

THE SKY REMEMBERS

Set by Marques L. A. Garrett for the Master Chorale of South Florida

The sky remembers
It has watched the mangroves stretch
Their fingers
Into saltwater songs

The sky remembers
Its canvas painted with the beating
Of each wing
Each sweeping wing a brushstroke in time
Placed upon the wind

It remembers the gentle curve
Of the heron's neck
And cypress trees breathing in the sunlight
Each cloud holds histories
Before a wondrous, wild world
Was mapped and measured

The sky remembers
And weeps; its tears swell the tide
As the walking trees hold their ground,
Roots deep in memory,
Lifting wordless prayers in green
Toward the warming light

- MAB/Harrison City - May, 2025

A note from the poet...

The Sky Remembers grew out of a reverence for the natural world of South Florida, its wonderful variety of fauna and flora, and the vast, witnessing sky above them all. The poem imagines the sky as a kind of living memory, one that has watched this landscape long before it was "mapped and measured," and that now holds grief alongside wonder as that world changes. I wanted the language to move the way the landscape itself moves, slowly, rooted, yet always reaching. The mangroves, with their tangled roots and arching limbs, became for me a symbol of resilience and quiet prayer: living things that hold their ground not through force, but through depth. My hope is that this text gives the choir - and the audience - a moment to pause inside something ancient, to feel both the beauty of what is and the tenderness of what we are called to protect.

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(Version 2 – longer)

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The sky remembers
The first footprints pressed in mud,
The careful hands that gathered shells
And wove the grass into stories
Before concrete rose like monuments
To a forgotten past

The sky remembers
And weeps; its tears swell the tide
As the walking trees hold their ground,
Roots deep in memory,
Lifting wordless prayers in green
Toward the warming light