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Elisa Schmelkes

Flujo

Manifesto and Litany
For SATB choir and soloists

FLUJO

f l o w

FLUJO is a performative work, a ritual denunciation of income and wealth inequality within our societies and throughout the world written in the style of a Russian Orthodox liturgy.

FLUJO was originally created for its premiere in the sound art museum Ex Teresa Arte Actual in Mexico City, housed in a former baroque church. It is intended to be sung in a space with plenty of resonance, but it sounds well in any indoor space.

Performance directions:

FLUJO is intended to be performed, not just sung. Its first performance was held in a darkened space, whose floor was covered in pine needles. The choir was wearing black and holding candles. The choir sung from memory while the soloist was reading from a lectern. During the **MANIFESTO**, the choir was static and in a conventional position. During the **LITANY**, the choir walked in a slow procession around the church, and then formed a circle with the audience in the middle and closed in on the audience.

This is just a suggestion. Feel free to adapt this work in any way.

The **MANIFESTO** has a spoken part and a singing part. The choir sings the introduction and a few sentences. Then, a soloist speaks while the choir loops over one of the important words in the text.

The **LITANY** requires a soloist with a commanding, deep voice. If the line is too low for the soloist, it can be sung one octave higher.

FLUJO

f l o w

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MANIFESTO

We manifest these self-evident truths in order to awaken the collective will.

The greatest threat to our society is not poverty, but inequality.

In this world, 26 people have the same wealth as half the human population.

The absurdity of inequality is such that, if someone had worked from the birth of Christ to the present day earning a million dollars a year and spending nothing, they would have only 1.2% of the wealth of the richest man in the world.

Despite all the wealth this man absorbs, his company does not pay taxes. His employees' income is below the basic subsistence level.

A system that rewards wealth and punishes poverty will concentrate extreme wealth in the hands of very few.

The fortunes of billionaires are increasing by $2.5 billion dollars a day. The world's richest 500 people increased their wealth in 25% during 2019. Meanwhile, the poorest half of the planet lost 11% of their wealth during 2018.

The same inequality prevails between countries in the global north and the global south. For centuries, the resources and labor of developing countries were channeled into developing their colonizers.

The countries of the global south pay six times more in foreign debt than they receive in economic assistance. A 1% tax on the wealth of all billionaires would be enough to educate all the children of the world.

The food we waste is enough to eradicate world hunger four times over.

The solution is not growth, but redistribution.

The new sustainable development goals state that growth will end poverty.

However, of all the income generated by global GDP growth in the past ten years, the poorest 60% of the world received only 5%.

It is not possible to end poverty within this system. Even growing at an extraordinary rate, the poorest 10% of the population would rise above the poverty line in 100 years.

To eradicate poverty under this system of growth, the economy would have to be 175 times larger.

We would have to extract, produce and consume 175 times more goods and services on a planet that is already in a state of climate emergency.

For the poor to earn $5 a day, the average global income would have to be $1.3 million dollars a year.

Inequality has no solution within this system. The system needs to be changed.

There is enough wealth in this world for everyone to have a decent standard of living.

LITANY

Enforcement of antitrust laws
On large corporations.

Taxes on pollution that reflect damage done to ecosystems
On large corporations.
Limitation of energy consumption
On large corporations.

Abolishment of tax exemptions
For billionaires and large corporations
Regulation of tax havens
For billionaires and large corporations.
Progressive taxes
For billionaires and big corporations.

Regulation of markets
At every level of the production chain.
Fair trade
At every level of the production chain.

Restriction of stock buyback systems
On the stock market
Taxes on speculation on commodities
On the stock market

Regulation of the banking system
For the redistribution of wealth
Overhaul of the debt system
For the redistribution of wealth
Progressive inheritance taxes
For the redistribution of wealth
Fair fines and accountability for individuals and businesses that divert taxes.
For the redistribution of wealth

Protection and collective administration of common natural resources
For the conservation of our planet
Protection and reforestation of forests and jungles
For the conservation of our planet
Implementation of a nature reserve system that comprises half of the planet
For the conservation of our planet
Divestment in fossil fuels in favor of renewable energy sources
For the conservation of our planet

Localization of our economies
For our sustainability
Transition from an Extractive Industry System to a Circular Economy
For our sustainability
Transition from a growth-based system to a steady-state economy
For our sustainability

