

Miiigwetch

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.

Miigwetch

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

Justin Lapierre (b. 1998)

Slow, solemn ♩ = 72

O
F
F
S
T
A
G
E

Choir I

Soprano *mp* Miig - wetch, — miig - wetch —
Alto *mp* Miig — — wetch —
Tenor
Bass

O
N
S
T
A
G
E

Choir II

Soprano
Alto
Tenor *pp* Mmm...
Bass *pp* Mmm...

Choir III

Soprano
Alto
Tenor
Bass

Slow, solemn ♩ = 72

5

Musical score for voices and instruments, measures 5-9. The score is in G major (one sharp) and 5/4 time. It features three vocal parts (Soprano, Alto, Tenor) and three piano accompaniment parts (T1, T2, T3). The lyrics are: "oh, miig - - - wetch" for the Soprano and "oh," for the Alto. The piano accompaniment consists of a steady bass line and a melodic line with slurs.

Vocal Parts:

- S1:** oh, miig - - - wetch
- A1:** oh,

Piano Accompaniment:

- T1:** Treble clef, 8va
- T2:** Treble clef, 8va
- T3:** Treble clef, 8va
- B1:** Bass clef
- B2:** Bass clef
- B3:** Bass clef

11

A

oh... my home,

oh... Mmm... Mmm... Mmm... Mmm... Mmm... Mmm... Mmm... Mmm...

Miig - wetch Grand - fa - Miig

S1
A1
T1
B1

my home,

Ho - da - co -

pp *f*

S2
A2
T2
B2

ther, miig - wetch Grand - moth - er

ther, miig - wetch Grand - moth - er, oh,

wetch, miig - wetch, Grand - moth - er

p *f*

S3
A3
T3
B3

ther, miig - wetch Grand - moth - er

ther, miig - wetch Grand - moth - er

wetch, miig - wetch, Grand - moth - er

p *f*

S1 *p* che - la - ga, *f* Wesaymiig - wetch_ for to day,

A1 *p* na, my home, *f* Wesaymiig wetch for to day,

T1 *p* my home, *f*

B1

S2 *mp* for the shi - ning sun *f* to - day, *p*

A2 *mp* miig *f* wetch *p*

T2

B2

S3 *mp* miig *f* wetch, *p*

A3 *mp* miig *f* wetch, *p*

T3

B3

S1 miig - wetch. Miig - wetch for the air we

A1 miig - wetch. Miig - wetch for the air we

T1 home, Miig - wetch for the air we

B1 Miig - wetch for the air we

S2 Miig - wetch

A2 Miig - wetch

T2

B2

S3 for gi - ving us life

A3 Miig - wetch

T3

B3

S1 *p* breathe A -

A1 *p* breathe

T1 *p* breathe Ga - ma -

B1 *p* breathe

S2 *p* *mf* Miig - wetch Mo-ther Earth for gi - ving us life for gi - ving

A2 *p* *mf* Miig - wetch Mo-ther Earth gi - ving us life for gi - ving

T2 *p* *mf* Miig - wetch Mo-ther Earth gi - ving us life for gi - ving

B2 *p* *mf* Miig - wetch Mo-ther Earth gi - ving us life for gi - ving

S3 *p* *mf* Miig - wetch Mo-ther Earth for gi - ving us life

A3 *p* *mf* Miig - wetch Mo-ther Earth gi - ving us life

T3 *p* *mf* Miig - wetch Mo-ther Earth gi - ving us life

B3 *p* *mf* Miig - wetch Mo-ther Earth gi - ving us life

S1 ca die, Tii na - wa - ta - wa *pp*

A1 *p* Ken te *p* Ru - pert's Land *pp*

T1 ras ke *p* Up per *pp*

B1 *p* *pp*

S2 us wa - - - - - Low er *pp*

A2 us wa - - - - - *pp*

T2 us wa - - - - - *pp*

B2 us wa - - - - - *pp*

S3

A3

T3 *pp* Mmm... *pp*

B3 *pp* Mmm...

45



S1 *mp*
Miig - wetch, miig-wetch oh, miig -

A1 *mp*
Miig wetch, miig -

T1

B1

S2

A2 Mmm...

