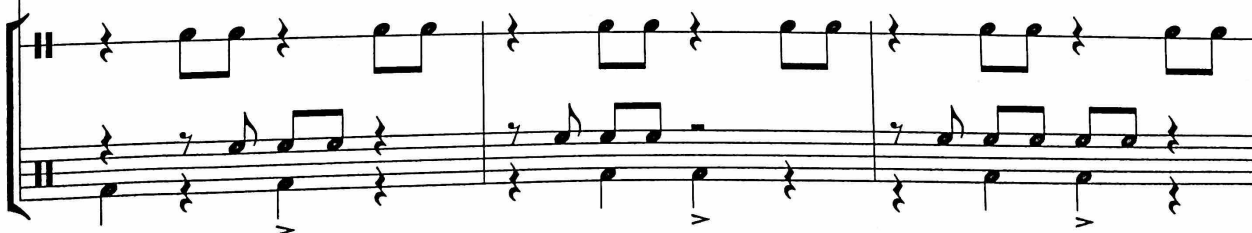
My grand-moth-ers were strong.\_\_\_\_



8



They fol-lowed plows\_\_\_\_ and bent to toil. They moved through



\* Percussion parts are included on pages 14-16.



"Lineage" from *This is My Century: New and Collected Poems*.

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Loose Company

11

*mp* My grand-moth-ers were

fields— sow - ing seed.

*mp* My grand-moth-ers were

fields— sow - ing seed.

*mp* My grand-moth-ers were

fields— sow - ing seed.

14

*p* strong. My grand-moth-ers were strong.

*p* strong. My grand-moth-ers were strong.

*mf* strong. Hm *mp* Hm

17

*f* They touched the earth\_\_\_\_\_ and grain

*f* They touched the earth\_\_\_\_\_ and grain

*f* They touched the earth and grain

*p* *mf*

*fz* *fz* *fz*

20

grew. They touched the earth\_\_\_\_\_

grew. They touched the earth\_\_\_\_\_

grew. They touched the earth\_\_\_\_\_

*p* *mf* *p*

*p* *mf* *fz* *fz*

23 *mp*

and grain— grew—

*mp*

and grain— grew—

*mp*

and grain— grew—

*mf*

*p*

*fz*

*p*

26 *mf* a mournful distant cry

Ooh—

*mf*

My grand-moth-ers were strong. My grand-moth-ers were

*mf*

My grand-moth-ers were strong. My grand-moth-ers were

*mf*

*ff*

29

Ooh \_\_\_\_\_

strong. \_\_\_\_\_

strong. \_\_\_\_\_

*mp* and

*f* They were full of stur-di-ness and

*f* They were full of stur-di-ness and

*mp*

32

*mf* sing - ing, - sing - ing, - sing - ing, -

*cresc. poco a poco* sing - ing, - sing - ing, - sing - ing, -

*mf* sing - ing, - sing - ing, - *f* sing - ing, -

35 *cresc. poco a poco* *rit.* *ff*

sing - ing, sing - ing, sing - ing, sing - ing.

sing - ing, sing - ing, sing - ing, sing - ing.

sing - ing, sing - ing, sing - ing, sing - ing.

sing - ing, sing - ing, sing - ing, sing - ing.

*p* *rit.* *mf*

38 *molto rit.* *mf* a distant wail

Ooh, Ooh, oo

*mp* *molto rit.*

My grand-moth - ers are strong.

*mp* *molto rit.*

My grand-moth - ers are strong.

*molto rit.*

42 *Slightly slower* ♩ = ca. 78 *mf* 9

My grand-moth-ers are full of mem - 'ries.

My grand-moth-ers are full of mem - 'ries.

My grand-moth-ers are full of mem - 'ries.

*Slightly slower* ♩ = ca. 78

45 *f*

My grand-moth - ers are full of mem - o - ries, -

My grand-moth - ers are full of mem - o - ries, -

My grand-moth - ers are full of mem - o - ries, -

48 *mf* Smell-ing of soap and on - ions, and

*mf* Smell-ing of soap and on - ions, and

*mf* Smell-ing of soap and on - ions, and

*f*



51 wet clay, With veins roll-ing rough-ly o - ver

wet clay, With veins roll-ing rough-ly o - ver

wet clay, With veins roll-ing rough-ly o - ver





54

quick hands They have man - y clean words\_ to say. *mf* *rit.* *f* They have

quick hands They have man - y clean words\_ to say. *mf* *rit.* *f* They have

quick hands They have man - y clean words\_ to say. *mf* *rit.* *f* They have

57

man - y clean words\_ to say. *f* *Tempo primo* ♩ = ca. 90

man - y clean words\_ to say. *f*

man - y clean words\_ to say. *f*

*Tempo primo* ♩ = ca. 90

60 *mp* My grand-moth-ers were strong. *p* My grand-moth-ers were

*mp* My grand-moth-ers were strong. *p* My grand-moth-ers were

*mp* My grand-moth-ers were strong. Hm

*ff* *p* *ff* *p*

63 strong. My grand-moth-ers were strong.

strong. My grand-moth-ers were strong.

*p* Hm *p* Hm

66

Why am I not as

Why am I not as

*f* *mp* *f* *mp* *mf* *ff*

70

they? Hmm

they? Hmm

they? Hmm

*sfz* *sfz* *sfz* *p* *mf* *mp*