Quality education
For equal opportunities
Gender equity
For equal opportunities
Free and dignified childcare infrastructure
For equal opportunities
One year of paid maternity and paternity
For equal opportunities

Debt relief
To developing countries
Open borders
To developing countries

Full human rights
For every human being
Dignified public health system
For every human being
Access to clean water
For every human being
Free public transport
For every human being
Universal Basic Income
For every human being
Reduction of working hours
For every human being
Diversity at all levels of decision-making
Representation for every human being
Implementation of preferential voting systems
Representation for every human being
Explicit adoption of welfare measures to measure economic progress
Dignity for every human being
Demilitarization and drug legalization
Justice and peace for every human being
Security and freedom from violence
Justice and peace for every human being

Economic justice, social welfare and ecological regeneration are possible only if wealth is distributed equitably and money circulates throughout the economy.

It is necessary to generate new concepts of progress based not on wealth, but on well-being.

REDISTRIBUTION

Elisa Schmelkes / Israel Martínez 2020

Flujo

Manifiesto y letanía

Elisa Schmelkes

Manifiesto



Orador:

En este mundo, 26 personas tienen la misma riqueza que la mitad de la población humana.

La desigualdad es tan absurda que, si una persona hubiera trabajado desde el nacimiento de Cristo hasta el día de hoy ganando un millón de dólares al año sin gastar nada, tendría solo el 1.2% del patrimonio del hombre más rico del mundo.

Pese a toda la riqueza que absorbe, su empresa no paga impuestos.
Los ingresos de sus empleados están debajo del nivel de subsistencia básica.



Orador:

Las fortunas de los billonarios se incrementan en $2,500 millones de dólares al día.

Las 500 personas más ricas del mundo incrementaron su riqueza en 25% durante 2019.
La mitad más pobre del planeta perdió 11% de su patrimonio durante 2018.

La misma desigualdad impera entre países del centro y la periferia. Durante siglos, los recursos y la fuerza de trabajo de los países en desarrollo fueron canalizados a desarrollar a sus colonizadores.

Los países del sur global pagan seis veces más en deuda externa de lo que reciben en asistencia económica.

Un impuesto de 1% sobre la riqueza de todos los multimillonarios sería suficiente para educar a todos los niños del mundo.

Los alimentos que desperdiciamos son suficientes para erradicar el hambre mundial cuatro veces.



Orador:

Los nuevos objetivos de desarrollo sustentable plantean que el crecimiento va a terminar con la pobreza.

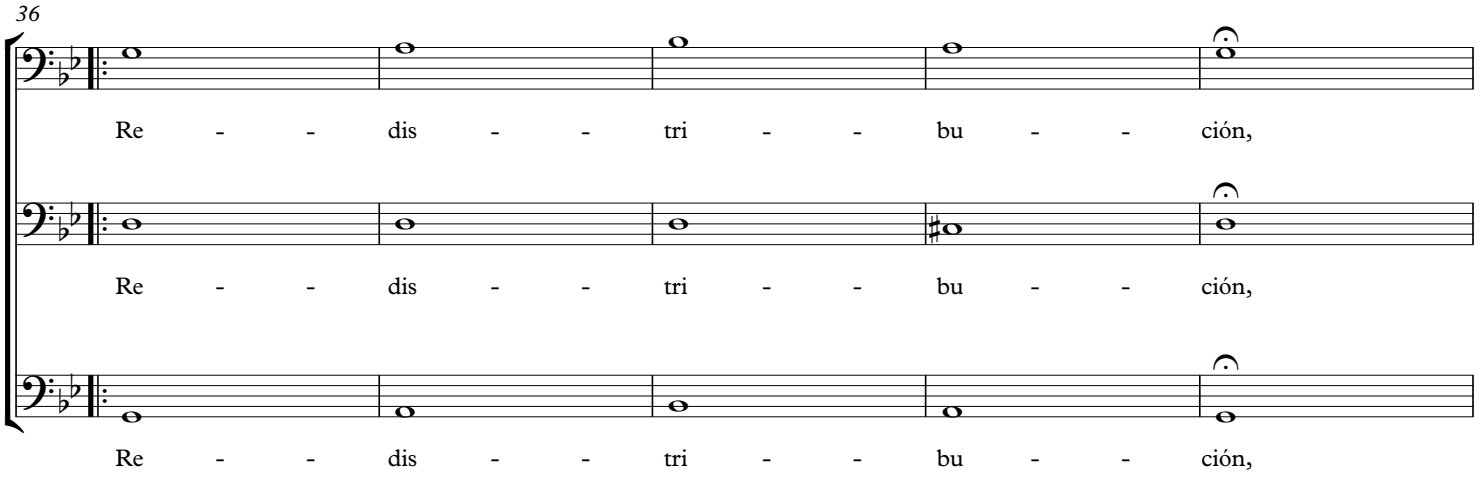
De los ingresos generados por el crecimiento del PIB global en diez años, el 60% más pobre del mundo sólo recibió el 5%.