T2 Mmm...

B2 Mmm...

S3 Mmm...

A3

T3

B3

Score for measures 52-54. The score is written for 12 voices and instruments, organized into three systems of four parts each (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass). The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and the time signature is 6/4. The lyrics are: "wetch" and "Miig - wetch!". The first system (S1, A1, T1, B1) and second system (S2, A2, T2, B2) have lyrics for measures 52 and 53. The third system (S3, A3, T3, B3) has lyrics for measure 54. Dynamics include *f* (forte) and *f* (forte) with accents. The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, slurs, and dynamic markings.



Musical score for SATB choir with piano accompaniment. The score is in 6/4 time and consists of 12 measures. The lyrics are: "Miig - wetch! for gi - ving us a - ni - mals, -". The score includes parts for Soprano 1 (S1), Alto 1 (A1), Tenor 1 (T1), Bass 1 (B1), Soprano 2 (S2), Alto 2 (A2), Tenor 2 (T2), Bass 2 (B2), Soprano 3 (S3), Alto 3 (A3), Tenor 3 (T3), and Bass 3 (B3). Dynamics range from *p* (piano) to *f* (forte). The piano part features a prominent bass line with a descending eighth-note pattern in the right hand and a steady eighth-note accompaniment in the left hand.

S1
 A1
 T1
 B1

mals a - ni - mals that crawl and that are in the
 a - ni - mals that crawl and that are in the
 birds, crea - tures that crawl and that are in the
 birds, crea - tures that crawl and that are in the

S2
 A2
 T2
 B2

mals, birds, crea - tures that crawl and that are in the
 birds, crea - tures that crawl and that are in the
 birds, crea - tures that crawl and that are in the
 birds, crea - tures that crawl and that are in the

S3
 A3
 T3
 B3

miig - wetch, miig - wetch,
 mals, birds, crea - tures that crawl and that are in the
 birds, crea - tures that crawl and that are in the
 birds, crea - tures that crawl and that are in the
 miig - wetch, miig - wetch,

PERUSAL SCORE DO NOT PRINT PERUSAL SCORE DO NOT PRINT PERUSAL SCORE DO NOT PRINT

S1 wa - - - ter, *poco dim.* **f** miig - wetch!

A1 wa - - - ter, *poco dim.* **f** miig - wetch!

T1 wa - - - ter, *poco dim.* **f** miig - wetch!

B1 wa - - - ter, *poco dim.* **f** miig - wetch!

S2 wa - - - ter, *poco dim.* **f** miig - wetch!

A2 wa - - - ter, *poco dim.* **f** miig - wetch!

T2 wa - - - ter, *poco dim.* **f** miig - wetch!

B2 wa - ter, *poco dim.* **f** miig - wetch!

S3 wa - - - ter, *poco dim.* **f** miig - wetch!

A3 wa - - - ter, *poco dim.* **f** miig - wetch!

T3 wa - - - ter, *poco dim.* **f** miig - wetch!

B3 wetch, miig - wetch, miig - wetch!

78

E

S1 *p*
Miig - - wetch Miig - wetch

A1 *p*
Miig - - wetch Miig - wetch

T1

B1

S2 *pp*
Miig - wetch the west,

A2 *pp*
Miig - wetch the west,

T2

B2

S3 *pp*
for the east,

A3 *pp*
for the east,

T3

B3

S1
A1
T1
B1

Ca... da...
na...
wetch, miig - wetch ooh...
wetch ooh...

pp

S2
A2
T2
B2

S3
A3
T3
B3

and north
and north

S1 na... Ca... da... Ca...

A1 Ca... da... na... na...

T1 Miig - wetch, miig - wetch

B1 Miig - wetch, miig - wetch Home,

S2 Home,

A2

T2 *pp* Mmm...

B2 *pp* Mmm...

S3

A3

T3 *pp* Mmm...

B3 *pp* Mmm...

S1 da, home, home, home.

A1

T1 home.

B1 home, home,

S2 home, home, home,

A2

T2 Mmm... Mmm...

B2 Mmm... Mmm...

S3

A3

T3 Mmm... Mmm...

B3 *pp* Mmm... Mmm...