

**Diane Thome**

**UNSEEN BUDS**  
for chorus and tape

Commissioned by the Pacific Northwest Chamber Chorus

### Unseen Buds

Unseen buds, infinite, hidden well,  
Under the snow and ice, under the darkness, in every square or cubic inch,  
Germinal, exquisite, in delicate lace, microscopic, unborn,  
Like babes in wombs, latent, folded, compact, sleeping;  
Billions of billions, and trillions of trillions of them waiting,  
(On earth and in the sea--the universe--the stars there in the heavens,)  
Urging slowly, surely forward, forming endless,  
And waiting ever more, forever more behind.

Walt Whitman  
1891

Program Notes  
UNSEEN BUDS  
for Chorus and Tape

Walt Whitman's great poem of conscious evolution -- the phrase "a sea of becoming" constantly came to my mind as I was composing -- was the initial inspiration for this work. My desire to allow the text to be clearly perceivable was a critical influence in determining both the generally slow pace of the composition and its textural transparency. Sounds used in the tape portion were chosen primarily for their affinity with choral sounds and, in some instances, were created through electronic manipulation of choral timbres.

Equipment utilized in processes of digital signal transformation includes Sound Hack software, Deck software for multi-track recording, Sound Designer II by Digidesign, and a Kurzweil 2000 keyboard. I wish to thank Robert Austin who was my collaborator in the production of the tape.

UNSEEN BUDS was commissioned in 1995 by the Pacific Northwest Chamber Chorus with support from the Seattle Arts Commission and Barbara and Elon Lundquist.

Diane Thome



### Unseen Buds

Unseen buds, infinite, hidden well,  
Under the snow and ice, under the darkness, in every square or cubic inch,  
Germinal, exquisite, in delicate lace, microscopic, unborn,  
Like babes in wombs, latent, folded, compact, sleeping;  
Billions of billions, and trillions of trillions of them waiting,  
(On earth and in the sea--the universe--the stars there in the heavens.)  
Urging slowly, surely forward, forming endless,  
And waiting ever more, forever more behind.


Walt Whitman,  
1891

# Unseen Buds

to Robert Strassburg

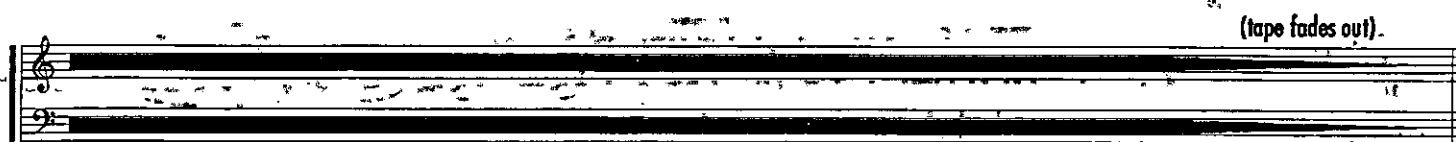
Tape Section I (dur. 36")

TAPE



A musical staff for a tape recording, consisting of two staves (treble and bass clef) with a treble clef on the top staff. The staff is mostly blank, indicating a recording of the tape.

TAPE



(tape fades out)

A musical staff for a tape recording, consisting of two staves (treble and bass clef) with a treble clef on the top staff. The staff is mostly blank, indicating a recording of the tape. The text "(tape fades out)" is written at the end of the staff.

*J=60-66 Quietly, calmly*  
*p non vibrato*

S  
Un seen buds, un seen buds,

A  
Un seen buds, un seen buds,

PNO  
*J=60-66 Quietly, calmly*  
*p*



A musical score for the song "Unseen Buds". It features three staves: Soprano (S), Alto (A), and Piano (PNO). The Soprano and Alto parts have lyrics: "Un seen buds, un seen buds,". The Piano part has a tempo marking of *J=60-66 Quietly, calmly* and a dynamic marking of *p*. The score is in 3/4 time and consists of 6 measures.

