

Two Inuit Folk Songs
for mixed choir

Gordon Williamson

Summer Song

Ajaja! The great world is beautiful when summer is coming at last.
Ajaja! The great world is beautiful when our caribou begin to come.
Ajaja! When the little brooks roar in our country in summer.
Ajaja! The water has spread over the ice, so that I cannot reach yon little rock.

Utitiaq's Song

Aja, I am joyful, this is good!
Aja, there is nothing but ice around me, this is good!
Aja, I am joyful, this is good!
My country is nothing but slush, that is good!
Aja, I am joyful, this is good!
Aja, when indeed, will this end? This is good!
I am tired of watching and waking, this is good!

These two pieces are settings of Inuit folksongs in English translation. They were originally published in the *Journal of American Folklore* at the end of the 19th century by the German anthropologist Franz Boas, who spent the summer of 1883 living amongst the Inuit population of Baffin Island. The text for *Summer Song* is an excerpt of an incomplete text, while the text for *Utitiaq's Song* is presented in its entirety. The Utitiaq text is based on the story of an Inuit man who became stranded on an ice floe while sealing, and found himself adrift in the ocean for a week.

The *z* marking on note stems indicates a vocal tremelo (similar to the effect found in Monteverdi).

The *sfz* markings are to be interpreted within the given dynamic indication.

Duration: ca. 13'

Summer Song

Gordon Williamson
(b. 1974)

♩ = 126

Soprano *f* *ppp*
ja

Mezzo-Soprano *f* *ppp*
ja

Alto *f* *p*
ja A - ja - ja

Tenor *p* *f* *pp* *p*
A - ja - ja A - ja - ja

Baritone *p* *f* *p* *p sempre*
A - ja - ja A - ja - ja A - ja - ja

Bass *p* *f*
A - ja - ja

5

S *mp*
the great

Mez. *p sempre* *sfz*
A - ja - ja A - ja - ja A - ja - ja A - ja - ja

A *p sempre* *sfz*
A - ja - ja A - ja - ja A - ja - ja A - ja - ja

T *p sempre*
A - ja - ja A - ja - ja A - ja - ja

Bar. *sfz* *sfz*
A - ja - ja A - ja - ja A - ja - ja A - ja - ja

B *p sempre* *sfz*
A - ja - ja A - ja - ja A - ja - ja

10

mp

S the great

Mez. A-ja-ja A-ja-ja A-ja-ja A-ja-ja

A A-ja-ja A-ja-ja A-ja-ja A-ja-ja

T A-ja-ja A-ja-ja

Bar. A-ja-ja A-ja-ja A-ja-ja A-ja-ja

B A-ja-ja A-ja-ja A-ja-ja A-ja-ja

15

mp

mf

S the great

Mez. A-ja-ja A-ja-ja A-ja-ja A-ja-ja A-ja-ja A-ja-ja

A A-ja-ja A-ja-ja A-ja-ja A-ja-ja A-ja-ja

T world A-ja-ja A-ja-ja

Bar. A-ja-ja A-ja-ja A-ja-ja A-ja-ja

B A-ja-ja

poco accel. ----- sub. a tempo

20 *cresc.*
(*tutti*)

S
is beau- (tiful) *ff*

Mez.
(*cresc...*)
A- ja - ja A- ja - ja A- ja - ja is beau-ti-ful *ff*

A
(*cresc...*)
A- ja - ja A- ja - ja A- ja - ja A- ja - ja A - ja - - - ja beau- (tiful) *ff*

T
mp world *f* *mp* A- ja - ja A- ja -

Bar.
mp A- ja - ja

B

25

S
mp sempre sfz sum - - mer sum - - mer sum - mer in *sfz*

Mez.
mp sempre in sum - - - mer in in in sum - *sfz*

A
mp sempre in in sum - mer sum - mer *sfz*

T
dim... ja A- ja - ja A- ja - ja A- ja - ja A- ja - ja A- ja - ja A *p*

Bar.
dim... A- ja - ja A - ja - ja A- ja - ja A- ja - ja A- ja - ja A- ja - ja A *p* *pp*

B
mp A- ja - ja

30

S *sfz* *sfz* *sfz* *sfz* *sfz*

sum - mer sum - mer sum - mer sum - mer sum - mer

Mez. *sfz* *sfz* *sfz* *sfz* *sfz*

- - mer sum - - mer sum - mer sum - mer sum - mer

A *sfz* *sfz* *sfz* *sfz* *sfz* *sfz* *sfz*

in in in sum - mer sum - mer sum - mer sum - mer sum -

T *ppp*

Bar.

