LESLIE UYEDA Small Elegy POEM BY PATRICK LANE



SHIFT contemporary choral music

I would like to thank *musica intima* for commissioning *Small Elegy*.

This great poem means a lot to me. It was written by the late poet, author and friend Patrick Lane, and it speaks acutely to the dire situation we find ourselves in this world today. I have dedicated this new work to the memory of Vancouver, BC composer and friend Jocelyn Morlock, who died recently, leaving so many of us in the music community heartbroken.

I do not mean for Small Elegy to be depressing. I hope it can be sung with heart and healing for us all.

Leslie Uyeda | 2023

SMALL ELEGY

The silence of the dead is what we own.

It's why we sing. The sky is clear today.

Go on, I hear my father say, my mother too and though they rest in sunken graves

I hear them still. The sky is clear today, the harvest weeks away and no forests burn. The dead sing in the rubble and the fires

We must listen to their song.

Their burden is out lives.

We pray because we cannot turn away.

Patrick Lane from *The Quiet in Me* © 2022 Patrick Lane and Lorna Crozier Harbour Publishing Co. Ltd. Used by permission.

Small Elegy

In memoriam Jocelyn Morlock (1969-2023)









ABOUT LESLIE UYEDA



Composer, conductor and pianist Leslie Uyeda was born and raised in Montréal and lives in Vancouver. Uyeda's first love is the human voice, and she has worked with singers throughout her career. She has been coach/pianist/conductor/chorus director with opera companies across Canada, conducting both traditional repertoire and her own music. Uyeda worked at Vancouver Opera for fifteen years, where she was Chorus Music Director and conductor of several mainstage productions.

Uyeda's popular works for a cappella choir include Four Mystical Songs for Women's Voices (recorded on CentreDiscs by the Elektra Women's Choir), A Summer's Singing (commissioned and recorded by musica intima), Small Elegy (commissioned by musica intima), and Salvation (commissioned and recorded by Ensemble ArtChoral).

Leslie Uyeda's music has been published by the Avondale Press, now held within the Canadian Music Centre - https://cmccanada.org. Her music is performed throughout North America, Europe and the UK. Leslie is an Associate Composer of the Canadian Music Centre, a member of the Canadian League of Composers, the Association of Canadian Women Composers, and SOCAN.

PHOTO: BELLE ANCELI

For more information, please see Leslie's website www.leslieuyeda.com

MORE NEW CHORAL MUSIC:

Leslie Uyeda was the mentor for 2024's novum musica program for emerging composers.

Four pieces from this cohort are published on musica printima:

mp-NM002	KINDER THAN MAN (HOPE SALMONSON)
mp-NV/003	O SPEAK (MARI ALICE CONRAD)
mp-NM004	LOVE SAID TO THE WIND (NICHOLAS RYAN KELLY)
mp-NM005	O HEART OF SPRING! (KATHARINE PETKOVSKI)





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contemporary choral music

Some emotions are too subtle to be described by words. 'Oliassa' is the sound of a feeling that can be different for everyone. I deliberately chose to sing it in an invented language so each listener could have their own experience and choose their own meaning for the song. For me, the song is a call from the ancestors, as if they wanted to share some serious knowledge with us in a profound way that we can only understand in our hearts.

MALIKA TIROLIEN, INTERVIEW WITH ALEXANDRA APLERXU, AFROPUNK (2014)

ABOUT MALIKA TIROLIEN



From Guadeloupe, GRAMMY-nominated vocalist, songwriter, and producer Malika Tirolien is an explosive mix of creativity, dedication, and genuineness. Her love, passion, and respect for music can be felt in the sparkling authenticity of her performances, in which her soaring voice immediately grabs your attention and her well-crafted compositions present effusive emotions through conscious and engaged lyrics. Now based in Montréal, her international attention began with her electrifying performance on "I'm Not the One", from the GRAMMY-winning album *Family Dinner* by Snarky Puppy. She then released her self-produced, -composed, and -written debut album *Sur*

La Voie Ensoleillée, before she became the lead singer and co-leader of super group BOKANTÉ with mastermind producer and musician Michael League. The nine-piece band formed in 2016 has since then toured in over twenty countries and released three critically acclaimed albums, including GRAMMY-nominated What Heat and 2023's History. Tirolien's sophmore solo release Higher (2021), showcases a new genre called "Highsoul", mixing r&b, soul, hip hop, and jazz to create the soundtrack of a psychedelic trip from anger to forgiveness. malikatirolien.com

MORE NEW CHORAL MUSIC:

mp-N001 mp-N006 mp-S003 mp-S003 AMBE ANISHINAABEG (BALFOUR, AFTER WEELKES)
OMAA BIINDIG (ANDREW BALFOUR)
A SUMMER'S SINGING (LESLIE UYEDA)
TOWARDS THE LIGHT (EMILY MILLARD)
THE FIRST STAGE (JOELYSA PANKANEA)



