

Boy with Orange (out of Kosovo)

Commissioned by a consortium of six Canadian amateur choirs

Lotte Kramer

Alex Eddington

Wearily ♩ = 63 A

Soprano 1

Soprano 2 *p*
A boy h³ or - ange in his hands

Alto *p*
A old - ing an or - ange in his hands

Piano *p*
pedal freely

8

S1 *p*
the bor - der _____

S2
in un - cer - tain - ty. _____

A
Has crossed the bor - der _____ in un - cer - tain - ty. _____

Pno

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Please report performances at www.AlexEddington.com

15 *p* **B**

S 1 He stands there, mar - ble eyes at

S 2 He stands there, stares with ble eyes at

A He stands there, stare mar - ble eyes at

Pno

22 *mf* *p*

S 1 scenes Too des Too des - o - late for him to com - pre - hend

S 2 scenes s - o - late Too des - o - late for him to com - pre - hend

A Too des - o - late Too des - o - late for him to com - pre - hend

Pno

29 rit. C a tempo or slightly faster; More hopefully

S 1

S 2

A

Pno

33 mp mf mp mf

S 1

S 2

A

Pno

A round as - sur - ance and a prom - ised

he's clutch - ing some - thing safe, A round as - sur - ance and a prom - ised

in this globe he's clutch - ing some - thing safe, A round as - sur - ance and a prom - ised

D

f *mp*

S 1 joy joy No one shall take No one shall take No one shall

S 2 joy No one shall take shall take No one shall

A joy joy No one shall take No one shall

Pno *f* *mp*

D

rit. *p* *Te*

S 1 take a way.

S 2 take - - way.

A a - - way.

p

Tempo primo

8va

Pno *p*

48 **E** *p*

S 1 He can - not smile. Be - hind him

S 2 He can - not smile. Be are the

A He can - not smile. - hind him are the

Pno **E** *p*

55 *ando* **F** Urgently $\text{♩} = 80$ *mf*

S 1 stones of ba hood. Soon he will find a

S 2 stones - by - hood. Soon he will find a

A of ba - by - hood. Soon he will find a

Pno *accelerando* **F** Urgently $\text{♩} = 80$ *mf*

62

S1 hand, per - haps, to hold, Or a kind face, a kind face, some com - fort

S2 hand, per - haps, to hold, Or a kind face, a k: some com - fort

A hand, per - haps, to hold, Or a kind fr .ind face, some com - fort

Pno

rit..... *f*

69

S1 some com - fort for a while.

S2 a - fort for a while.

A some com - fort for a while.

Pno

p *molto rit...* *mpo* *molto rit.....*

p *molto rit.....a tempo* *molto rit.....* *pp*

Boy with Orange (out of Kosovo) takes its text from a poem of the same name by British poet Lotte Kramer.

Born in Germany in 1923, Kramer escaped the Holocaust and came to England as a child refugee. She started writing poetry in her 30s to help process her experiences. This poem is a striking universal image of how war affects the lives of children and their families. It reflects the devastating reality of modern warfare, and the resulting global refugee crisis.

Alex Eddington's musical setting is intended as a contemporary reflection for the time around Remembrance Day, Veterans Day or any concert on the theme of war and peace.

Boy with Orange (out of Kosovo)

Lotte Kramer

A boy holding an orange in his hands
Has crossed the border in uncertainty.

He stands there, stares with marble eyes at scenes
Too desolate for him to comprehend.

Now, in this globe he's found something safe,
A round assurance and a taste of joy

No one shall take it from him, he cannot smile.
Behind him are the shadows of babyhood.

Soon he'll reach out a hand, perhaps, to hold,
Or a kiss to give some comfort for a while.

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This piece was commissioned in 2019 by a consortium of Canadian amateur choirs:

Accord Vocal Ensemble - Edmonton AB - Music Director: Erin Craig

Beach United Church - Toronto ON - Music Director: Steven Webb

Ensemble Gaïa - Montreal QC - Artistic Director: Roseline Blain

Holy Trinity Anglican Church - Fredericton NB - Music Director: Dr. John Brough

Vocal Alchemy - Edmonton AB - Music Director: Jordan Van Biert

VIVA Singers - Toronto ON - Music Director: Carol Woodward Ratzlaff, Associate Artistic Director: Brad Ratzlaff

The composer made revisions to the score in 2021.



Alex Eddington's music has been described as "eclectic" (*Wholenote Magazine*), "remarkable and very theatrical" (*Nieuwe Noten*) and "[shining] with wit and assurance... subtlety and truthfulness" (*National Post*).

His choral pieces have been performed across Canada and the U.S.A., including Elektra Women's Choir, Chronos Vocal Ensemble, Toronto Chamber Choir, KCVITAs and the Da Camera Singers. His instrumental music has been commissioned by the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, Mississauga Symphony, Continuum, Toronto Consort and violinist Conrad Chow.

Known for his solo vocal music, Alex's debut album *A Present From a Small Distant World* showcased his decades-long collaboration with soprano Kristin Mueller-Heaslip. Additionally, his music has been recorded and released on albums by Quattuo Bozzini, Odin Quartet, junctQín Keyboard Collective, soprano Stephanie Lamprea and the Scarborough Philharmonic Orchestra.

Alex's work with young and community musicians includes collaborative composition projects with VIVA Singers, Jumbles Theatre, St. Paul's Steel Band and the Suzuki String School of Guelph. As a theatrical composer he has worked with Guild Festival Theatre, Tarragon Theatre and many small companies touring the Fringe theatre circuit.

Alex Eddington is also a high school music/drama teacher, bird enthusiast, playwright/storyteller, and host of the contemporary music podcast *Fresh Sounds / Open Ears*.