

Commissioned by Anne Williams with assistance from the Australia Council and the  
Canada Council for the Eltham East Primary School Choir, Australia

dur. ca 4.00

# Koosen

text by ANNE WILLIAMS  
and the ELTHAM EAST PRIMARY SCHOOL CHOIR

music by TOBIN STOKES

**PERUSAL SCORE ONLY - PLEASE DO NOT COPY**

**Soprano**  
ciant times the hunt-ers chased their

**Alto**  
In an-cient times the hunt-ers chased their

**Piano**  
optional: mm 1-2 pluck on strings  
*p*  
L. H. slow tremelo  
(Ped ad lib throughout)

**S**  
quar-ry through r' ight.

**A**  
quar-ry throug' night.

**Pno.**  
*mf*  
similar throughout

**S**  
*p*  
They chased the bear a - way from the vil-lage and up the moun - tain

**A**  
They chased the bear a - way from the vil-lage and up the moun - tain

**Pno.**  
*p* (slow trem.)  
8<sup>vb</sup>

♩ = 144

12 *mf* *f* (9)

S side Big bear

A side mex - alt!

Pno. *mf* *f*

16

S run-ning bear howl-ing, Hunt - ers shout-ing hunt-ers

A xaw - gus! mex - alt! xaw - gus! Hunt - ers shouting hunt-ers

Pno.

20 (SI+II)

S she ar-rows chas-ing the bear! (slow gliss)

A .ng ar-rows chas-ing the bear!

Pno. *f* *ff*

\* note: 2nd time through, one or more singers to double SII line down an octave or use speaking voice measures 27-31

24

S *mf*  
\* ( )  
Blood from the wound Blood

A

Pno. *f* *mf*  
hand held drum - continue to end of measure 32 first time through and downbeat of measure 44 second time through (sim...)

28

S (SD)  
from the wound of the bear Blood wound Blood from the wound of the bear

A  
from the wound Blood from the wound of the bear

Pno.

31

S *mp*  
Blood wound Blood from the wound of the bear Each drop turned a

A  
from the wound of the bear Each drop + turned a + (tongue click)

Pno. *mp* (slow trem.) *8va*  
optional: pluck piano strings (R.H.) mm34-37

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*mf* a tempo

1.

35

S  
leaf from green to red be-hind him as he fled

A  
leaf from + green + to + red + be-hind him as he fled

Pno.

*m*

40

S  
Kwelth! Say - jeh! elth! fled.

A  
Kwelth! Say - jeh! elth! fled.

Pno.

*f*

*solo: mf*

2. Ha ya ya

45

S  
Oh ya hey ya Oh ya ho Big bear wound-ed bear leaps from

A  
Big bear wound-ed bear leaps from

Pno.

*mp*

*crescendo*

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51 *ff*

S  
moun-tain top towards the heav - ens! \_\_\_\_\_

A  
moun-tain top towards the heav - ens! \_\_\_\_\_

Pno.  
gliss up on strings *p*  
release pedal very slowly...

57 *th intensity!* *cresc poco a poco*

S  
Chase the bear off the moun - tain,

A  
Chase the bear off the moun - tain,

Pno.  
*cresc poco a poco*

62

S  
Chase the a - cross the sky, Chase the bear, three might - y hunt - ers,

A  
Chase the bear a - cross the sky, Chase the bear, three might - y hunt - ers,

Pno.

66 *f* *Slower, more legato* *mp*

S Chase the bear a - cross the sky Three

A Chase the bear a - cross the sky

Pno. *f* *mp*

72

S hunt-ers chase the bear, Their eyes shine feir-ly white and bright Three hunt-ers chase the

A Three hunt-ers chase the bear Their eyes shine feir-ly white and bright Three

Pno.

77 *stard...*

S bear .ee point - ing lights that pierce the night

A hum' ase the bear Three point - ing lights that pierce the

Pno.

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seven soloists- each singer start on any pitch and move to "b" and hold under following soloists as long as possible on "nnn" sound. Soloists to each be in their own rhythm

Rubato...

Optional - each soloists finds their imaginary stars out in front or to the side of the choir, slowly point up to it, and then sings their solo.

Coast Salish words  
(from the Klah men people of the west coast of Canada)

translation/pronunciation:

- koosen - star - (KOO-sun)
- mexalt - bear - (MEK - salt)
- xowgus - grizzly bear - (KZOW-gus)
- kwelth - blood - (KWELT)
- seyjeh - leaf - (SAY-juh)

Koosen is based on a Canadian Iroquois First Peoples version of a story told in many traditions about the origin of "Ursa Major" - the Big Bear - a constellation made of seven major stars (and many more minor ones) that annually circles around the Northern hemisphere.