

Program Notes for We Come Only In Passing

We come Only In Passing is the Prologue from the chamber opera ***Pocahontas***, by Linda Tutas Haugen, composer, and Joan Vail Thorne, librettist. The opera was commissioned by the Virginia Arts Festival and the Virginia Opera to commemorate the the 400th Anniversary of Jamestown, and premiered in May of 2007 in Norfolk and Williamsburg, Virginia.

The opera begins, using a contrast between soloist and chorus, with a traditional text that reflects the spiritual perspective of many traditional Native American cultures.

*It is not true that we come here only to live,
We come only in passing.
We do not own all that is given to us.
On this journey we eat, sleep, and dream.
And whenever you are ready, O Maker of Life,
I'll come home to you.*