



for the University of Manitoba Concert Choir; director Catherine Robbins

Ambe

text by Cory Campbell

Andrew Balfour
based on an original song
gifted by Cory Campbell
editor: Catherine Robbins

Vivace ♩ = 110

Ambe

Am-be, Am-be, Am-be, Am-be,

Am-be, Am-be, Am-be, Am-be, Am-be, Am-be, Am-be, Am-be, Am-be, Am-be, Am-be, Am-be,

Am-be, Am-be, Am-be, Am-be, Am-be, Am-be, Am-be, Am-be, Am-be, Am-be, Am-be, Am-be,

A

Am - - - be,

Am - be, Am-be, Am - - - be, Am - be, Am-be,

Am-be, Am-be, Am-be, Am-be, Am-be, Am-be, Am-be, Am-be,

Am-be, Am-be, Am-be, Am-be, Am-be, Am-be, Am-be, Am-be,

Am-be, Am-be, Am-be, Am-be, Am-be, Am-be, Am-be, Am-be, Am-be, Am-be, Am-be, Am-be,

Am-be, Am-be, Am-be, Am-be, Am-be, Am-be, Am-be, Am-be, Am-be, Am-be, Am-be, Am-be,

B

S1 Am - - - be,

S2 Am - be, Am - be, _____

A Am - be, _____ Am - be,

T Am - be, _____ Am - be,

B Am - be, _____ Am - be, mp Am-be, Am-be,

17

S1 *mf* Am - - be, A - ni- shina, A - ni-

S2 *mf* A - ni- shina, A - ni-

A *mp* Am-be, Am-be, Am-be, Am-be, Am-be, Am-be, Am-be, Am-be, Am-be, Am-be,

T *mp* *mf* Am-be, Am-be, Am-be, Am-be, Am-be, Am-be, Am-be, Am-be, Am-be, Am-be, Am-be, Am-be,

B Am-be, Am-be, Am-be, Am-be, Am-be, Am-be, Am-be, Am-be,

21

S1 *mf* - shina-a beg A -

S2 *mf* - shina-a beg A -

A *mf* Am-be, Am-be, Am-be, Am-be, Am-be, Am-be, Am-be, Am-be, Am-be, Am-be, Am-be, Am-be,

T *mf* Am-be, Am-be, Am-be, Am-be, Am-be, Am-be, Am-be, Am-be, Am-be, Am-be, Am-be, Am-be,

B *mf* Am-be, Am-be, Am-be, Am-be, Am-be, Am-be, Am-be, Am-be,

C

25

S1 *mf*
- ni- shina, A - ni - shina a - beg Am-be, Am-be, Am - be,

S2
- ni- shina, A - ni - shina a - beg

A
Am-be, Am-be, Am - be, Am - be, Am-be, Am - be, Am- be,

T
Am-be, Am-be, Am - be, Am - be, Am-be, Am - be, Am- be,

B
Am-be, Am-be, Am - be, Am-be, Am- be,



29

S1 *mf*
Am-be, Am-be, Am - be, Am-be, Am-be, Am - be, Am-be, Am-be, Am - be, Am-be, Am - be,

S2 *mf*
Biin - di - geg, Biin - di - geg, Biin - di - geg, Biin - di - geg,

A *mf*
Biin-di - geg, Biin-di - geg, Biin-di - geg,

T *mf*
A - ni - shina

B *mf*
A - ni - shina

33

S1 Am-be, Am-be, Am-be, Am-be, Am-be, Am-be, Am-be, Am-be, Am-be, Am-be, Am-be, Am-be,

S2 Biin - di - geg, Biin - di - geg, Biin - di - geg, Biin - di - geg,

A Biin-di - geg, Biin-di - geg, Biin-di - geg, Biin-di - geg,

T — A - ni - shina - a - beg

B — A - ni - shina - a - beg

37

S1 Am-be, Am-be, Am-be, Am-be, Am-be, Am-be, Am-be, Am-be, Am-be, Am-be, Am-be, Am-be,

