



the Canadian Chamber Choir Series
music for accomplished choirs

Vision Chant - by Andrew Balfour



artwork by:
First Nations artist
Jerry Whitehead

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music from
Canada

Vision Chant

Andrew Balfour

meditative ♩ = 80

S1 *mf* He - ya, He - ya, He, He - ya

S2 *mp*hya

A. *mp*Hya

T. *mp* enter on repeat Ba - ba -

Bar. *mp* enter on repeat Ba - ba -

B. *mp* enter on repeat *mf* Ba - ba - ma - diz - - - win, *mp* Ba - ba -

6

S1 *mf* He - ya, He - ya, He - ya

S2 *mf* He - - ya, He - ya, He - ya

A. *mp*

T. *mf* *mp* - ma - diz - - - win, Ba - ba -

Bar. *mf* *mp* - ma - diz - - win, Ba - ba -

B. *mf* *mp* - ma - diz - - - win, Ba - ba -

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10

S1 He - ya He - ya, He, He - ya

S2 He - ya He - ya, He, He-ya (ah)

A. Ba - ba-

T. *mf* - ma - diz - - - win. *mf* Ba - ba-

Bar. *mf* - ma - diz - - - win. *mf* Ba - ba-

B. *mf* - ma - diz - - - win. *mf* Ba - ba-

15

S1 He - ya, He- ya, He Ba - ba - ma-diz - win

S2 Hya Ba - ba - ma-diz - win

A. - ma - diz - - - win, Ba - ba - ma - diz - win,

T. - ma - diz - - - win, Ba - ba - ma-diz - win,

Bar. - ma - diz - win, Ba - ba - ma - diz - win,

B. - ma - diz - - - win, Ba - ba - ma-diz - win,

21

S1

S2

A.

T.

Bar.

B.

mf

He - ya, He - ya, He - ya, He - ya, He - ya, He - ya, He - ya, He - ya,



24

S1

S2

A.

T.

Bar.

B.