B

35 *dim...* *sfz* *sfz* *sfz* *sfz* *P sfz* *sfz* *rit.* -----

S sum - mer sum - mer sum - mer sum - mer sum - mer sum - mer

Mez. *dim...* *sfz* *sfz* *sfz* *sfz* *sfz* *P sfz*

sum-mer sum - mer sum - mer sum - mer com - ing com - ing com - ing com - ing com - ing

A *sub. ppp* *mp* *ppp* *P*

mer is com - ing com - ing com - ing

T

Bar.

B

40 (rit.) ----- tempo primo

solo pp *tutti p*

S com - (ming) the great

Mez. *pp* *solo pp* com - ing com - ing com - ing (com) - ing

A *dim...* *ppp* *mp sempre* com - ing com - ing com - ing com - ing com - ing com - ing at last A - ja - ja

T *ppp* at last

Bar. *ppp* *mp sempre* at last A - ja - ja

B *ppp* *mp sempre* at last A - ja - ja A -

45

S *ppp* *mp* world

Mez. *tutti p* *mp* *ppp* world

A A - ja - ja A - ja - ja A - ja - ja A - ja - ja A - ja - ja A - ja - ja

T *mp* *mp* A - ja - ja A - ja - ja the great

Bar. A - ja - ja A - ja - ja A - ja - ja A - ja - ja A - ja - ja

B ja - ja A - ja - ja A - ja - ja A - ja - ja A -

50 *mf* *f*

S is beau-ti-ful

Mez. *mp cresc.* *mf subito p*
A-ja-ja A-ja-ja A-ja-ja A-ja-ja beau(tiful) A-ja-ja

A *cresc.* *mf subito p*
A-ja-ja A-ja-ja A-ja-ja A-ja-ja A-

T *mp* *pp* *mp cresc.* *sfz* *mf* *subito p*
A-ja-ja is A-ja-ja A-ja-ja A-ja-ja A-ja-ja

Bar. *mp* *pp* *mp cresc.* *sfz* *mf* *subito p*
A-ja-ja A-ja-ja A-ja-ja A-ja-ja A-ja-ja

B ja-ja A-ja-ja

55 *p* *rit.* $\bullet = 96$

S A-ja-ja A-ja-ja A-ja-ja A-ja-ja A-ja-ja

Mez. A-ja-ja A-ja-ja A-ja-ja A-ja-ja

A ja-ja A-ja-ja A-ja-ja A-ja-ja A-ja-ja

T *mp* *p*
when (ca) ri - - -

Bar. *mp* *p*
our (ca) ri - - -

B *mp* *p*
ca - - - ri - - -

60 rit. *pp* *solo* *tutti* *ppp* *pp* $\bullet = 72$

S
be - gin be - gin be - gin be - gin be - gin be to come the

Mez.
to come

A
pp *pp* *ppp*
bou to come

T
pp *pp* *ppp*
bou to come

Bar.
pp *pp* *ppp*
bou to come

B
pp *pp* *ppp*
bou to come

64 rit. *mp* *mf* *ppp* $\bullet = 54$

S
great world is

Mez.
pp *mp* *pp* *mf* *pp* *mp*
the world is beau (tiful)

A
pp *mp* *p* *mf* *pp*
great world is

T
mf *p*
is

Bar.

B

68 *f* *pp* *p* sub. ♩ = 72 *accel.* -----

S beau (tiful) A - ja - ja

Mez. *mf* *pp* *p* A - ja - ja

A (beau) ti (ful) A - ja - ja *pp*

T (beauti) ful ja

Bar. beau-ti - ful ja

B beau-ti - ful ja

73 (*accel.*) -----

S *ppp* *p sempre* *sfz* lit - tle

Mez. *pp*

A *sfz* *p sempre* *sfz* *sfz*
when when the

T *pp* *sfz* *p sempre* *sfz*
the the

Bar. *ppp*

B *dim...* *ppp*

78 (accel.) $\bullet = 126$

S
lit - tle lit - tle brooks

Mez.
lit - tle lit - tle brooks

A
when the

T
the the when

Bar.
p *sfz* when

B

83

S
lit - tle brooks lit - tle the lit - tle lit - tle brooks

Mez.
the when lit - tle lit - tle brooks

A
the the the the

T
when lit - tle lit - tle lit - tle brooks

Bar.
the brooks

B

accel.

