

I. Earth – The Continent Of Atlantis - Andante Molto ca. 8:50

The myth of a beautiful continent with great natural riches and a highly developed civilization was first recorded by ancient Greek philosopher Plato in his *Kritias* Dialogues. It reflects the archaic longing of humans for a just society with wise and responsible leaders.

Whether Atlantis is historical fact or philosophical fiction – Plato's elaboration makes it a reality. We all wish for prosperity in our communities, we all are subject to the power invested in our leaders, and we all hope that they make responsible use of it. And just like the Atlantides, we are threatened by our very own character flaws: Misuse of nature's resources, arrogance, hedonism, hate...

The kingdom of Atlantis was destroyed in a single night – some say by a volcanic eruption, some say by the wrath of the Gods.

This first movement of the *Sinfonia Atlantica* tells the story of Atlantis, from the birth of the continent and the early kingdom to the stages of innocence, of sophistication, of wars and colonization, through periods of peace and prosperity to the disintegration of society and ultimate destruction.

II. Wind – The Promise Of A New World - Larghetto ca. 7:25

Out of the West and over the waters, the wind brings a melody indicating that there is a new world ahead. As we get closer, that melody gains in strength and rhythmic verve.

Yet, there still are some gusts of wind whistling around us, until we finally get to the Caribbean shores and join in the dance.

III. Water – The Vast Atlantic Ocean - Allegro Moderato ca. 10:15

Come sail with me across this water and experience its unlimited power and variety. We will navigate through crashing waves, dangerous whirlpools, over long and roaring mountains of water, passing the short and nervously giggling waves of the Mid-Atlantic Ridge – and whenever our boat has climbed to the crest of a wave, you will get a glance at the wild, breathtaking vastness of the ocean.

Here we are at the very source of life; that, to me, makes the Atlantic Ocean the one place where I can find peace.