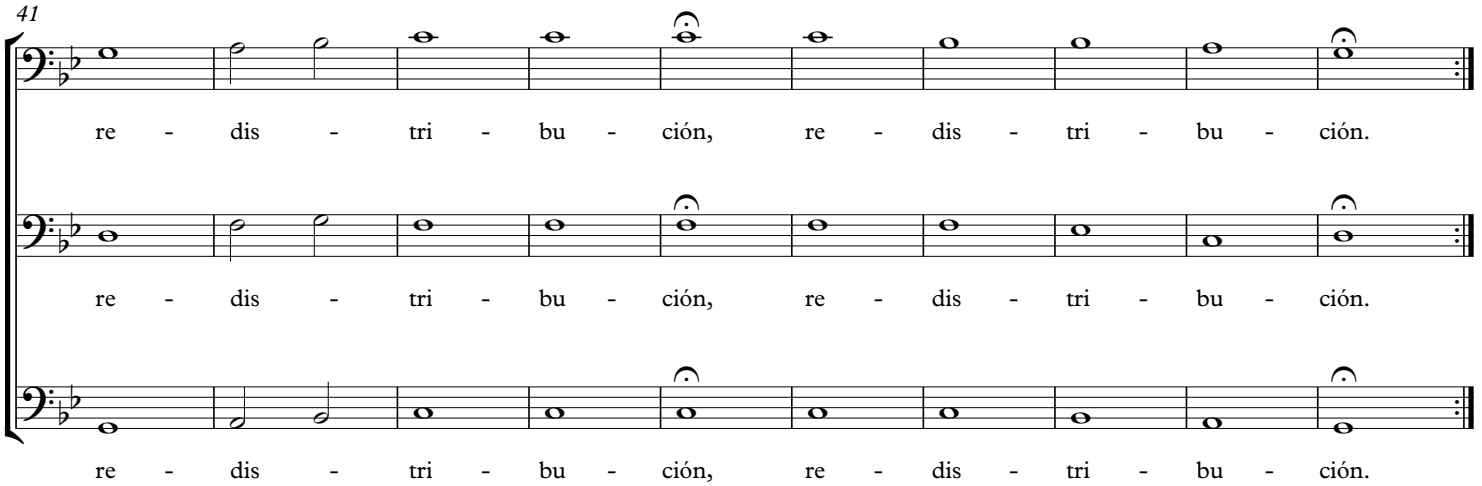
No es posible terminar con la pobreza dentro de este sistema. Aún creciendo a una velocidad extraordinaria,
el 10% más pobre rebasaría la línea de pobreza dentro de 100 años.

Para erradicar la pobreza bajo este sistema de crecimiento, la economía tendría que ser 175 veces más grande.
Tendríamos que extraer, producir y consumir 175 veces más bienes y servicios en un planeta que ya está en emergencia climática.

Para que los pobres puedan ganar $5 al día, el ingreso promedio global tendría que ser de $1.3 millones de dólares al año.

La desigualdad no tiene solución dentro de este sistema. Es necesario cambiar el sistema.







Letanía - Responsorio

Recitativo:
Aplicación de leyes antimonopolio
Impuestos sobre la contaminación que reflejen el daño realizado a los ecosistemas
Limitación del consumo energético

A

52



Recitativo:
Eliminación de exenciones fiscales
Eliminación de paraísos fiscales
Impuestos progresivos