♩ = 152

88

S
when when lit - tle brooks roar

Mez.
when the when lit - tle brooks roar

A
the when the lit - tle brooks roar

T
the when the brooks roar A - ja - ja A - ja - ja

Bar.
when when the brooks roar A - ja - ja A - ja

B
the the the brooks roar A - ja - ja

mp *mf* *f* *ff* *mp*

mp *mf* *f* *ff* *mp*

mp *mf* *f* *ff* *f dim...*

mp *mf* *f* *ff* *f dim...*

mp *mf* *f* *ff* *mf dim...*

rit.

♩ = 126

93

S
our coun - try coun - try

Mez.
in our coun - (try) coun - try

A
in coun - (try) coun - try

T
A - ja - ja A - ja - ja A - ja - ja A - ja - ja A - ja - ja A - ja - ja

Bar.
ja A - ja - ja A - ja - ja A - ja - ja A - ja - ja A - ja - ja

B
A - ja - ja A - ja - ja A - ja - ja A - ja - ja

p *mf* *mp sempre*

f *mf* *pp* *mp sempre*

f *p* *mp sempre*

(dim...) *mp sempre*

(dim...) *mp sempre*

(dim...) *mp sempre*

98 **rit.** *dim...*

S
coun - try coun - try coun - try coun - try sum - - mer sum - mer sum - mer

Mez.
coun - try coun - try sum - mer sum - mer sum - mer

A
coun - try coun - try sum - mer sum - - - mer sum - mer sum -

T
in sum - - - mer in sum - - - mer **p**

Bar.
in sum - - - mer in sum - - - mer **p**

B
in sum - - - mer **p**

103 **(rit.)** *(dim...)* $\bullet = 84$ sub. $\bullet = 54$ **ppp** **pp sempre** **ppp sempre**

S
A - - - ja ja

Mez.
sum - mer A - ja *sempre molto legato* ja-ja-ja-ja (sim.)

A
mer A - ja *sempre molto legato* ja-ja-ja-ja (sim.)

T
has **ppp**

Bar.
(wa) - ter **ppp**

B
the wa - (ter) **ppp**

108

sempre pp

sempre molto legato

S *pp*
 ja - ja - ja (sim.)

Mez. *pp*
 A - ja - ja - ja (sim.) A

A *pp*
 so

T *pp*
 the ice

Bar. *pp*
 spread o - ver

B *pp*
 has spread

112

S
 ja ja - ja (sim.)

Mez.
 ja - ja - ja (sim.)

A *pp*
 that can

T *pp*
 can - not

Bar. *pp* *p*
 I

B *pp* *p*
 I reach

116

S (tutti) *pp* ja - ja - ja (*sim.*)

Mez. (tutti) ja - ja - ja (*sim.*)

A *ppp* lit - tle

T *pp* yon *ppp* rock

Bar.

B *ppp*

120

S *accel.* *p* *cresc.* great

Mez. *p* *cresc.* ja - ja - ja (*sim.*)

A *pp* the *p* (*tutti gliss.*) *cresc.*

T

Bar.

B

124 (accel.) $\bullet = 84$ $\bullet = 108$

S (cresc...) *mp cresc.* *mf* *p*

Mez. (cresc...) *mp cresc.* *mf*

A (cresc...) *mp* *ppp*

ja- ja- ja (sim.)

T

Bar.

B

128 **molto accel.** $\bullet = 152$

S *pp* *dim...* *ppp*

A - ja - ja A A - ja - ja A A - ja A A - ja ja

Mez. *ppp* *pp dim...* *ppp*

A - ja - ja A A - ja A A A

A *pp* *ppp*

A - ja - ja A A - ja - ja A A - ja - ja A

T

Bar.

