

*Commissioned by Chronos Vocal Ensemble, music director Jordan Van Biert
Edmonton Alberta Canada*

Picking Wild Berries

Music:

Alex Eddington (2017)

Text:

Julie Flett

(from the book *Wild Berries / Pikaci Minisa*, Simply Read Books 2014)
Translations to Swampy Cree by Earl Cook

SATB choir a capella

Choir members include:

Soprano soloist (featured)

Tenor soloist (supporting Soprano solo)

Finger cymbals (played by 2 Sopranos and 2 Altos)

Duration: ca. 5:10

Performance Notes

CHOIR SETUP:

At least 5/6 singers on a part, balanced between sections as much as possible.

Arranged in two rows: SA in front, TB in back.

Soprano soloist is at the extreme left side from the conductor's view; tenor soloist on the extreme right.

4 singers in the front row have finger cymbals. Widely spaced evenly from left to right.

The above instructions are represented by this diagram:

BBBBBBTTTTT

SSSSSA~~AAAA~~AAT (S, T = soprano/tenor soloists SA = soprano or alto with finger cymbals)

Cond.

FINGER CYMBALS:

Each of the four players has their own line on a separate, central staff.

Top to bottom lines = left to right players.

Rests are only to clarify the rhythm. **Always let the cymbals ring for as long as possible!**

DICTION:

The International Phonetic Alphabet is used throughout. Phonemes are in [square] brackets.

A gradual transition in vowels and other voiced sounds is indicated by a **thin arrow**: 

Swampy Cree words (n-dialect from the Cumberland House area) are also written in Roman orthography.

SPECIAL EFFECTS

Snapping (one hand) is shown **above** the Tenor/Bass staff (open triangle noteheads).


Stomping is **below** the Tenor/Bass staff (solid triangle noteheads).

Other effects (whispers, shouts, etc.) are indicated in the score with special noteheads and instructions.


Molto vibrato (and accelerating/decelerating vibrato) is shown graphically:



ALEATORIC SECTIONS:

Material in **boxes** should be rearranged and repeated for the length of the **thick arrow**: 

Singers should not coordinate with each other, nor with the meter of the piece.

Dashed arrows: singers drop out one-by-one: 

OTHER:

Long notes always require **stagger breathing** within sections. This should be imperceptable.

Glissandos should happen over the full duration of the note.

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Music:
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Sunrise (♩ = 76) Freely

First System (Measures 1-4):

- Solo soprano:** *pp* When Cla - rence was lit - tle, his grand - ma
- Soprano section:** *ppp* senza vibr. [m]
- Alto section:** *pp* senza vibr. [m]
- Finger Cymbals:** L, CL, CR, R. *pp*
- Tenor section:** [m]
- Bass section:** [m]

Second System (Measures 5-8):

- Solo S:** car - ried him on her back through the woods to the clear - ing to pick
- S:** *p* vibr. norm. [n]
- A:** *p* vibr. norm. [n]
- T:** [m]
- B:** [m]

♩ = 76

Rhythmically

Freely

mp

8

Solo S *mf* wild ber-ries Grand-ma *mp*

S *mf* molto vibr. (fast) *p* vibr. norm.

A *mf* wild ber-ries *p* gliss.

F. Cym. L CL CR R

T *mf* *mp* *p* gliss. *p*

B *mf* *p* gliss. *p*

12

Solo S *mf* car-ried a bucket and sang. *mp*

S *mp* [a] [æ]

A *mp* [æ]

F. Cym. L CL CR R

T

B

Into the clearing

♩ = 82 Steady, precise and joyful

24

Solo S

S

A

F. Cym. L
CL
CR
R

T

B

8 [si] [i]

sfz p *mf* *f* *mp*

molto vibr. (fast) *vibr. norm.*

sing to-ge - ther. to-ge - ther. They sing to - They sing to-ge - ther. They sing to -

28

S

A

F. Cym. L
CL
CR
R

T

B

8

tutti mp *mf*

Blue - ber-ries

They sing to-ge - ther. They sing to - ge-ther. Blue - ber-ries

ge-ther. They sing to-ge - ther. They sing to - ge-ther. They sing ge-ther. They sing to-ge - ther. They sing to - ge-ther. They sing

31

f

strong [z] on "bears"

♩ = 88

A little faster, playfully

S dot the clear-ing. Grand - ma checks bears

A dot the clear-ing. Grand - ma checks for bears

F. Cym. L
CL
CR
R

mf

T to-ge - ther. Grand - ma checks *f* shouted (mid-range) mas - kwak. [mas-kwak] *mf* They pick the

B to-ge - ther. Grand - ma checks *f* mas - kwak. [mas-kwak] *mf* They pick the plump-est ber - ries