B

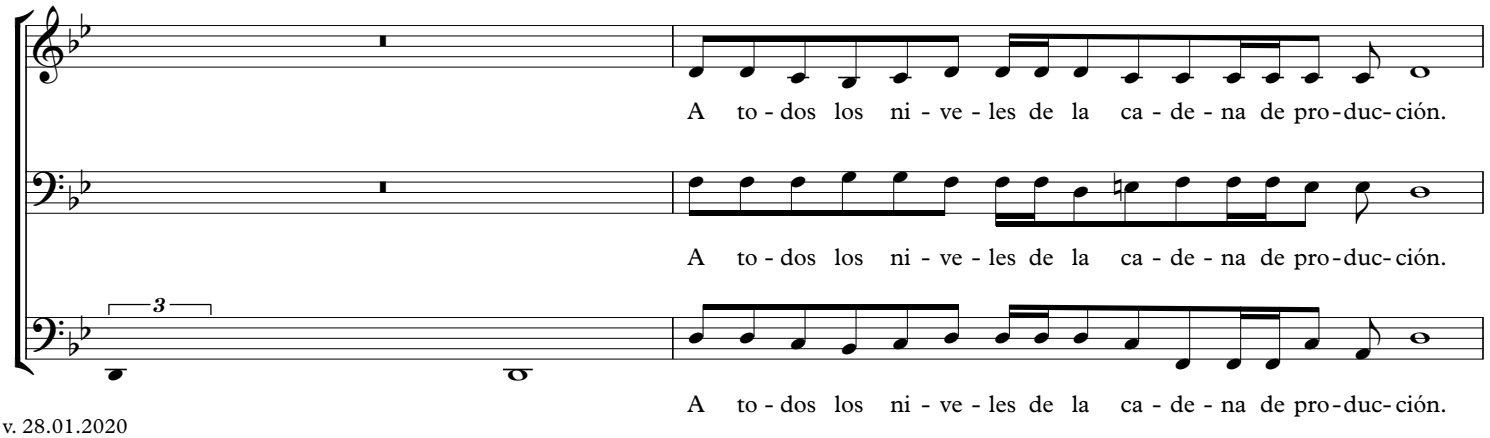
54



Recitativo:
Regulación de los mercados
Comercio justo

C

57



Recitativo:

D

Restricción a mecanismos de recompra de acciones
Impuestos sobre la especulación en materias primas



Recitativo:

Regulación del sistema bancario
Reestructuración del sistema de deuda

E

Impuestos progresivos a las herencias
Multas justas y rendición de cuentas para individuos y empresas que desvían impuestos.



Recitativo:

Protección y administración colectiva de los recursos naturales comunes
Protección y reforestación de los bosques y selvas

F

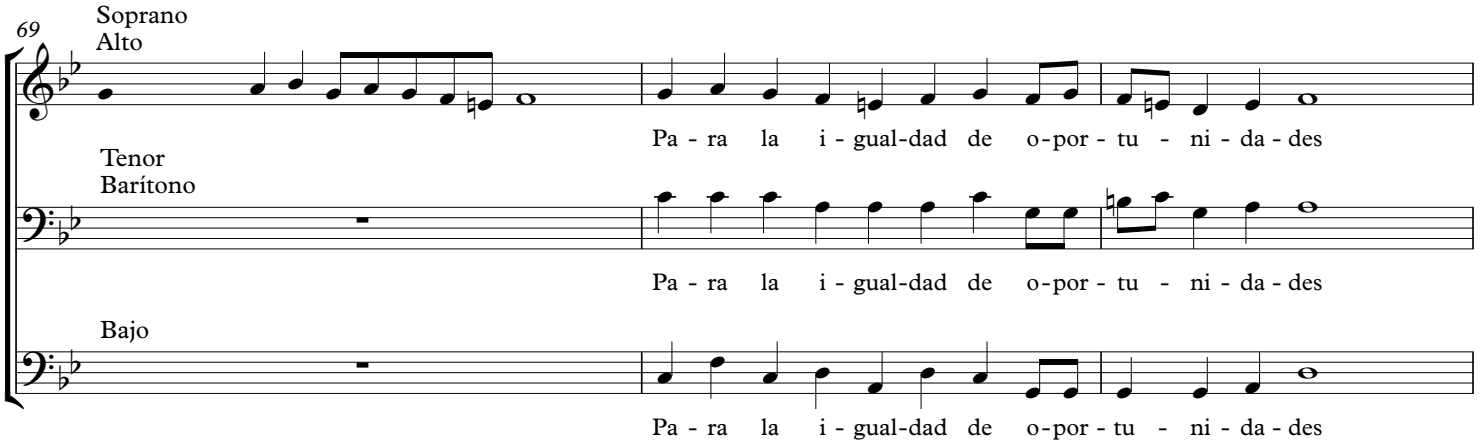
Implementación de un sistema de reservas naturales que ocupe la mitad de la tierra
Desinversión en combustibles fósiles en favor de sistemas de energía renovable



