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The Four Elements

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# The Four Elements

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

**f** <

SOPRANO  
The fire, the fire, the fire, the fire, the

ALTO  
The fire, the fire, the fire, the fire, the

TENOR  
The fire, the fire, the fire, the fire, the

BASS  
The fire, the fire, the fire, the fire, the

5 **mp** *port.* Blow with pursed lips (unpitched) **mp**  
fire, k k k k k k k k k k Air

**mp** *port.* Blow with full cheeks (unpitched) **mp**  
fire, k k k k k k k k k k Air

**mp** *port.* Blow with pursed lips (unpitched) **mp**  
fire, k k k k k k k k k k Air

**mp** Blow with full cheeks (unpitched)  
fire, k

10 Slower ♩ = 60

Musical score for measures 10-11. The score is in treble and bass clefs with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). Measure 10 features a vocal line with lyrics "Earth and Ah" and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line has a dynamic marking of *f* and a slur over the notes. The piano accompaniment has a dynamic marking of *p* and a slur over the notes. Measure 11 features a vocal line with lyrics "Wa - ter," and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line has a dynamic marking of *p* and a slur over the notes. The piano accompaniment has a dynamic marking of *p* and a slur over the notes. The lyrics are: "Earth and Ah Wa - ter, Earth and wa - ter, wa - ter."

Musical score for measures 12-15. The score is in treble and bass clefs with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). Measure 12 features a vocal line with lyrics "Ah" and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line has a dynamic marking of *p* and a slur over the notes. The piano accompaniment has a dynamic marking of *p* and a slur over the notes. Measure 13 features a vocal line with lyrics "Wa - - - - ter," and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line has a dynamic marking of *p* and a slur over the notes. The piano accompaniment has a dynamic marking of *p* and a slur over the notes. Measure 14 features a vocal line with lyrics "Wa - - - - ter," and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line has a dynamic marking of *p* and a slur over the notes. The piano accompaniment has a dynamic marking of *p* and a slur over the notes. Measure 15 features a vocal line with lyrics "Wa - - - - ter," and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line has a dynamic marking of *p* and a slur over the notes. The piano accompaniment has a dynamic marking of *p* and a slur over the notes. The lyrics are: "Ah Wa - - - - ter, Wa - - - - ter, Wa - - - - ter."

In one  $\text{♩} = 46$

13 *keep soft* *mf*

Did con- test,

wa - ter, ah Did con- test,

wa - ter, wa - ter, wa - ter. Did con- test,

Wa - ter, wa - ter, wa - ter. Did con- test,

17 *cresc.*

which was the stron- gest nob- lest and best; Who was of great - est use and

which was the stron- gest nob- lest and best; Who was of great - est use and

which was the stron- gest nob- lest and best; Who was of great - est use and

which was the stron- gest nob- lest and best; Who was of great - est use and

24

*ff* *mf*

might' -est force!\_\_\_ In pla - cid terms they thought to dis course, that in due

*ff* *mp*

might' -est force!\_\_\_ ooh\_\_\_\_\_ aah\_\_\_\_\_

*ff* *mp*

might' -est force!\_\_\_ ooh\_\_\_\_\_ aah\_\_\_\_\_

*ff* *mp*

might' -est force!\_\_\_ ooh\_\_\_\_\_ aah\_\_\_\_\_

32

*f*

← ♩ = ♩ →

or - der each her turn should speak.\_\_\_ But en - mi - ty this am - i - ty did

*f*

But en - mi - ty this am - i - ty did

*f*

But en - mi - ty this am - i - ty did

*f*

But en - mi - ty this am - i - ty did

38

break; All would be chief, and all scorn'd to be un der.\_\_\_\_

break; All would be chief, and all scorn'd to be un der.\_\_\_\_

break; All would be chief, and all scorn'd to be un der.\_\_\_\_

break; All would be chief, and all scorn'd to be un der.\_\_\_\_

Give space ♩ = 72

45

*mf* (whole-tone)  
ooh

*f*  
Whence issu'd winds winds winds,

*mf* (whole-tone)  
ooh

*f*  
Whence issu'd winds winds winds

49

*mf* rain, *f* light' ning and *ff*

Blow through loose cheeks, no pitch *f* and *ff*

puh, ta, puh, ta, [etc] and

*mf* rain, and

Clap softly with hollow hands *f* and *ff*

and

52

**Faster ♩ = 100**

Stamp feet thun - der!