S2 Biin - di - geg, Biin - di - geg, Biin - di - geg, Biin - di - geg,

A Biin-di - geg, Biin-di - geg, Biin-di - geg, Biin-di - geg,

T *mf* A - ni - shina — A - ni - shina - a - beg

B *mf* A - ni - shina — A - ni - shina - a - beg

D

41

S1 *mf* Am - be Mi - no - bi -

S2 Am - be Am - be

A *mf* Am - be, Am - be Am - be

T *mf* Am - be Am - be

B *mf* Am - be Am - be

45

S1 *mf* maa - di - zi - win o - maa Am - be,

S2 Mi - no - bi - maa - di - zi - win o - maa

A Mi - no - bi - maa - di - zi - win o - maa

T Mi - no - bi - maa - di - zi - win o - maa

B Mi - no - bi - maa - di - zi - win o - maa

E

49

S1 *f* Am - be, Am - be, Am - be, Am - - - be, Am - - - be,

S2 *mf* Am - be, Am - be, Am - be, Am - be, Am - be, Am - be, Am - be, Am - be, Am - be, Am - be, Am - be, Am - be,

A *mf* Am - be, Am - be, Am - be, Am - be, Am - be, Am - be, Am - be, Am - be, Am - be, Am - be, Am - be, Am - be,

T *mf* Am - be, Am - be, Am - be, Am - be, Am - be, Am - be, Am - be, Am - be, Am - be, Am - be, Am - be, Am - be,

B *f* Am - be, Am - be, Am - be, —

F

53

S1 *f* Am - be, — Am - be, Am - be, Am - be,

S2 *f* Am - be, Am - be, Am - be, Am - be, Am - be, Am - be, Am - be, Am - be, Am - be, Am - be, — Am - be,

A *f* Am - be, Am - be, Am - be, Am - be, Am - be, Am - be, Am - be, Am - be, Am - be, Am - be, Am - be, Am - be,

T *f* Am - be, Am - be, Am - be, Am - be, Am - be, Am - be, Am - be, Am - be, Am - be, Am - be, Am - be, Am - be,

B *f* Am - be, Am - be, Am - be, — Am - be,

57

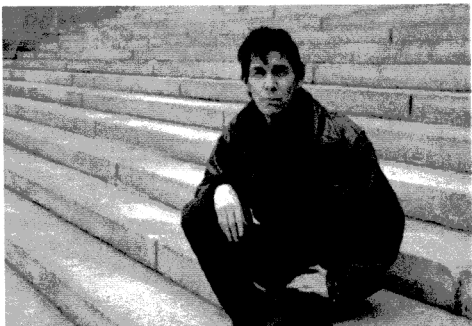
S1 Am - be, Am - be, Am - be, Am - be, Am - be, Am - be, Am - be!

S2 Am- be, Am - be, Am- be, Am - be, Am- be, Am - be, Am - be!

A Am-be, Am-be, Am - be, Am-be, Am-be, Am - be, Am-be, Am-be, Am - be, Am - be!

T Am - be, Am - be, Am - be, Am - be, Am - be, Am - be, Am - be!

B Am - be, Am - be, Am - be, Am - be!



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 Whitespace 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.

This piece is based on an original song in Ojibway that was gifted by traditional drummer and singer Cory Campbell to Andrew Balfour and the University of Manitoba Concert Choir. Cory describes the song as "a call to the people to the ceremonial way of life or to the red road or, quite frankly, to whatever we have going on, because everything happens with spirit and in spirit."

Andrew has created an original composition inspired by Cory's song which uses the same text and echoes the steady rhythm of the drum, unifying the piece. The melodies of Andrew's piece are all original but hints of Cory's song remain. For Andrew, the steady beat throughout represents the heartbeat of Mother Earth and the lyrical first soprano melody that emerges from this rhythmic texture at measure seven conveys the powerful totem of the eagle which represents the teaching of love, wisdom, and strength.

Many dialects and local writing systems for Ojibwe exist. The pronunciation for the text is based on the dialect spoken on Sagkeeng First Nation in Cory's home province of Manitoba. Specifically, the pronunciation of the word Anishinaabeg or phonetically, a-nis-ee-uh-nah-bek/g, reflects one of the teachings that have come to Cory involving the etymology of the word in representing not only the Ojibwe people, but people of all nations, or two-legged beings. Visit cypresschoral.com to hear the text spoken.

Ambe, ambe Anishinaabeg
biindigeg Anishinaabeg
Mino-bimaadiziwin omaa.
Ambe!

Come in two-legged beings
come in all people
There is good life here
Come in!

IPA
[ʌmbe ʌmbe a'nis:iʌnɑ:bek]
[biɪndɪgek a'nis:iʌnɑ:bek]
[mɪnɔ pɪ'mɑ:tɪziwɪn oma:]
[ʌmbe]

k, p, t are light and unaspirated