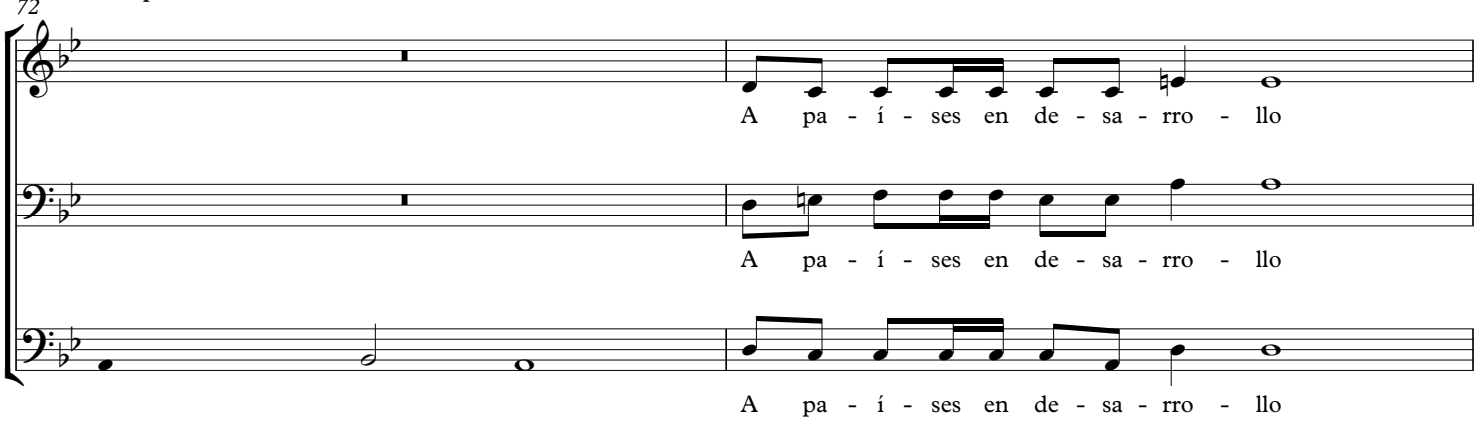
Recitativo:
Localización de la economía
G Transición del sistema extractivista a una economía circular
Transición del sistema basado en el crecimiento a una economía de estado estacionario



Recitativo:
Educación de calidad
Equidad de género
H Infraestructura de cuidado infantil gratuita y digna
Un año de maternidad y paternidad pagada

