

# O're Every Living Thing

Sam Guarnaccia  
Composer

For Choir, Voice  
String Quartet  
Flute/Oboe  
Optional: Piano accompaniment--  
Full Orchestration

For the 2017 World Union of Jesuit Alumni  
World Congress, Cleveland

## Notes from the composer: Sam Guarnaccia

It was an honor and great pleasure to be asked to compose a 'reflection song' for the 2017 World Union of Jesuit Alumni World Congress, 2017, Cleveland. The honor, and *challenge*, was to create a musical expression that could contain the depth and power of St. Ignatius founding vision, and the revolutionary scientific understanding—and mystical vision of the great Jesuit scientist-priest Pierre Teilhard de Chardin. To ground a great faith tradition in the phenomenal discoveries of 20<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> century cosmology—the cosmology of an evolving universe alive with unbounded creativity, in a few words from a 16<sup>th</sup> century soldier priest, and a 20<sup>th</sup> century spiritual and scientific visionary, is both an 'act of faith', and an exercise of supreme reason.

The seemingly endless debates between 'faith and reason', religion and science, are evocatively expressed in Albert Einstein's famous "Science without religion is lame, religion without science is blind"—an epithet that has generated its own generations of debate. The other great 20<sup>th</sup> century Jesuit scientist priest Georges Lemaitre, who corrected both Einstein and Pope Pius XII, the former for doubting the expansion of the Universe, and the latter for likening the Big Bang to God's initial act of creation, received public apologies from both, and was in turn a tremendous influence on the thinking of Teilhard. Now Pope Francis has called for a worldwide 'ecological conversion', to include ALL people. Himself a Jesuit scientist-priest, Pope Francis in *Laudato Si'* has given the world a call to deep scientific understanding, passionate faith, and the assumption of global responsibility for humanities' 'respect and care for the Earth' (Earth Charter), in the spirit of both Ignatius and Teilhard. It is an immeasurable gift that through reason, we may experience the magnificence of the knowable, and through 'faith' the unimaginable mysteries of the un-knowable.

Lyrics taken from Teilhard de Chardin's 'Mass on the World', and from words of St. Ignatius of Loyola, are embraced in a musical setting with the challenge that it be 'versatile', easily used by children, youth or adults in simple, intimate, personal settings, and expandable for use in experienced choral, instrumental, liturgical or concert settings.

'O'er Every Living Thing', with words primarily from Teilhard's 'Mass on the World', itself a part of his 'Hymn of the Universe', is a phrase that celebrates the sacredness of *every* element of 'the creation', and that the 'communion' is extended to every part of the Universe. Ignatius' understanding that the world is 'our house', and that our 'memory' and 'liberty' are keystones of human freedom and responsibility, are stunning and transformational concepts. This mode of celebration is both profoundly scientific, aligned completely with relativity and quantum gravity theories—and profoundly 'spiritual' in reverencing the entire creation.

The decision for the refrain 'Lord, Make us one' to be finally restated: 'May We be One', is acknowledgement that we are asked to participate knowingly, fully, and responsibly in becoming ONE with each other, the Earth, and the greater whole.

This musical gift to the 2017 WUJA Congress evolved as the emergent/evolving universal cosmology became part of, and aligned with the Congress' theme of Uniting Jesuit Frontiers.

May this music and these words deeply inform, motivate, and bless all who hear and sing them, and become part of a new and universal frontier of love.

Sam Guarnaccia

# O'er Every Living Thing

A Communion Reflection

WUJA 2017 World Congress

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Teilhard de Chardin--Ignatius of Loyola

Sam Guarnaccia

♩ = 66

Voice

Piano-Basic

2 3 4 5 This

C C/E Am Em Em/D C D G G/B

**A tempo**

Voice

Pno.

6 all em-brac-ing 7 host, This bread our 8 toil, This wine our 9 pain. The

**A tempo**

Em Bm/D Em G Bm G/B Bm

**A**

Voice

Pno.

10 whole Earth is my 11 al - tar, The world our 12 house, Our lib - er - ty. The

Em Bm/D Em G Bm G Bm Bm/D

**B**

Voice

Pno.

14 Earth a-wakes and trem-bles 15 - 16 - 17 - 18 Rad-iant Word, 19 blaz-ing Power,

C C/E Em Am Am F/A Am

*mf* *f*

V.S.

**rall.** **A tempo**

**mp** **p** **mp** **p** **mp** **C**

Voice 20 Lord Make Us 21 One. 22 This One. 23 O'er ev - ry liv-ing 24 thing - 25 Which is to come, To grow, to

**rall.** **A tempo**

Pno. 26 flower. - 27 Say "This is my\_ bo - dy, - 28 This is my blood", 29 My mem-o - ry. 30 The

**mp** **mf** **D**

Pno. 31 Earth a - wakes and 32 trem - bles. 33 34 Rad - iant

**E** **mf**

Voice 35 Word, 36 blaz - ing Power. 37 May We Be 38 One.

**molto rall.** **p**

Pno. 35 36 37 38

**mf** **molto rall.** **p**

Pno. 35 36 37 38

F/A Am G D E

G D/F# Em Em C D Em G Bm G/B

Bm Em Bm/D Em G Bm G Em Em/D

C Am/E Em Am F Am