

The Levies Didn't Hold

A Choral Speaking or Reading Script Concerning Hurricane Katrina

By Lois Walker

NOTE: The underlined words or word parts below are there to give the voice choir a sense of the basic underlying rhythm of the poem. They may or may not be helpful, depending on your directorial approach to the piece.

ALL VOICES: Pumping, pushing, pounding,
 Sounding like fear,
 Katrina appeared,

ALL FEMALES: And the levies didn't hold.

ALL MALES: They didn't hold!

ALL VOICES: Tilting, toppling, tossing,
 Crossing boundaries,
 Causing new-found agonies,

ALL FEMALE VOICES: And the levies didn't hold.

ALL MALE VOICES: They didn't hold!

ALL FEMALE VOICES: Helpless, hapless, homeless,
 Aloneness surrounding,
 Desolation abounding,
 And the levies didn't hold
 They didn't hold!

ALL MALE VOICES: Awaiting, anticipating,
 Creating hope,
 A way to cope,
 And the levies didn't hold.

 They didn't hold!

ALL VOICES: Redeemed, restored, relieved,
 Retrieved and rescued by the bold.

SOLO VOICE: Darn lucky we are still alive!

FEMALE VOICES: The levies didn't hold.

ALL VOICES: They didn't hold!