\*for rehearsal only

6

S  
un seen un seen buds

A  
un seen un seen buds

T  
*p*  
buds

B  
*p*  
buds

PNO  
6

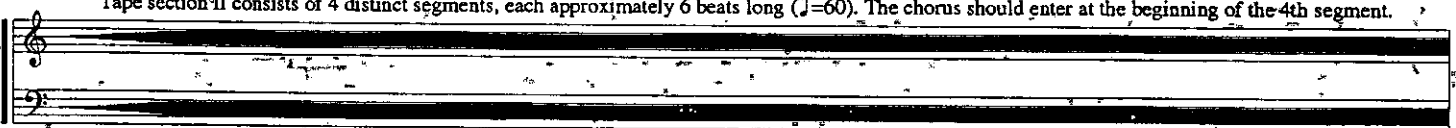


A musical score for the song "Unseen Buds". It features five staves: Soprano (S), Alto (A), Tenor (T), Bass (B), and Piano (PNO). The Soprano and Alto parts have lyrics: "un seen un seen buds". The Tenor and Bass parts have lyrics: "buds". The Piano part has a tempo marking of *J=60-66 Quietly, calmly* and a dynamic marking of *p*. The score is in 3/4 time and consists of 6 measures.

Tape Section II (dur. 64")

Tape section II consists of 4 distinct segments, each approximately 6 beats long ( $J=60$ ). The chorus should enter at the beginning of the 4th segment.

TAPE



A musical staff for a tape recording, consisting of two staves (treble and bass clef) with a treble clef on the top staff. The staff is mostly blank, indicating a recording of the tape.

TAPE

9 (Chorus enters ca. 30")

S in - fi - nite h - id - den well in - fi - nite hid - den well buds

A in - fi - nite h - id - den well in - fi - nite hid - den well buds

T in fi - nite in - fi - nite hid - den well buds

B in - fi - nite in - fi - nite hid - den well buds

PNO

TAPE

(new timbre)

poco sfz

13

S *mf con vibrato* Un - der the snow and ice *mp* un - der the snow and ice

A *mf con vibrato* Un - der the snow and ice *mp* un - der the snow and ice

T *mp* Un - der the snow and ice un - der the snow and ice

B *mp* Un - der the snow and ice un - der the snow and ice

PNO *mf* Un - der the snow and ice *mp* un - der the snow and ice

(tape fades out)

TAPE

17 *mf* *f* *mp*

S hid-den well

A hid-den well in ev-ery square or cu-bic inch

T hid-den well

B hid-den well in ev-ery square or cu-bic inch

PNO *mf* *f* *mp*

Tape Section III (dur. 24")

TAPE

20 *mf* *f* *p* *f*

S in ev-ery cu-bic inch un-der the dark-ness

A in ev-ery cu-bic inch un-der the dark-ness

T in ev-ery cu-bic inch un-der the dark-ness

B in ev-ery cu-bic inch un-der the dark-ness

PNO *mf* *f* *p* *f*

(tape fades out)

TAPE



Solo

Tenor solo *p* Ger - mi - nal ex qui - site

Bass solo *p* Ger - mi - nal ex qui - site

23 *pp magical, mysterious*

S Ger - mi - nal ex - qui - site in del - i - cate lace

A *pp magical, mysterious*

A Ger - mi - nal ex - qui - site in del - i - cate lace

T *pp magical, mysterious*

T Ger - mi - nal ex - qui - site in del - i - cate lace

B *pp magical, mysterious*

B (hum)

23 *pp magical, mysterious*

PNO

Tape Section IV (dur. 40')

TAPE

28 *mf espr., legato*

S in del-i-cate lace mi-cro-scop-ic un-born

A in del-i-cate lace mi-cro-scop-ic un-born

T in del-i-cate lace mi-cro-scop-ic un-born

B (hum) mi-cro un-born

PNO *mf espr., legato*

TAPE

Chorus enters at 12'

35 *mp*

S mi-cro-scop-ic un-born mi-cro-scop-ic un-born, Like

A *mp* mi-cro-scop-ic un-born mi-cro-scop-ic un-born, Like

T *pp* mi-cro-scop-ic un-born mi-cro-scop-ic un-born, Like

B *pp* mi-cro-scop-ic un-born mi-cro-scop-ic un-born, Like

PNO *mp*

*pp*

TAPE

39

S  
babes in wombs, like babes, like babes, in wombs,

A  
babes in wombs, like babes, like babes, in wombs,

T  
babes in wombs, like babes, like babes, in wombs,

B  
babes in wombs, like babes, like babes, in wombs,

PNO

TAPE

44

S  
la - tent fold - ed com - pact sleep - ing la - tent la - tent fold - ed

A  
la - tent fold - ed com - pact sleep - ing la - tent la - tent fold - ed

T  
la - tent fold - ed com - pact sleep - ing la - tent la - tent fold - ed

B  
la - tent fold - ed com - pact sleep - ing la - tent la - tent fold - ed

PNO

(tape fades out)

