



RENFORTH MUSIC

A SMALL VOICE WHISPERS

STEWART WILKINSON

SATB a cappella
RM ACH 238

RENFORTH MUSIC
Rothesay, New Brunswick, Canada

www.renforthmusic.com

NOTES

Having long acknowledged Canada's debt of "truth and reconciliation", the discovery of unmarked graves on the site of a former residential school in Kamloops, British Columbia, in May of 2021 moved me to write a piece that would reflect the grief and, in some ways, the relief that the stories of victims were finally being told.

From my initial concept of the piece, I have been encouraged and supported by Shelley Fayant, Communications Consultant with SaskCulture. The contribution of her aunt, May Desmonie, a respected community Elder of the Peepeekisis First Nation (Treaty 4 Territory), Knowledge Keeper, and educator cannot be overstated. As a residential school survivor herself, her gift of providing appropriate text for this project is deeply appreciated. In addition, I would like to thank Solomon Ratt, head of Cree Language Studies at the First Nations University of Canada, for his advice on matters of text and pronunciation. Finally, I want to acknowledge the interest and support for this project from both Jarvis Googoo and Whitney Gould in granting permission to use the only English text in the piece - "and a small voice whispers - "They found us.""

metohta - hear it / listen - pronounced meh-toh-ta with stress on the first syllable (last syllable between aw and uh)
kiskisitotawâtânik - remember them - pronounced kis-ki-see-toh-tuh-wah-tah-nik with stress on the second last syllable
mah - listen / hark - pronounced halfway between mah and muh, ending with a ch sound as in "Bach"

It is my intention that in performance of this piece an indigenous child (either male or female) will sing or speak the final text. For the recording and premiere performance of "A Small Voice Whispers", the concluding solo was spoken by Theresa Mason-Cote, the granddaughter of a residential school survivor.

A Small Voice Whispers

For the University of Regina Chamber Singers
Dr. Melissa Morgan, Director

English Text
Whitney Gould, Jarvis Googoo

Stewart Wilkinson

Plains Cree Text
Gifted by May Desnomie

$\text{♩} = 54$ *lacrimoso*

Soprano
Me-toh-ta. Me-toh-ta. Aw Me-toh-ta.

Alto
Me-toh-ta. Me-toh-ta. Aw Me-toh-ta.

Tenor
Aw* Aw Aw

Bass
Aw* Aw Aw

Piano (rehearsal only)
mf *mp*

*relaxed vowel halfway between "lock" and "luck"

