

Commissioned by Pro Coro Canada under the direction of Michael Zaugg

yôtin (The Wind)

Woodland Cree Text
by Sherryl Sewepagaham

Music by Sherryl Sewepagaham

Gentle Breeze ♩ = 56

*Improvised wind-like on "ay, ahh, ooh, ee, oh"
use head-voice gently floating high and low
like a native wooden flute*

Descant/Flute *mp*

Example: ay ahh ooh ahh ee ah oh ay ay ay

Singers should enter one by one on a drone and move between syllables ad lib. - creates a rich soundscape effect, singers should choose the pitch most comfortable to their range and blend with the ensemble

Soprano Alto *p* *cresc. poco a poco* *mp*
Wey ay... ahh... ooh... ee... oh... wey

Tenor Bass *p* *cresc. poco a poco* *mp*
Wey ay... ahh... ooh... ee... oh... wey

Rattle/Shaker *p* *Shake continuously*

Hand/Frame Drums *p* *Scratch drum with fingernails in a circular pattern to sound like the wind*

7

S. A. *mf unis (sop. & alto)*
oh yô-tin yô-tin ni-pî-ta-mak ni-ka-mo-na, ni-ka-mo-na

T. B. *mp*
oh wey oh wey

(shake continuously) *Gentle shake and release* *mp*

with soft tip mallet *mp*

12

S. A. *mf*
 — yô - tin yô - tin ni - pî - ta - mak — ni - ka - mo - na, ni - ka - mo na. —

T. B. *mf*
 oh wey oh wey oh

mf

A Playful Wind

17

S. A. *f* *ff*
 ki - se - ma - ni - to — na - nâ - ska - mon — na - nâ - ska - mon oh - ci.
 yô - ô - ô tin oh - ci.

T. B. *f*
 wey - ay - ay - yo! wey - ay - ay - yo! wey - ay - ay - yo!

Circular swirls on the eighth notes

mf *f*

20

S. A. *ff* *f* *ff*
 — oh - ci. ki - se - ma - ni - to na - nâ - ska - mon — na - nâ - ska - mon

T. B. *f*
 wey - ay - ay - yo! wey - ay - ay - yo! wey - ay - ay - yo!

B Nurturing Breeze

23 *mf* *mp* *mf*

S. A. yô - ô - ô - tin oh - ci. yô - tin yô -

T. B. wey - ay - ay - yo! wey - ay - ay - yo! yô - tin

26

S. A. tin ki - pî - ta - mak, — ki - pî - ta - mak ni - ta - ya - mi - hô -

T. B. yô - tin ki - pî - ta - mak, — ki - pî - ta - mak ni - ta - ya - mi - hô -

28 *mf*

S. A. win. yô - tin yô - tin kî - pîh - ta - mak

T. B. win. yô - tin yô - tin kî - pîh - ta - mak

31

S.
A.

— ki - pî - ta - mak ni - ta - ya - mi - hâ - win.

T.
B.

— ki - pî - ta - mak ni - ta - ya - mi - hâ - win.

33

S.
A.

f ki - se - ma - ni - to *ff* na - nâ - ska - mon

T.
B.

f yo yo yo yo

na - nâ - ska - mon

35

S.
A.

f yo - ô - ô - tin oh - ci oh - ci. ki - se - ma - ni - to na - nâ - ska - mon

T.
B.

yo yo yo yo yo yo

na-nâ-ska-mon

38 *ff* *f unis.* *mf*

S. A. yô-ô - ô-tin oh - ci. yô-ô - ô-tin oh -

T. B. yo yo yo yo yo yo yo yo

42 *mp* **C** Demanding Wind ♩ = 63

S. A. ci. yô - ô - ô-tin

T. B. yo yo yô - ô - ô-tin wey hey hey ya ha ha!

ff With power and full voice

46 *ff* With power and full voice

S. A. wey hey hey ya ha wey-a wey-o wey-a wey-o - ho-wey__

T. B. wey hey hey ya ha wey-a wey-o wey-a wey-o - ho-wey__ wey hey hey ya ha ha!

50 *ff*

S.
A.

wey hey hey ya ha wey-a___ wey-o wey-a wey-o - ho - wey

T.
B.

wey hey hey ya ha wey-a___ wey-o wey-a wey-o - ho - wey

52 *mf* *fff*

S.
A.

wey-a___ wey-o wey-a wey-o hoho wey - yo!

T.
B.

wey-a___ wey-o wey-a wey-o hoho wey - yo!

port. *fff*

PHOTO: MILANA WARD



Sherryl Sewepagaham, a Cree-Dene artist hailing from the Little Red River Cree Nation in Northern Alberta, embodies a richly interdisciplinary approach as an Indigenous artist, composer, and educator. Currently pursuing her Doctoral studies in Ethnomusicology at UBC, of which she holds a 2024 Vanier Scholar title, a Master of Education in Elementary Education and a Bachelor of Music Therapy. For nearly two decades, Sherryl dedicated herself to teaching K-6 elementary music with a focus on Indigenous musical traditions. Notably, she composed the music and lyrics for the National Arts Centre’s “Music Alive” song and contributed to three teacher resources for the program.

Sherryl has been commissioned by esteemed national choirs such as ProCoro Canada, the Canadian Chamber Choir, Dead of Winter, and Luminous Voices. Her compositions include impactful works like “yôtin (The Wind),” “nipiy (Water Song),” “kahkiyaw oskâyak (All the Young People),” “okâwîmâw askîy (Mother Earth),” and “Laughing Beaver,” which were featured in Samantha Whelan Kotkas’ 2021 production ‘Wandering with Wonder.’ Notably, she co-produced and co-composed the soundtrack for the 2022 documentary ‘Re-ken-si-le-a-shen’ by Métis filmmaker, Jamie Bourque-Blyan.

Sherryl’s debut solo album, ‘Splashing the Water Loudly,’ released in 2014, garnered a nomination at the 2015 Indigenous Music Awards and has been highlighted on Aboriginal Peoples Television Network (APTN)’s ‘Chaos and Courage’ series and ‘All Our Relations.’ Formerly a member of the acclaimed Edmonton-based trio Asani for 23 years, Sherryl contributed significantly to their Juno-nominated albums ‘Rattle & Drum’ and ‘Listen.’ Asani performed at prestigious venues worldwide, including Carnegie Hall in New York, The Kennedy Centre in Washington, D.C., and Midem in France. They were also honored to perform at the 2010 Olympics in Vancouver and for dignitaries such as the 14th Dalai Lama and Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth.

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