TAPE

48 *poco rit.* *pp* 3 3

S com - pact sleep - ing fold - ed com - pact sleep - ing

A com - pact sleep - ing fold - ed com - pact sleep - ing

T com - pact sleep - ing fold - ed com - pact sleep

B com - pact sleep - ing fold - ed com - pact sleep

PNO 48 *poco rit.* *pp* 3 3

Tape Section V (dur. 58")

Tape section V opens with 4 distinct segments. The chorus should enter at the beginning of the 4th segment.

TAPE

TAPE

TAPE

52 (Chorus enters ca. 44) *p*

S Bil - lions of bil - lions and tril - lions of tril - lions wait - ing,

A Bil - lions of bil - lions and tril lions of tril - lions wait - ing,

T Bil - lions of bil - lions and tril - lions of tril - lions wait - ing,

B Bil - lions of bil - lions and tril - lions of tril - lions wait - ing,

PNO

TAPE

58

S wait - ing wait - ing

A wait - ing wait - ing

T wait - ing wait - ing

B wait - ing wait - ing

PNO

Tape Section VI (dur. 1'38")

TAPE

62 *mf*

S on earth and "in" the sea the un - i - verse the stars there in the

A *mf*

S on earth and in the sea the un - i - verse the stars there in the

T *mf*

B on earth and in the sea the un - i - verse the stars there in the

PNO *mf*

TAPE

66

S hea - vens the stars in the

A *p*

S hea - vens on earth and in the sea the stars in the

T

B *mp*

S hea - vens on earth and in the sea the stars in the

PNO *mp*

70

TAPE

S. *cresc.* *ff*  
 heav - ens the stars there in the heav - ens

A. *cresc.* *ff*  
 heav - ens the stars there in the heav - ens

T. *cresc.* *ff*  
 heav - ens the stars there in the heav - ens

B. *cresc.* *ff*  
 heav - ens the stars there in the heav - ens

PNO *cresc.* *ff*

(harmonic/register change)

73

TAPE

S. *mf*  
 urg - - - ing slow - - - ly sure - ly for - - - ward

A. *mf*  
 urg - - - ing slow - - - ly sure - ly for - - - ward

T. *mf*  
 urg - - - ing slow - - - ly sure - - - ly for - - - ward

B. *mf*  
 urg - - - ing slow - - - ly sure - - - ly for - - - ward

PNO *mf*

TAPE

77

S  
sure - ly for - ward form - ing end - less urg - ing slow - ly

A  
sure - ly for - ward form - ing end - less urg - ing slow - ly

T  
sure - ly for - ward form - ing end - less urg - ing slow - ly

B  
sure - ly for - ward form - ing end - less urg - ing slow - ly

PNO

TAPE

83

S  
sure - ly for - ward sure - ly for - ward form - ing end - less

A  
sure ly for - ward sure - ly for - ward form - ing end - less

T  
sure - ly for - ward sure - ly for - ward form - ing end - less

B  
sure - ly for - ward sure - ly for - ward form - ing end - less

PNO

(new timbre) (tape fades out)