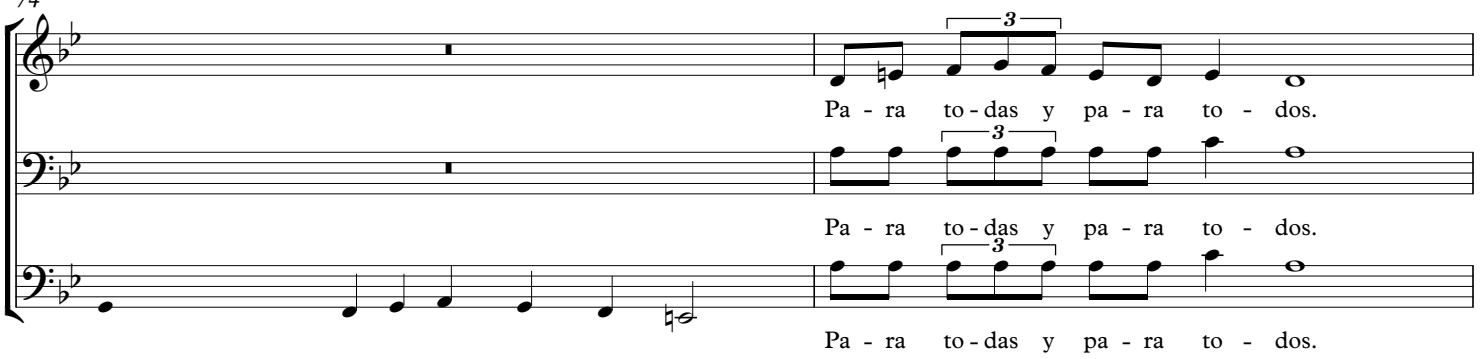


Recitativo:
I Condonación de la deuda
Apertura de fronteras



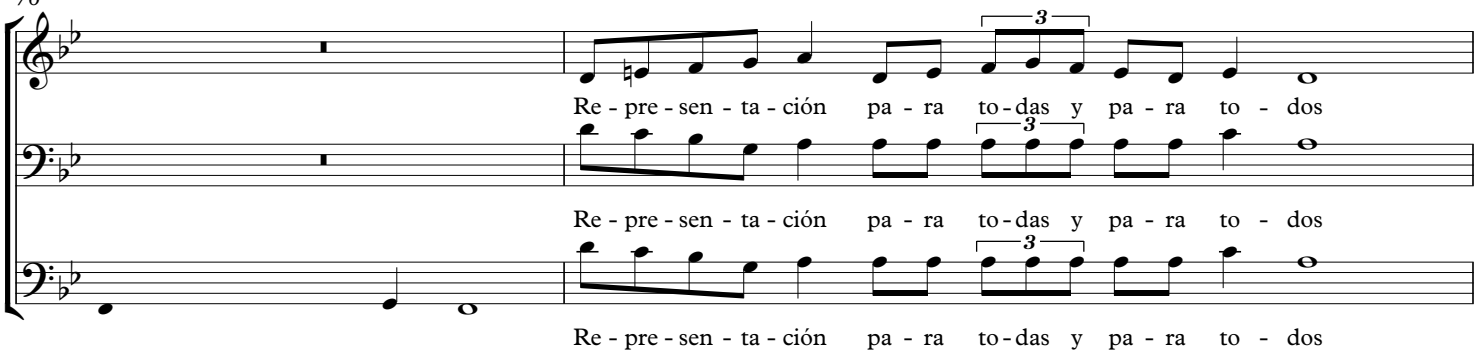
Recitativo:
Derechos humanos plenos
Salud pública digna
Acceso a agua limpia
Transporte público gratuito
Ingreso básico universal digno
Reducción de horarios laborales

J



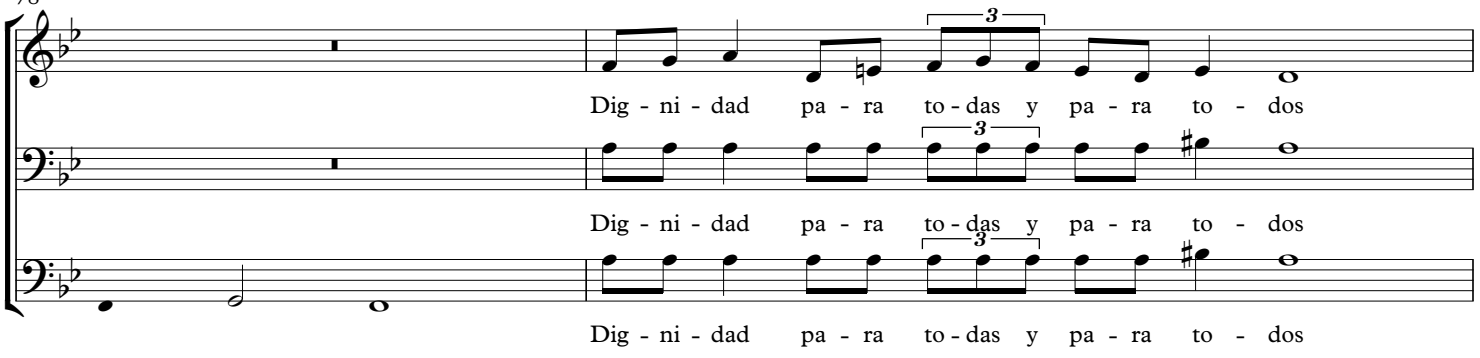
Recitativo:
Diversidad a todos los niveles de toma de decisiones
Implementación de sistemas de voto preferencial

K



Recitativo:
Adopción explícita de medidas de bienestar para medir el progreso económico

L



Recitativo:
Legalización de las drogas y desmilitarización
Seguridad y vida libre de violencia