36

mf

S They pick the plump-est they can find and drop them in-to their

A They pick the plump - est ber - ries they can find and drop them in-to their

T plump - est ber - ries they can find and drop them and drop them in-to their

B they can find and drop them and drop them and drop them in-to their

40

mp

S buck - ets spoken breathily (semi-whisper): o - tas - kī - ko - wā - wa. *mp* [o - tAs - ki - ko - wa - wΛ]

A buck - ets o - tas - kī - ko - wā - wa. [o - tAs - ki - ko - wa - wΛ] *f*

T buck - ets buck - ets Tup,

B buck - ets buck - ets

S

A *p/ mp*
tup tup tup tup

T *mp* *p/ mp*
tup, tup, tup, tup, tup tup tup tup

B *f* *mp*
Tup, tup, tup, tup, tup, tup, tup, tup

S *mf*
Grand-ma likes sweet blue-ber-ries i - ni - ni - mi - na, i - ni - ni - mi - na,
[I - ni - ni - mi - na] [I - ni - ni - mi - na]

A

T individuals gradually drop out until none are left singing

B *mf*
Grand-ma likes sweet blue-ber-ries blue-ber-ries blue-ber-ries

S *accel. to...* $\text{♩} = 100$ *f*
blue-ber-ries soft blue-ber-ries jui-cy jui - cy blue-ber-ries Cla-rence likes

A *f*
Cla-rence likes

T *f*
gliss. through unspecified pitches jui - cy jui - cy Cla-rence likes

B *f*
soft blue-ber-ries, blue-ber-ries jui-cy jui-cy blue-ber-ries. Cla-rence likes

58 $(\text{♩} = 100 / \text{♩} = 60)$ *accel. poco a poco...* -----

S
big blue-ber-ries, sour* blue-ber-ries, big blue-ber-ries, sour

A
big blue-ber-ries, sour* blue-ber-ries, big blue-ber-ries, sour

T
big blue-ber-ries, sour* blue-ber-ries, big blue-ber-ries, sour blue-ber-ries,

B
big blue-ber-ries, sour* blue-ber-ries, big blue-ber-ries, sour blue-ber-ries,

* the vowel diphthong in "sour" should be spread, harsh, nasal

64 $\text{♩} = 100$

S
blue-ber-ries, big blue-ber-ries, sour blue-ber-ries, blue-ber-ries, blue-ber-ries

A
blue-ber-ries, big blue-ber-ries, sour blue-ber-ries, blue-ber-ries, blue-ber-ries

T
big blue-ber-ries, sour blue-ber-ries, blue-ber-ries, blue-ber-ries, blue-ber-ries

B
big blue-ber-ries, sour blue-ber-ries, blue-ber-ries, blue-ber-ries, blue-ber-ries

pull thumb rapidly out of mouth/cheek
to create "pop" sound

67 (♩ = 100 / ♩ = 150)

S that go POP in his mouth. *sfz* *f* *rit. to...*

A that go POP in his mouth. *sfz* *mp*

T that go POP in his mouth. *sfz* *f*

B that go POP mouth "pops" (lips only, no thumb) *sfz* *mp*

71 *Passing through the day*

S Cla-rence and his grand - ma pick blue-ber-ries blue-ber-ries for a long *mf* *mp*

A [Redacted] *mf* *mp*

T Cla-rence and his grand - ma pick blue-ber-ries blue-ber-ries for a long time *mf* *mp*

B [Redacted] *mf* *mp*

accel. to...

75 time They eat So ma-ny eat So ma-ny *f* *sfz p*

A ko - nēsk. [ko - nefk] They eat So eat So ma-ny *p* *f* *sfz p*

T time They eat So ma-ny eat So ma-ny ber-ries that their *mp* *f*

B ko - nēsk. [ko - nefk] They eat So ma-ny ma-ny ber-ries that their *mp* *f*

♩ = 88

♩ = 100

79

S *f-mp* pulsing

A *f-mp* pulsing

F. Cym. L CL CR R

T * Bilabial "lip trill" (ossia: fast repeated [mo])

B

lips turn pur-ple.

lips turn pur-ple.

mf *mp*

mf *mp*

83

Solo S *mp* *p* (timing is approximate)

S *p* *p*

A *mp* *p* *p*

T *p* *mp*

B *p*

An ant An ant crawls up Cla-ren-ce's leg. tch tch tch tch It tic-kles.

[tʃ] [tʃ] [tʃ] [tʃ]

tch tch tch tch

[tʃ] [tʃ] [tʃ] [tʃ]

tch tch tch tch tch

[tʃ] [tʃ] [tʃ] [tʃ] [tʃ]

ē - - - - - nik

[e] - - - - - nɪk]

The pulse dissolves into individual crescendos/accents.
Do not coordinate timing or length of crescendo with other singers.