Oliassa

Recorded on Sur La Voie Ensoleillée (2014)

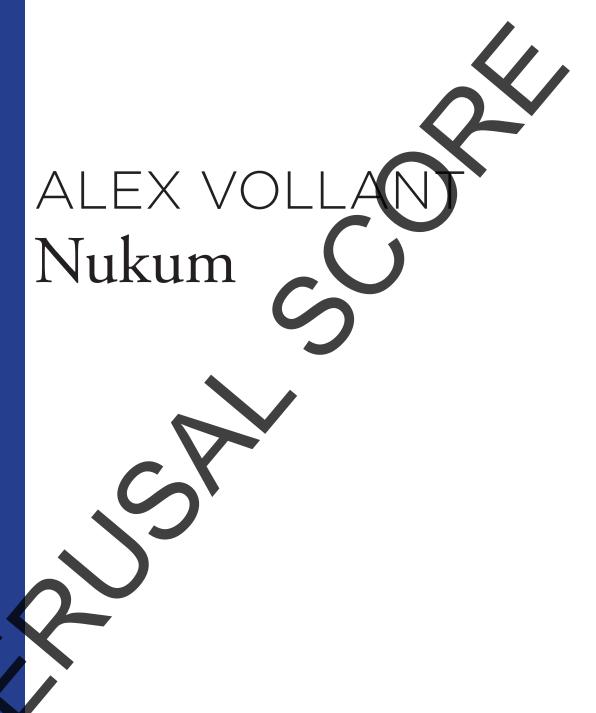












 imb

contemporary choral music

Program Note

The word "Nukum" designates a grandmother in the Innu language. This piece is a dedication to their wisdom, patience, resilience and courage. I offered this piece to musica intima to express my gratitude towards their ongoing work for Truth and Reconciliation. It speaks of the special relationships that we can find in many First Nations families and communities between children and their grandmothers. The elders share to their offspring their knowledge about the land, the language, the culture, and much more, while the young ones drink their words while waiting to access all of their secrets.

Alex Vollant | 2024

Performance Notes

The Innu language, like many Indigenous languages, was not a written language until European settlers tried to use language as a colonial tool. The standardization of Innu orthography began in the 1970s, and work towards a single spelling system for all dialects continues today. For this reason, we have not included any IPA. We include a track with Alex pronouncing the text, and we encourage you to reach out to them for linguistic guidance.

The aleotoric section from mm. 18-21 is free within metered time: one soprano begins with the text "Ueshkat ka aussiuin", and each part comes in consecutively, on the pitches marked, repeating "Ueshkat ka aussiuin" on the boxed pitch. Time continues as indicated four measures of 4/4 time, with a crescendo in the final bar, leading into the next line of text: "Tan itenitakanipan"

Nukum tshipatshi a itapishtin uenapissish? tshetshi tipatshimushtuin ueshkat ka aussiuin tan itapitakanipan nutshimit anu mishapan

Grand-mother

Can I lay down next to you for a while?

Can you tell me about life

When you were young

When our land was bigger

Alex Vollant from *Nipinapunan* © 2023 Alex Vollant Éditions HANNENORAK

Nukum



ue -

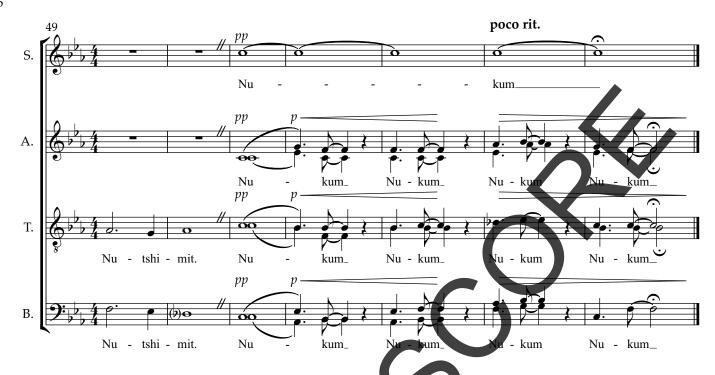
na - pis-sish

Nu

tshi-pa tshia i - ta-pish - tin









ABOUT ALEX VOLLANT



Alex Vollant is an artist from the Innu First Nation (Québec). He is a pianist, baritone singer, composer and writer. He is currently one of the core singers of the Vancouver Chamber Choir and regularly sings at Christ Church Cathedral, in Vancouver. He also sings in the Vancouver Youth Choir (VYC).