M



83 Solo



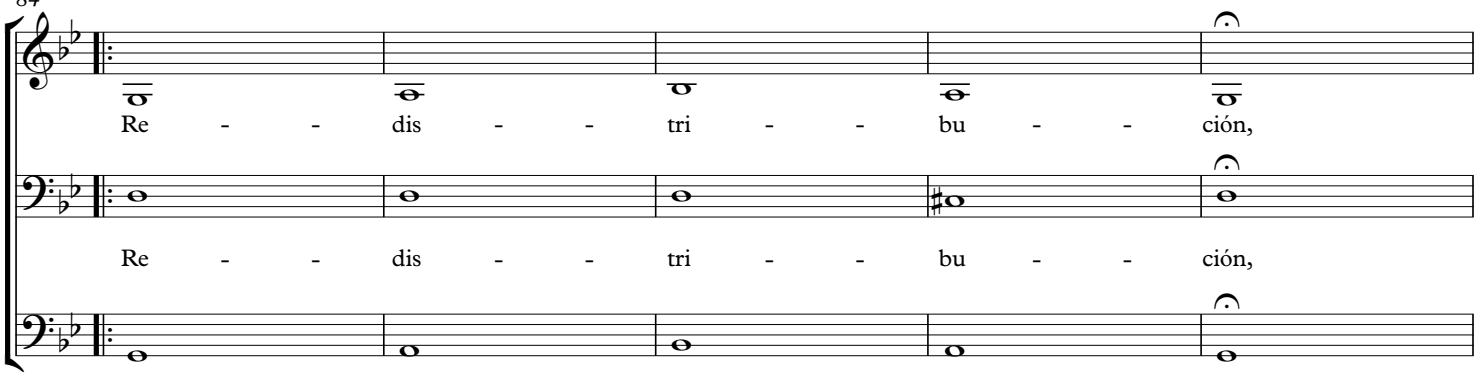
Hay suficiente riqueza en este mundo para que todos ten - ga - mos un ni - vel de vi - da dig - no

Orador:

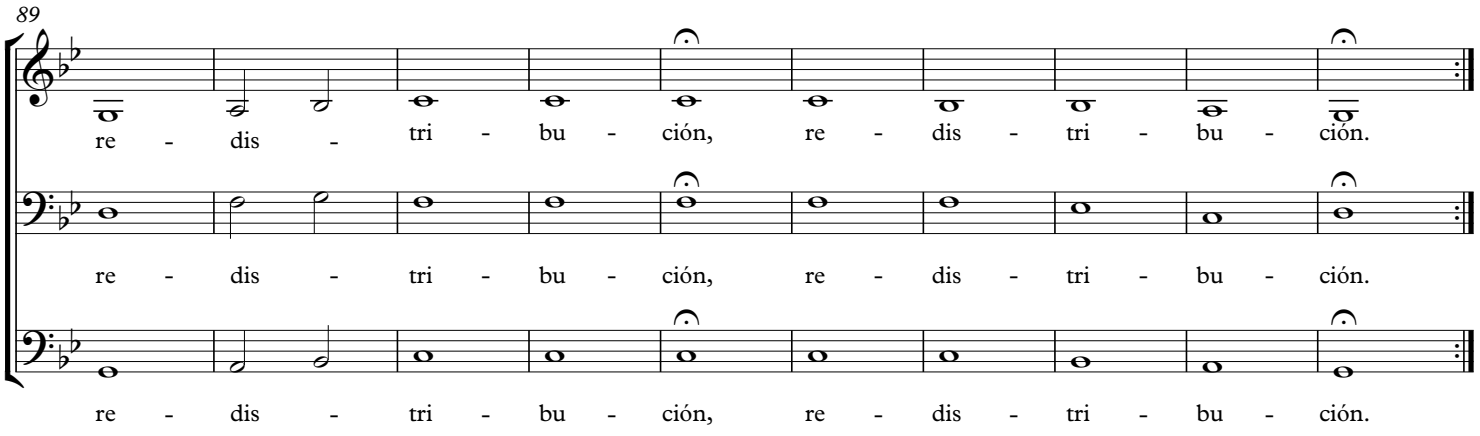
La justicia económica, el bienestar social y la regeneración ecológica son posibles solo si la riqueza se distribuye equitativamente y el dinero circula dentro de la economía.

Es necesario generar nuevos conceptos de progreso basados no en la riqueza, sino en el bienestar.

84



89



99 **Loop**



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