♩ = 70

misterioso, poco rubato

Solo S

S

A

F. Cym. L
CL
CR
R

T

B

mp molto vibr. (slow and irregular)

p *mf*

[3] sh sh sh sh sh sh

[f] sh sh sh sh sh

approximate pitches (sprechstimme)

mf *p*

A spi - der makes its web.

mf *mp*

(exact pitches) kō - kom - mi - nā - kē - sīs
[ku - kom mi - na - ge - sis]

PERUSAL SCORE - DO NOT COPY

accel. to... ♩ = 100

Solo S

S

A

T

B

mp *f* *rit. to...*

A fox sneaks by. [r] *

rus-tle rus-tle rus-tle rus-tle [r] *

harsh whisper *f* >

rus-tle rus-tle rus-tle rus-tle rus-tle [r]

sfz p *f* *f* *f*

mā - kē-sīs - rus-tle rus-tle rus-tle [r] *

breathy/harsh pitchless cluster

sfz p *f* shout *f* >

mā - kē-sīs ge-sis - rus-tle rus-tle rus-tle rus-tle [r] *

* tongue trill (ossia: uvular "French" [R])

Heading home: late afternoon

94

♩ = 76

Solo S

S *mp* *mf* [i] When the buck-ets are full, _____ Cla - rence lays a hand-ful of ber-ries on a

A *mp* [i] [u]

F. Cym. L CL CR R

T *mp* *mp* [i] [u]

B *mp* [i] [u]

98

S *mf* leaf for the birds pi nē-sī - sak pi-nē-sī-sak of the woods. _____ They say
[pi ne-si - sak]

A *mf* for the birds pi - nē-sī - sak pi-nē-sī-sak of the woods. _____ They say
[pi - ne-si-sak]

F. Cym. L CL CR R

T *mf* and the o - ther a - ni - mals of the [wŪ] They say

B *mf* and the o - ther a - ni - mals of the woods. of the [wŪ] They say

102

S
thank you na - nās - ko - mo - wak. thank you → [ʌ]
[nʌ - nas - ko - mu - wak]

A
thank you thank you na - nās - ko - mo senza vibrato
[nʌ - nas - ko - mu - [wʌ]]

F. Cym. L
CL
CR
R

T
8 thank you na - nās - ko - mo - wak. na - nās - ko - mo - wak. Cla - rence and his grand - ma
[nʌ - nas - ko - mu - wak] [nʌ - nas - ko - mu - wak]

B
thank you thank you na - nās - ko - mo - wak.
[nʌ - nas - ko - mu - wak]

mp

105

S
[ɑ]

A
[ɑ] → [ŋ]

F. Cym. L
CL
CR
R

Solo T
8

T
8 walk back through the woods with their buck - ets full of ber - ries.
of [bɛ]

B
mp senza vibrato *p*
mp sa - kāk *p* [ŋ]
[sʌ - gāk]

poco rit.

Sunset

108 *a tempo*
p

Solo S

S

A

p

The birds sing in the clearing.

The birds sing in the clearing.

The birds sing in the clearing.

Each singer speaks this text 1 or 2 times, with silence between.
Singers use varied pitch and pacing - but must be natural, simple, and warm.

F. Cym. L

CL

CR

R

p

Solo T

T

B

p

mp

p senza vibr.

mf

(nikamo) [n] - - [i] - - [gʌ] -

[n]

111

poco rit.

Solo S

S

A

pp

[m]

F. Cym. L

CL

CR

R

Solo T

T

B

p

mp

pp

[m]

[o]

[m]

[m]

[m]

Wild Berries / Píkaci Mīnisa – text and illustrations by Julie Flett

Published by Simply Read Books, 2014. Translations to Swampy Cree by Earl Cook.

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When Clarence was little, his grandma
carried him on her back through
the woods to the clearing to pick.

wild berries

pickaci-mīnisa.

Grandma carried a bucket and sang.

Now Clarence carries his own bucket
and walks behind his

grandma

ōkoma.

They sing together.

Blueberries dot the clearing.
Grandma checks for

bears

maskwak.

They pick the plumpest berries they can find and
drop them into their

buckets

otaskikowāwa.

Tup, tup.

Grandma likes sweet

blueberries

ininimina,

soft blueberries, juicy blueberries. Clarence likes
big blueberries, sour blueberries, blueberries that
go *POP* in his mouth.

Clarence and his grandma pick blueberries for a

long time

konēsk.

They eat

so many

mīcēt

berries that their lips turn purple.

An ant

ēnik

crawls up Clarence's leg.

Tch, tch. It tickles.

A spider

kōkom-mīnākesīs

makes its web.

Sh, sh.

A fox

mākēsīs

sneaks by.

Rustle, rustle.

When the buckets are full, Clarence lays a
handful of berries on a leaf for the

birds

pinēsīsak

and the other animals of the woods.

They say

thank you

nanāskomowak.

Clarence and his grandma walk back through the
woods

sakāk

with their buckets full of berries.

The birds

sing

nikamo

in the clearing.