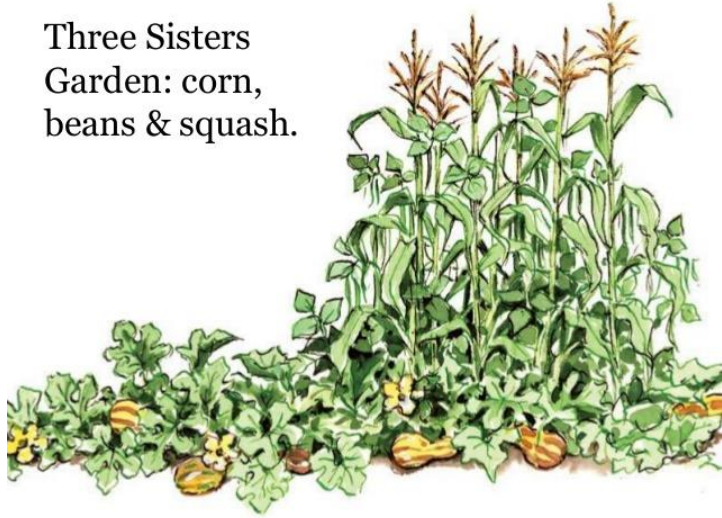


Three Sisters  
Garden: corn,  
beans & squash.



**Theme:** The three sisters garden of corn, beans, and squash reflect three sisters in a family.

*“You can tell they are sisters: one twines easily around the other in relaxed embrace while the sweet baby sister lolls at their feet, close, but not too close – cooperating, not competing...The firstborn girl knows that she is clearly in charge; tall and direct, upright and efficient, she creates the template for everyone else to follow. That’s the corn sister. There’s not room for more than one corn woman in the same house, so the middle sister is likely to adapt in different ways. This bean girl learns to be flexible, adaptable, to find a way around the dominant structure to get the light that she needs. The sweet baby sister is free to choose a different path, as expectations have already been fulfilled. Well grounded, she has nothing to prove and finds her own way, a way that contributes to the good of the whole.”* Robin Wall Kimmerer, Braiding Sweetgrass

**Music:** Thoughts about Grounded Expansion regarding this theme.

A student of Kimmerer, an artist, describes the artistic beauty of the three sisters garden. *“Look at the composition...There is unity, balance, color...See the way it works? Corn is the vertical element, squash horizontal, and it’s all tied together with these curvilinear vines, the beans. Ravishing,”*

What would that look like musically? What would ground the song of each plant so that in a finale there would be unity, balance, and harmonious color? This is not just about plants, but the character of myself and my sisters. What common ground is our song and how does that ground expand musically in a way that expresses our uniqueness and harmony as sisters.