Alex published his first poetry collection in 2023. Nipinapunan is a poetic exploration of personal colonialism and how its mechanisms can find their way into relationships and love.

In May of 2024, Alex will complete a Bachelor's degree in Music - Piano Performance.

Alex is passionate about chord music and writing. Some of his compositions have been premiered by ensembles such as the Vancouver Youth Choir (Carrie Tennant, director) and musica intima.

MORE NEW CHORAL MUSIC:

mp-N001 mp-N006 mp-N007 mp-S001 mp-S006 mp-S008 mp-S010 AMBE ANISHINAABEG (BALFOUR, AFTER WEELKES)

OMAA BIINDIG (ANDREW BALFOUR)

TRAPPED IN STONE (ANDREW BALFOUR)

A SUMMER'S SINGING (LESLIE UYEDA)

ON MONSIEUR'S DEPARTURE (JEFFREY RYAN)

OLIASSA (MALIKA TIROLIEN)

SMALL ELEGY (LESLIE UYEDA)

MÎTOSAK (SHERRYL SEWEPAGAHAM)



SHERRYL SEWEPAGAHAM
Mîtosak (Trees)



contemporary choral music

The Story of the Song

My Cree parents speak of how trees are important to the survival of Cree people. Trees provide navigation when hunting and travelling; moss grows on the northside of the tree, away from the sun. Wood is used for teepee and tent poles, canoes, paddles, toboggans, snowshoes, containers, rattle handles, drum frames, and whistles. Leaves and bark are used as medicines for various ailments. Sap is used for sweetening syrup as well as glues for sealants and patching of canoes. Spruce bows are used inside tents and teepees for flooring and poplar trees provide protective shade from the sun. When trees are harvested, tobacco is offered and prayers are said to acknowledge the precious gifts trees have provided. Trees represent the transformation of life stages from roor to leaf.

Mîtosak (Trees) was commissioned by Dead of Winter, February 2024

Sherryl Sewepagaham | 2024

Pronunciation Guide: Woodland Cree translation and Roman Orthography Y-Dialect Bill and Emily Sewepagaham of the Little Red River Cree Nation

- Woodland Cree Y-Dialect is a dentalized language with the letter K sounding like an unvoiced G or a soft K sound. There is no puff air behind the consonant sound.
- The letter T is like an unvoiced D. Move the tongue back so that it connects with the alveolar ridge and do not allow a puff of air to follow the sound.
- The letter P is like an unvoiced B. Nære is no aspiration or puff of air following the sound.
- The letter H is pronounced with a strong breath, like the English word "hay." In the IPA transliteration, the H is noted; in the phonetic translation, a double "hh' is used to denote pronunciation of the H.
- Capital letters or bolded syllables as marked below indicate stressed syllables. If there is no stress indicated, all syllables are equal.

Cree Text

Mîtosak, mitosak kinkamôstamâtinâwaw Nikinosin kawicikâpawîstatakwaw Moya nitastasin kawîcikâpawîstatakwaw Kinawâhpin, Ohpiko mîtosis.

English Translation

Trees, trees I sing to you
I stand tall beside you
I am not afraid when I stand beside you
Look (at it). Little tree is gowing.

IPA

mi to sak mi to sak kin ka mos ta ma ti na waw ni ki no sin ka wi tsi ka pa wi sta ta kwaw mo ja ni tas ta sin ka wi tsi ka pa wi sta ta kwaw ki na wah pim oh pi ko mi to sis

English Phonetic Illustration

mee-toh-suhk mee-toh-suhk kihn-kuh-mohs-tuh-muh-tih-nuh-wuhw nih-kih-no-sihn kuh-wee-chih-kuh-puh-wee-stuh-tuh-kwuhw moh-yuh nih-tuhs-tuh-sihn kuh-wee-chih-kuh-puh-wee-stuh-tuh-kwuhw kih-nuh-wuh-pihm ohh-pih-koh mee-toh-sihs

Mîtosak (Trees)















ABOUT SHERRYL SEWEPAGAHAM



Sherryl Sewepagaham is of Cree-Dene ancestry from the Little Red River Cree Nation in Northern Alberta and is an interdisciplinary Indigenous artist, composer, and educator. She is a current Doctoral student in Ethnomusicology and holds degrees of Master of Education in Elementary. Education and Bachelor of Music Therapy. Sherryl taught K-6 elementary music for nearly two decades, focusing on Indigenous music education. Sherryl wrote the music and lyrics for the National Arts Centre's Music Alive Program (MAP) song, "Music Alive" and created/so-created three teacher resources for the program.