B

attacca

Utitiaoq's Song

$\bullet = 42$ **accel.** -----

Soprano

Mezzo-Soprano

Alto *ppp* *cresc.*

Tenor *ppp*

Baritone *ppp* 3 *cresc.*

Bass *ppp* *cresc.*

⑥ **(accel.)** ----- $\bullet = 54$ *ppp* *mp*

S this is

Mez. *ppp* *mp*
I am joy - - - ful

A *(cresc...)*
- - ja A - ja A -

T *cresc.*
A - ja A A - - ja

Bar. *(cresc...)*
A - ja A - ja A - ja

B *(cresc...)*
A A A - ja A - ja A -

11

S good

Mez. there is no - - - thing but ice

A (cresc...) ja A - - - ja A -

T (cresc...) A - ja A - ja A - ja

Bar. (cresc...) A - ja A A - ja A - ja

B (cresc...) ja A A - ja A - ja A - ja

pp *pp* *mf* *mf* *mf* *mf*

15

S ice a - round me that is good

Mez. a - round me tha(t) I

A ja A - - ja A - - - ja A

T A - ja A - - ja A - - - ja A - - - ja

Bar. A - ja A - ja A - ja A - ja

B A - ja A - ja A - ja A - ja A - ja A - ja

f *f* *mp* *mf* *dim...* *dim...* *dim...*

19

mp
S this is good

p
Mez. am joy - ful A - - - - ja A *dim...*

(dim...)
A A - ja A A A

(dim...)
T A - ja A

(dim...)
Bar. A - ja A A - ja A

(dim...)
B A A - ja *pp*

23

rit. *ppp* *♩ = 48*

S A

(dim...)
Mez. A - - - - ja A *ppp*

(dim...)
A A - ja A *ppp* *sempre pp* my coun -

(dim...)
T A - ja A *ppp* *sempre pp* my coun - try

(dim...)
Bar. A A *ppp*

B

28

accel.

sempre pp

$\text{♩} = 54$

S
my coun - try is is no -

Mez.
sempre pp
my coun - try is no - thing no - thing but

A
try coun - try is no - thing but

T
8 coun - - - try no - thing my - coun -

Bar.
sempre pp
my coun - try is no - thing no - - - thing

B
sempre pp
my coun - try coun - - - try

32

S
- thing but slush my coun -

Mez.
slush but slush no - thing but slush slush

A
slush slush slush

T
8 try is no - thing but slush my coun - try is no-thing

Bar.
but but slush my coun - try is

B
slush my coun - try slush

36

S
try is no - thing but slush

Mez.
my my coun - try is no - thing slush

A
no - thing but slush

T
8 but slush no - thing but slush

Bar.
no - thing but slush slush coun - try no -

B
slush my coun - try slush

40 *cresc.*

S
cresc.
my coun - try is no - thing but slush slush

Mez.
cresc.
no - thing

A
cresc.
my coun - try is no - thing but slush slush my coun - try is

T
cresc.
8 no - - - - thing but slush

Bar.
cresc.
thing but slush slush *mf*

B
cresc.
coun - try slush

poco accel. ----- sub. ♩ = 42

44 (cresc...)

S slush no-thing but slush *ff* *pp*

Mez. (cresc...) slush slush *ff* *pp*

A (cresc...) no-thing but slush (sl)ush *ff* *pp*

T (cresc...) slush slush (sl)ush *ff* *pp*

Bar. *pp* sempre slush (9)

B (cresc...) slush slush *ff* *pp*

48

S (sl)ush *pp* *ppp* solo

Mez. (sl)ush *pp* *ppp* solo tutti *pp* *ppp*

A (sl)ush *ppp* solo tutti *pp* (sl)ush

T *ppp* solo tutti (sl)ush *pp* *ppp* solo

Bar. (sl)ush *pp* *ppp* solo

B

53

S *tutti pp* (sl)ush *solo ppp* *pp* *tutti* (sl)ush

Mez. *pp* *solo ppp* (sl)ush

A *pp* *ppp* *solo* *tutti pp* (sl)ush

T *tutti pp* *solo ppp* (sl)ush

Bar. *pp* *solo ppp* *tutti pp* (sl)ush

B

58

S *solo ppp* *tutti ppp* A

Mez. *pp* *solo ppp* *tutti ppp* A

A *ppp* *tutti* A ja

T *pp* *tutti* (sl)ush

Bar.

B

63 ca. 5 sec. ♩ = 54 *p* solo *ppp*

S that is good

Mez. *ppp* I am

A am am

T *ppp* I I

Bar.

B

68 *tutti ppp* *cresc.*

S I am I am I am I am

Mez. *cresc.* I am I am I am I am

A am I am joy - - - ful

T I I am joy joy -

Bar. *pp* will

B *ppp* *mp* when in - deed will

73

(cresc...)

S joy - ful this this this is

Mez. A - ja A - ja

A joy - - - - ful joy - - - - ful this is

T ful A - ja A - ja A - ja

Bar. *mp* this *pp* end?

B

77

S this is good A - ja A - ja

Mez. this is good A - ja

A good this is good I am joy - ful I

T A - ja I am tir'd of wat - ching

Bar. I am

B A - ja A - ja

81 (dim...)

S A - ja A A A

Mez. (dim...) A - ja A *pp*

A am joy - - - ful A - - - ja

T *pp* A - ja *p*

Bar. and wa - king *pp*

B (dim...) A - ja *pp*

85 rit. (dim...) *ppp* *pp* ♩ = 42

S A A A

Mez. *ppp* *pp* this is good

A (dim...) *ppp* A A A

T *pp* A

Bar.

B

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