Migwetch for triple SATB choir

Justin Lapierre

Cambridge, Ontario January 2016 8 minutes

Composer's Note

This piece was written for the DaCapo Chamber Choir's annual *NewWorks* Call for Scores and performed in May 2017 on the occasion of Canada's 150th anniversary.

Amid celebrations of our great nation, the contributions of our Indigenous communities to our rich history are too easily forgotten. *Miigwetch* means 'thank you' in Ojibwe; this piece intertwines this word of gratitude with lines from Ojibwe sayings of thanksgiving along with various names which Canadians have called this land, starting and ending with 'home'.

This piece was composed and originally performed in the Waterloo Region situated on the land of the Haldimand tract, which is the traditional territory of the Neutral, Anishinaabe and Haudenosaunee peoples.

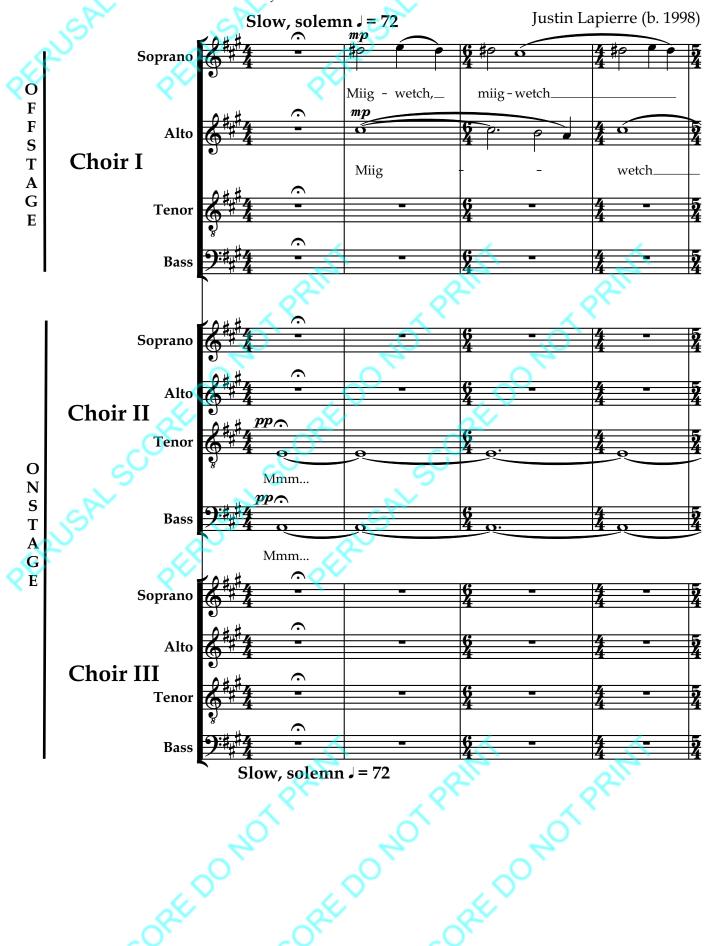
Performance

This piece is scored for three SATB choirs *a cappella*. Choir I sings offstage (this can mean backstage, in a balcony above the audience, off to the side of the audience, *etc.*)

Choirs II & III are onstage and may be placed together as one large choir or placed apart, (e.g. II being on the left and III on the right) to further highlight the polychoral aspect of the piece. None of the parts contain divisi, therefore it may be favourable for Choir I to consist of no more than a quartet or small semi-chorus as to create a striking contrast in timbre in the service of the piece's antiphonal nature; this depends on the acoustics of the performance venue.



to the DaCapo Chamber Choir of Waterloo, Ontario (NewWorks, Hon. Mention) for Canada 150



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