TAPE

Meno mosso  $\text{♩} = 58$

89 *mp legato*

S. And wait - ing for - ev - er more, for - ev - er more be - hind.

A. *mp legato* And wait - ing for - ev - er more, for - ev - er more be - hind.

T. *mp legato* And wait - ing for - ev - er more, for - ev - er more be - hind.

B. *mp legato* And wait - ing for - ev - er more, for - ev - er more be - hind.

89 *mp legato*  $\text{♩} = 58$

PNO

93

S. And wait - ing for - ev - er more wait - ing wait - ing

A. And wait - ing for - ev - er more wait - ing wait - ing

T. And wait - ing for - ev - er more wait - ing wait - ing

B. And wait - ing for - ev - er more wait - ing

93

PNO

96

*molto cresc.* *sfz* 3

S wait - - - ing and wait - ing, wait - ing for - ev - er more

A wait - - - ing and wait - ing, wait - ing for - ev - er more

T wait ing and wait - ing, wait - ing for - ev - er more

B wait - - - ing and wait - ing, wait - ing for - ev - er more

PNO

*molto cresc.* *sfz* 3

99

*f* *ff* *mf*

S for ev - er more for - ev - er more, wait - - - ing

A for ev - er more for - ev - er more, wait - - - ing

T for ev - er more for - ev - er more, wait - - - ing

B for - ev - er more for - ev - er more, wait - - - ing

PNO

*f* *ff* *mf*

TAPE

103 *mp* *3* *3* *3*

S and wait ing wait-ing

A *mp* *3* *3* *3*

A and wait ing wait-ing

T *mp* *3* *3* *3*

T and wait ing wait-ing

B *mp* *3* *3* *3*

B and wait ing

PNO *mp* *3* *3* *3*

TAPE

105 *p molto semplice* *3* *3* *3* *3*

S for ev er more

A *p molto semplice* *3* *3* *3* *3*

A for ev er more

T *p molto semplice* *3* *3* *3* *3*

T for ev er more

B *p molto semplice*

B for ev er more

PNO *p molto semplice* *3* *3* *3* *3*

Chorus enters at 16"

TAPE

107

S  
wait - ing - wait - ing - wait - ing - for - ev - er more

A  
wait - ing - wait - ing - wait - ing - for - ev - er more

T  
wait - ing - wait - ing - wait - ing - for - ev - er more

B  
wait - ing - wait - ing - wait - ing - for - ev - er more

PNO

107

(tape fades out)

TAPE

109

*slight dim.* *piu p* *Piu meno mosso* ♩=52

S  
wait - ing - wait - ing, And - - - wait - ing - for - ev - er more

A  
wait - ing - wait - ing, And - - - wait - ing - for - ev - er more

T  
wait - ing - wait - ing, And - - - wait - ing - for - ev - er more

B  
wait - ing - wait - ing, And - - - wait - ing - for - ev - er more

PNO

109

*slight dim.* *piu p* *Piu meno mosso* ♩=52

110

*delicately* 3

S for - ev - er more and wait - ing wait - ing

A for - ev - er more and wait - ing wait - ing

T for - ev - er more and wait - ing wait - ing

B for - ev - er more and wait - ing

PNO

*delicately* 3

Tape Section VIII (dur. 45")

TAPE

113

S for - ev - er more ev - er more

A for - ev - er more ev - er more

T for - ev - er more ev - er more

B for - ev - er more ev - er more

PNO

TAPE

115

S  
wait - ing wait - ing for - ev - er more

A  
wait - ing wait - ing for - ev - er more

T  
wait - ing wait - ing for - ev - er more

B  
wait - ing wait - ing more ev - er more

PNO

Detailed description: This system contains measures 115 and 116. It features five staves: a blank TAPE staff, four vocal staves (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass), and a Piano accompaniment staff. The vocal parts have lyrics: 'wait - ing wait - ing for - ev - er more'. The piano part consists of eighth-note triplets in both hands. Measure 115 is in 2/4 time, and measure 116 is in 3/4 time.

TAPE

117

S  
ev - er more ev - er more

A  
ev - er more ev - er more

T  
ev - er more ev - er more

B  
ev - er more

PNO

Detailed description: This system contains measures 117 and 118. It features five staves: a blank TAPE staff, four vocal staves (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass), and a Piano accompaniment staff. The vocal parts have lyrics: 'ev - er more ev - er more'. The piano part consists of eighth-note triplets in both hands. Measure 117 is in 3/4 time, and measure 118 is in 3/4 time.

TAPE

Sopr. solo  
 p Wait - ing wait - ing wait - ing wait - ing

Alto solo  
 p Wait - ing wait - ing wait - ing wait - ing

119  
 S *dim. a niente* for - ev - er for - ev - er more  
 A *dim. a niente* for - ev - er for - ev - er more  
 T *dim. a niente* for - ev - er for - ev - er more  
 B ev - er more

119  
 PNO *dim. a niente*

Completed May 1996  
 Seattle, Washington