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



55 Blow with full cheeks (unpitched) *mf*

the fire, the forced air, in

Blow with full cheeks (unpitched) *mf*

the fire, the forced air, in

Blow through cupped hands

sky lookt black, Whoosh, whoosh Whoosh, whoosh

Blow through cupped hands

sky lookt black, Whoosh, whoosh Whoosh, whoosh

59

sun - der crack;

sun - der crack; *mf* The sea did threat the heav' - ns, the

(unpitched vocalisation) Loud handclap *mf*

kuh, kuh, kuh, kuh [etc.] The sea did threat the heav' -

(unpitched vocalisation) Loud handclap *mf*

kuh, kuh, kuh, kuh [etc.] The sea did threat the

63

All looked like a Cha - os or new birth.  
 heav' - ns the earth All looked like a Cha - os or new birth.  
 ns, the heav'ns, the earth. All looked like a Cha - os or new birth.  
 heav' ns, earth. All looked like a Cha - os or new birth.

68

Fire broyled fire, and scorched earth it choaked. and scorched earth it  
 Fire broyled fire, and scorched earth it choaked. and scorched earth it  
 Fire broyled fire, and scorched earth it choaked. and scorched earth it  
 Fire broyled fire, and scorched earth it choaked. and scorched earth it  
 Fire broyled fire, and scorched earth it choaked. and scorched earth it

Still faster  $\text{♩} = 60$

73

choaked! Both by their dar - ings wa - ter so provoked, that roar - ing in it came and

choaked! Both by their dar - ings wa - ter so provoked, that roar - ing in it came and

choaked! Both by their dar - ings wa - ter so provoked, that roar - ing in it came and

choaked! Both by their dar - ings wa - ter so provoked, that roar - ing in it came and

80

with its source, soon made the com - bat - ants a - bate their force!

with its source, soon made the com - bat - ants a - bate their force!

with its source, soon made the com - bat - ants a - bate their force!

with its source, soon made the com - bat - ants a - bate their force!

86

Stamp feet *mp* gradually cresc. *mf* continue cresc.

The rumb-ling, hiss - ing, puff - ing, was so great, the

Stamp feet *mp* gradually cresc. *mf* continue cresc.

The rumb-ling, hiss - ing, puff - ing, was so great, the

Stamp feet *mp* gradually cresc. *mf* continue cresc.

The rumb-ling, hiss - ing, puff - ing, was so great, the

Stamp feet *mp* gradually cresc. *mf* continue cresc.

The rumb-ling, hiss - ing, puff - ing, was so great, the

90

*ff* *mp* Slower ♩ = 100

worlds con - fus - ion it did seem to threat! Till gen - tle air, con-

*ff* *mp*

worlds con - fus - ion it did seem to threat! Till gen - tle air, con-

*ff* *mp*

worlds con - fus - ion it did seem to threat! Till gen - tle air, con-

*ff* *mp*

worlds con - fus - ion it did seem to threat! Till gen - tle air, con-

95

ten-tion so a - bat-ed, that be twixt hot and cold, she ar - bi - tra ted. The oth - ers

ten-tion so a - bat-ed, that be twixt hot and cold, she ar - bi - tra ted. The oth - ers

ten-tion so a - bat-ed, that be twixt hot and cold, she ar - bi - tra ted. The oth - ers

ten-tion so a - bat-ed, that be twixt hot and cold, she ar - bi - tra ted. The oth - ers

102

diff' rence be-ing less did cease all storms now laid\_ and they in per - fect

diff' rence be-ing less did cease, all storms now laid\_ and they in per - fect

diff' rence be-ing less did cease, all storms now laid\_ and they in per - fect

diff' rence be-ing less did cease, all storms now laid\_ and they in per - fect

108

peace, and they in per - fect peace, and they in per - fect peace. That  
 peace, and they in per - fect peace, and they in per - fect peace. That  
 peace, and they in per - fect peace, and they in per - fect peace. That  
 peace, and they in per - fect peace, and they in per - fect peace. That

115 **Broadly** ♩ = 72

fire should first be - gin, the rest, con - sent! The  
 fire should first be - gin, the rest, con - sent! The  
 fire should first be - gin, the rest, con - sent! The  
 fire should first be - gin, the rest, con - sent! The

119

nob-lest and most ac-tive el - e - ment. Fire, the Fire!\_\_\_\_\_

nob-lest and most ac-tive el - e - ment. Fire, the Fire!\_\_\_\_\_

nob-lest and most ac-tive el - e - ment. Fire, the Fire!\_\_\_\_\_

nob-lest and most ac-tive el - e - ment. Fire, the Fire!\_\_\_\_\_

*Freely* *ff*

*ff*

*ff*

*ff*