Sherryl has been commissioned by national choirs such as ProCoro Canada, the Canadian Chamber Choir, OrKidstra, and Luminous Voices, and is composer of Yôtin (The Wind), Nipîy (Water Song), and Kahkiyaw Oskâyak (All the Young

People), Okâwîmâw Askîy (Mother Earth) and Laughing Beaver for the 2021 'Wandering with Wonder' production by Samantha Whelan Kotkas. Sherryl co-produced/co-composed the soundtrack for the 2022 documentary, Re-kensi-le-a-shen by Métis filmmaker, Jamie Bourque-Blyan. Her 2014 debut solo album, Splashing the Water Loudly received a 2015 Indigenous Music Awards nomination and is featured on Aboriginal Peoples Television Network (APTN)'s Chaos and Courage series and All Our Relations.

Sherryl was a 23-year member of the retired 2006 Juno nominated. Edmonton-based trio Asani. Asani received numerous awards and nominations for their albums, Rattle & Drum and Listen, and performed at Carnegie Hall in New York, The Kennedy Centre in Washington, D.C. Miden in France, the 2010 Olympics in Vancouver, and for international dignitaries and royalty such as the 14th Dalai Lama.

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OLIASSA (MALIKA TIROLIEN)
SMALL ELEGY (LESLIE UYEDA)
NUKUM (ALEX VOLLANT)



JEFFREY RYAN On Monsieur's Departure POEM BY ELIZABETH I



contemporary choral music

Asked to choose an Elizabethan text on the theme of love, I found a poem by Elizabeth I berself that proved to be the perfect choice. Although many love poems from this period approach the subject of love by alfuding to Greek deities or waxing excessively rhapsodic, Elizabeth's poem *On Monsieur's Departure* is different. It expresses the feeling of loving someone and being unable to show it. Perhaps it is an unrequited love that the beloved knows nothing about. Perhaps it is a shared love which must remain secret. Whatever the reason, the subject of the poem cannot express this love publicly, and must maintain a very different facade—a duality that is reflected in the music through the frequent use of octaves and other ways of dividing the ensemble. To me, this text resonates with anyone who has loved and dared not speak it.

On Monsieur's Departure was commissioned by musica intima, and is dedicated to intima's glorious and inspiring voices.

Jeffrey Ryan | 2008

On Monsieur's Departure

Elizabeth I (1533-1603)

I grieve and dare not show my discontent.
I love and yet am forced to seem to hate,
I do, yet dare not say I ever meant,
I seem stark mute but inwardly do prate.
I am and not, I freeze and yet am burned,
Since from myself another self I turned.

My care is like my shadow in the sun,
Follows me flying, flies when I pursue it,
Stands and lies by me, doth what I have done.
His too familian care doth make me rue it.
No means I find to rid him from my breast,
Till by the end of things it be supprest.

Some gentler passion slide into my mind,
For I am soft and made of melting snow;
Or be more croel, love, and so be kind.
Let me float or sink, be high or low.
Or let me live with some more sweet content.
Or die and so forget what love ere meant.

On Monsieur's Departure

commissioned by musica intima



*[a i] = "I" pronounced in slow motion. Arrow designates shift in vowel.

















ABOUT JEFFREY RYAN



Praised for his "strong personal voice" (Globe and Mail), "masterful command of instrumental colour" (Georgia Straight), and "superb attention to rhythm" (Audio Ideas Guide), and recipient of SOCAN's Jan V. Mateicek New Classical Music Award, Ryan's music engages audiences in concerts and broadcasts around the world. His commissions include works for the Cleveland Orchestra, Vancouver Symphony, Toronto Symphony, Montreal Symphony, Victoria Symphony, Manitoba Chamber Orchestra, Tokyo String Quartet, Penderecki String Quartet, and Kokoro Dance. His song cycle Everything Already Lost won the 2021 NATS Art Song Composition Award, making him the first Canadian to take first prize in this international competition.

Recordings of Ryan's music have garnered multiple JUNO and Western Canadian Music Awards nominations. His discography includes the portrait CDs Fugitive Colours (Vancouver Symphony/Gryphon Trio), the chamber collections Quantum Mechanics and My Soul Upon My Lips, and Canadian Art Song Project's Found Frozen: Songs of Jeffrey Ryan, along with many individual works recorded by musica intima, the Canadian Chamber Choir, clarinetist Cris Inguanti, pianist Rachel Kiyo Iwaasa, Thunder Bay Symphony, Hannaford Street Silver Band, and more.

Ryan was the Vancouver Symphony's Composer-in-Residence (2002-2007) and Composer Laureate (2008/09). He was an Affiliate Composer with the Toronto Symphony (2000-2002), and is currently Composer Advisor for Music Toronto. He holds degrees from Wilfrid Laurier University University of Toronto, and Cleveland Institute of Music, where he studied with acclaimed composer Donald Erb.

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