

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

LINEAGE

SSA a cappella and percussion*

Words by
Margaret Walker

Music by
Andrea Ramsey

Earthy, with confidence ♩ = ca. 90

Tutti Unison
Voices

My grand-moth-ers were

Sandpaper Blocks
or Cabasa

Earthy, with confidence ♩ = ca. 90

High Drum
Low Drum

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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11

mp

fields sow - ing seed. My grand-moth-ers were

mp

fields sow - ing seed. My grand-moth-ers were

mp

fields sow - ing seed. My grand-moth-ers were

14

p

strong. My grand-moth-ers were strong.

p

strong. My grand-moth-ers were strong.

mf

mp

strong. Hm 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*

20 grew. They touched the earth

grew. They touched the earth

grew. They touched the earth

p *mf* *p* *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 _____ and

strong. _____ They were full of stur-di-ness and

strong. _____ They were full of stur-di-ness and

32

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

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

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

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

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

rit. *ff*

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

f *rit.* *ff*

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

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.

molto rit.

Slightly slower ♩ = ca. 78

42

mf

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

mf

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

mf

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

Slightly slower ♩ = ca. 78

mp

mp

45

f

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

f

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

f

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

mf

mf

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. They have

quick hands They have man-y clean words_ to say. They have

quick hands They have man-y clean words_ to say. They have

57

Tempo primo ♩ = ca. 90

man - y clean words_ to say.

man - y clean words_ to say.

man - y clean words_ to say.

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

63

strong. My grand-moth - ers were strong.

strong. My grand-moth - ers were strong.

p Hm *p* Hm

66

f *mp*

Why am I not as

f *mp*

Why am I not as

mf *ff*

mf *ff*

70

sfz

Hmm

sfz

they? Hmm

sfz

they? Hmm

p *mf*

mp