mf

He - ya, He - ya,

He - ya, He - ya, He - ya, He - ya,

26 *mf*

S1 He - ya, He - ya, He - ya, He - ya,

S2 He - ya, He - ya, He - ya, He - ha,

A. He - ya, He - ya, He - ya, He - ya,

T. *mf*
He - ya, He - ya,

Bar. He - ya, He - ya, He - ya, He - ya, He - ya, He - ya, He - ya, He - ya,

B. *mf*
Win - di - go, Win - di - go,



28

S1 He - ya, He - ya, He - ya, He - ya,

S2 He - ya, He - ya, He - ya, He - ya,

A. He - ya, He - ya, He - ya, He - ya,

T. He - ya, He - ya, He - ya, He - ya,

Bar. He - ya, He - ya, He - ya, He - ya, He - ya, He - ya, He - ya, He - ya,

B. Win - di - go, Win - di -

30

S1 He - ya, He - ya, He - ya, He - ya,

S2 He - ya, He - ya, He - ya, He - ya,

A. He - ya, He - ya, He - ya, He - ya,

T. He - ya, He - ya, He - ya, He - ya,

Bar. He - ya, He - ya, He - ya, He - ya, He - ya, He - ya, He - ya, He - ya,

B. go, Win - di - go, Win - di -

32

S1 He - ya, He - ya, He - ya, He - - ya,

S2 He - ya, He - ya, He - ya, He - - ya,

A. He - ya, He - ya, He - ya, He - - ya,

T. He - ya, He - ya, He - hyah, He - hyah,

Bar. He - ya, He - ya, He - ya, He - ya, He - ya, He - ya, He - ya, He - ya,

B. go, Win - di - go, Hey - hyah,

34

S1 *f* He - ya, He - ya,

S2 *f* He - ya, He - ya,

A. *f* He - ya, He - ya,

T. *f* He - ya, He - ya,

Bar. ya, He - ya, He - ya, Hey He - ya, He - ya, He - ya, He - ya,

B. *f* Mis - ho - mis,

36

S1 He - ya, He - ya, He - ya, He - ya,

S2 He - ya, He - ya, He - ya, He - ya,

A. He - - ya, He - - ya, He - - ya, He - - ya,

T. He - ya, He - ya, He - ya, He - ya,

Bar. He - ya, He - ya, He - ya, He - ya, He - ya, He - ya, He - ya, He - ya,

B. Mis - - ho - mis, No - - ko - mis,

38

S1 He - ya, He - - ya, _____

S2 He - ya, He - - ya, _____

A. He - - ya, He - - ya, _____

T. He - ya, _____ He - ya, _____

Bar. He - ya, He - ya, He - ya, He, He - ya, He - ya, He - ya, He, He -

B. No - - ko - mis, _____



40

S1 He - ya, He - ya, He - ya, He - ya, _____

S2 He - ya, He - ya, He - ya, He - ya, _____

A. He - ya, He - ya, Hey - ya, He - ya, _____

T. He - ya, _____ He - ya, _____ He - ya, _____ He - ya, _____

Bar. - ya, He - ya, He - ya, He, He - ya, He - ya, He - ya, He, He -

B. Win - - di - go, Win - - di - - go,

42

S1

S2
He - ya, He - - ya, —

A.
He - ya, He - ya, He - ya, He - ya,

T.

Bar.
- ya, He - ya, he - ya, He, He - ya, He - ya, he - ya, He, He -

B.
Win - - di - - go,



rit.

44

S1
mf
He - ya, He - ya, —

S2
He - ya, — He - ya, —

A.
mf
He - ya, He - ya, — Hya —

T.
mf
Hya —

Bar.
mf
ya, He - ya, he - ya, He, He - ya, He ya, he - ya, He - ya, —

B.
mf
Hya —

10

47

S1 He - ya He - ya, He - ya

S2 He - ya He - ya, He - ya

A.

T. 8

Bar. Hyah

B.

52

rit.

S1 He - ya He - ya, He, He - - ya.

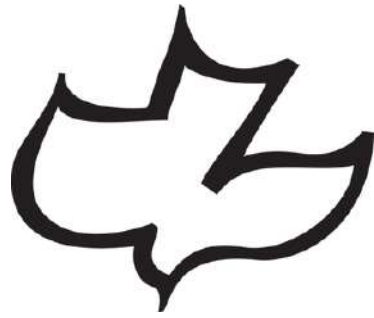
S2 He - ya He - ya, He, He - - ya.

A.

T. 8

Bar.

B.



Vision Chant incorporates the Ojibway word, “babamadizwin”, which means “journey”. Based on an Indigenous chant style, this work is striking for both its stillness and its intensity. The journey that is evoked begins and ends with a soprano melody, at first divided and then, symbolically perhaps, unified. What takes place in between these musical bookends is the vision itself.

This is an excerpt from a larger work, **Bawajigaywin**, commissioned by the Kingston Chamber Choir. Listen to the wonderful rendition of **Vision Chant** by the Canadian Chamber Choir (director – Dr. Julia Davids) Visit cypresschoral.com



Prominent Winnipeg composer **Andrew Balfour**, of Cree descent, has written a body of choral, instrumental and orchestral works, including *Take the Indian*, *Empire Étrange: The Death of Louis Riel*, *Migiis: A Whiteshell Soundscape*, *Bawajigaywin*, *Gregorio’s Nightmare*, *Wa Wa Tey Wak (Northern Lights)*, *Fantasia on a Poem by Rumi*, *Missa Brevis* and *Medieval Inuit*. He has been commissioned by the Winnipeg, Regina and Toronto Symphony Orchestras, Ensemble Caprice, the Winnipeg Singers, the

Kingston Chamber Choir and Camerata Nova, among others. His works have been performed and broadcasted locally, nationally, and internationally. Andrew is the Artistic Director of Winnipeg’s Camerata Nova known for their inter-genre and interdisciplinary collaborations. He is passionate about music education and outreach, particularly in schools located in low-income areas of Winnipeg and in northern communities.

other Cypress publications of Andrew Balfour’s music:

Ambe is Andrew’s high energy and rhythmic welcoming song.

Qilak is soft and lovely, reflecting the expanse of the sky and shimmering reflection of sun on snow.