

Program Notes for Grandmother

(taken from the program notes for *Breath of the Mountains: A Folk Suite*)

The description of what the composer of this Idaho Continental Harmony Project was encouraged to do was “to discover Idaho and reveal it to itself”. Although it seemed like somewhat of a daunting task, Linda Tutas Haugen began this process in August of 1999 with her first visit to Idaho. She met with many area residents and did much research of local history in the McCall Library archives. “It became apparent to me early into the process that I wanted to write about the beautiful land, the wonderful people that settled and still live on the land and their life experiences in coming to Idaho,” states Haugen. *Breath of the Mountains: A Folk Suite* premiered in July of 2000 by the McCall Chamber Chorale and Chamber Orchestra.

The second movement focuses on a Basque folk song, *Amona Bere Illobarekin*. The words portray a vignette between an old grandmother and her granddaughter and compare the grandmother’s age to the timeless mountains and streams. This song is set for women’s voices only and uses an ostinato in the cellos and basses.