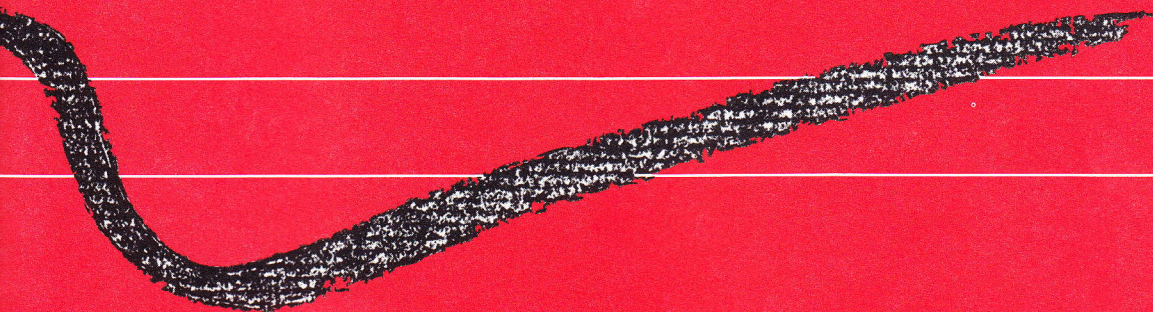


DOREEN RAO'S

CME  
CHORAL MUSIC EXPERIENCE



# THE COAT

NO. 1 FROM "SIMPLE SONGS"

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JOHN BURGE

BOOSEY & HAWKES



## PROGRAM NOTE

**Simple Songs** was commissioned by The St. Louis Symphony Children's Choir and their Artistic Director, Ethelyn Sparfeld in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Henry McCoy and Mr. Paul E. Sparfeld. This is the second work for choir and orchestra that John Burge has written for this fine organization. **The Coat** is a setting of a children's poem by the Canadian poet, Dennis Lee. Dennis Lee is one of Canada's most celebrated poets, having published over twenty volumes of poetry. Generations of Canadian children have enjoyed his books of verse which include such titles as, *Wiggle to the Laundromat* (1970), *Alligator Pie* (1974), *Jelly Belly* (1983), and *The Ice Cream Store* (1991). The three poems used by John Burge, "The Coat," "Silverly," and "Secrets," were published under the title "Simple Songs," in the volume entitled *Nightwatch: New and Selected Poems, 1968-1996* (McClelland and Stewart Inc., 1996).

The complete **Simple Songs** consists of the following movements:

THE COAT (M-051-47295-6)

SILVERLY (M-051-47296-3)

SECRETS (M-051-47297-0)

EPILOGUE (M-051-7298-7).

**The Coat**, **Silverly** and **Secrets** are written for Unison Voices and Piano or Orchestra. **Epilogue** is written for Three-Part Treble Voices and Piano Duet or Orchestra and combines the previous three works in an overlapping fashion.

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## THE TEXT

### *The Coat*

I patched my coat with sunlight.  
It lasted for a day.  
I patched my coat with moonlight,  
But the lining came away.  
I patched my coat with lightning,  
And it blew off in the storm.  
I patched my coat with darkness:  
That coat has kept me warm.

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## ABOUT THE COMPOSER

John Burge was born in Dryden, Ontario, in 1961. He holds degrees from the University of Toronto (B.Mus and M.Mus) and the University of British Columbia (D.M.A.) where his composition professors included John Beckwith, Walter Buczynski, Stephen Chatman, John Hawkins and Derek Holman. Since 1987 he has been teaching at

the School of Music, Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario. Burge's compositional output is marked by a number of major choral works including **Thank You God**, for children's choir and chamber orchestra (available on rental from Boosey & Hawkes). Other individually published titles include, **I Thank You God** (M-051-46748-8), **O Lord, Hear My Voice Today** (M-051-46749-5), **Love Divine** (M-051-32880-2), and **Chromatic Fantasy and Fugue** (M-051-47125-6).

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## PERFORMANCE TIME

ca. 3 min. 45 sec.

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## EDUCATION THROUGH ARTISTRY

**Choral Music Experience** begins with distinctive choral repertoire. Each student is challenged by the opportunity to **produce** music with the singing voice, **practice** the musicianship required to meet the musical challenges, and **perform** the results of their efforts. This performance approach to music teaching and learning teaches students how to **think-in-action**, i.e., how to demonstrate their knowledge through choral singing.

**Choral Music Experience** engages students in the development of their singing voice, a skill central to the musical education of every student. Instruction must also focus on music reading as an important component of musicianship. Exercises and vocalizations can be taught through musical problem-solving opportunities authentically derived from the repertoire and its inherent challenges.

**Choral Music Experience** assessment takes place in the performance context. Teacher-conductors are encouraged to offer continuous feedback and reinforcement to give students a constant sense of well-being and accomplishment. Assessment options include the use of audio and video taping, problem-solving exercises that are a part of the students natural engagement in musical activity, and a student performance portfolio of musical development — a *biography* of musical challenge and artistic accomplishment.

A complete and comprehensive choral performance curriculum for beginning choirs can be found in the music textbook **WE WILL SING!** published by Boosey & Hawkes (TXB-81).

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Commissioned by the St. Louis Symphony Children's Choirs  
In memory of Mr. and Mrs. Henry McCoy and Mr. Paul E. Sparfeld

# THE COAT

(No. 1 from "Simple Songs")

Words by  
Dennis Lee\*\*

for Unison Treble Voices & Piano or Orchestra\*

Music by  
John Burge

Semplice ♩ = 66

Piano *p dolce*

The musical score is written for unison treble voices and piano/orchestra. It begins with a piano introduction in 4/4 time, marked 'Semplice' and '♩ = 66'. The piano part features a simple, flowing melody in the right hand and a supporting bass line in the left hand, both in a key with one flat (B-flat major or D minor). The vocal line enters at measure 5, marked 'All voices in unison' and 'p dolce'. The lyrics are: 'I patched my coat with sun - light. It last-ed for a day. I patched my coat with moon - light, But the lin - ing came a - way, the'. The score includes dynamic markings such as *p* (piano), *mp* (mezzo-piano), and *p dolce*. The piano accompaniment continues throughout, providing harmonic support for the vocal line.

5 All voices in unison *p dolce* *mp* *p*

I patched my coat with sun - light. It

10 *mp* *p*

last-ed for a day. I patched my coat with

16 *mp* *p* *mp*

moon - light, But the lin - ing came a - way, the

\* Full Score and Orchestral Parts are available from the publisher on rental.

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M-051-47295-6

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21 *p* *cresc.*

lin - ing came a - way, came a - way, came a

25 *mf*

way.

30 *p* *cresc.*

I patched my - coat with - light - ning. - And it

34 *mf*

blew off in the storm.