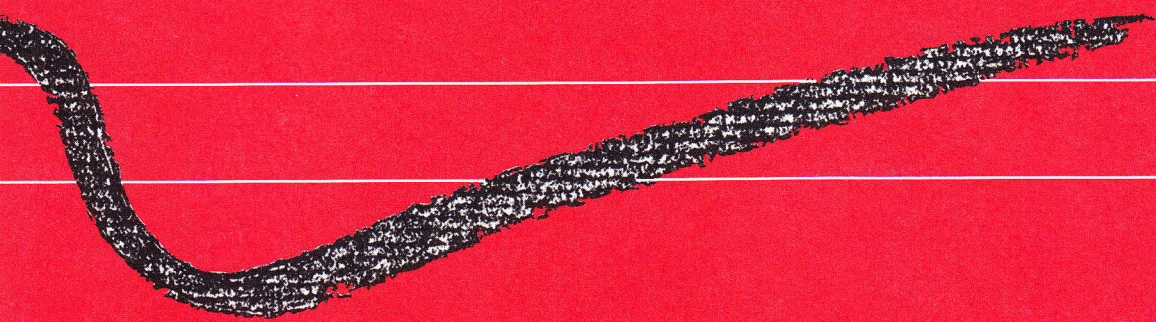


DOREEN RAO'S

CMAE
CHORAL MUSIC EXPERIENCE



SECRETS

NO. 3 FROM "SIMPLE SONGS"

JOHN BURGE

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BOOKS

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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

SECRETS

(No. 3 from "Simple Songs")

for Unison Treble Voices & Piano or Orchestra*

Words by
Dennis Lee**

Music by
John Burge

Semplice ♩ = 66 all voices in unison *p dolce* *mp*

Voices Co-lum - bine — is sweet, and sweet a - lys - sum

Vlns. *p dolce* *simile*

Piano

5 (*con pedale*) *mf*

bloom - ing — Tell me who you love, — And I'll whis - per what I'm dream - ing.

9 *mp* *mf*

+ Obs. Far as sil - ver stars — In rip - pled dark - ness

cresc. (poco a poco)

muted Fr. Horns

13 (*no dim.*) *f*

gleam - ing — Tell me who you love, — And I'll whis - per what I

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

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M-051-47297-0

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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. **Secrets** 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.

THE TEXT

Secrets

Columbine is sweet,
And sweet alyssum blooming —
Tell me who you love,
And I'll whisper what I'm dreaming.

Far as silver stars
In rippled darkness gleaming —
Tell me who you love,
And I'll whisper what I dream of.

Deep as hollow logs,
When phantom frogs are booming —
Tell me who you love,
And I'll whisper what I'm dreaming, dreaming of.

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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).

PERFORMANCE TIME

ca. 2 min. 15 sec.

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.

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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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