

LIBBY LARSEN

THE CHILDREN'S
ORCHARD

for SATB Chorus

CHORAL SCORE

on the poetry of Muriel Rukeyser

KENWOOD EDITIONS

Libby Larsen

THE CHILDREN'S ORCHARD

for SATB Chorus

Commissioned for VocalEssence by Mike McCarthy to honor his wife Kay

Duration: 4 minutes 30 seconds

PROGRAM NOTE

To me, Kay McCarthy's Flower Garden quilt exudes joy, generosity and wisdom. Her vibrant, colorful flowers float on a burnished, warm background. The quilt reminded me of one my favorite poems, *The Children's Orchard*, by one of my favorites poets, Muriel Rukeyser. "In the full sun. In the fruit fall season" the poem begins, as the poet muses on two "bare-ribbed boys golden and shouting" collecting plums. Like Kay's flowers, captured in color, these boys, captured in poetry exist in the same, ancient cycle of life.

-Libby Larsen

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THE CHILDREN'S ORCHARD

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MURIEL RUKEYSER

LIBBY LARSEN, 2015

♩ = 80, warmly, with the distance of memory

Soprano: - - - - -

Alto: - - - - - *mp* In the

Tenor: *mp* In the full sun. In the fruit-fall sea-son. In the full sun. In the fruit-fall sea-son. In the

Bass: - - - - - *mp* In the full sun. In the fruit-fall sea-son. In the

♩ = 80, warmly, with the distance of memory

mp

6

Soprano: *mf* A - gainst my knees _____ the earth _____ and the

Alto: full sun. In the fruit-fall sea - son.

Tenor: full sun. In the fruit-fall sea - son. *p* In the

Bass: full sun. In the fruit-fall sea - son. In the full sun. In the fruit-fall sea - son. In the

6

p

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10

S buck-et, and the soft blue prunes ech-o-ing red

A In the full sun. In the fruit-fall sea-son. red

T full sun. In the fruit-fall sea-son. In the full sun. In the fruit-fall sea-son. red

B full sun. In the fruit-fall sea-son. In the full sun. In the fruit-fall sea-son. red

15

S pur-ple pur-ple ech-o-ing in the sil-ver buck-et

A pur-ple pur-ple ech-o-ing in the sil-ver buck-et

T ech-o-ing pur-ple pur-ple ech-o-ing in the sil-ver buck-et

B pur-ple pur-ple ech-o-ing in the sil-ver buck-et

71

mf root-ed in light, *p* In the full sun.

sub. p black root-ed in light, Ah In the

mf Ah Ah Ah root - deep in noon,

mf Ah Ah Ah root - deep in noon,

71

Take time savor the chords a tempo

77 *pp* yel-low noon of mus-tard blos-som. *tutti mp* In the full sun.

fruit-fall sea-son. *pp* yel-low noon of mus-tard blos-som. *mp* In the full

pp yel-low noon of mus-tard blos-som. *tutti mp* In the

pp yel-low noon of mus-tard blos-som. *mp* In the full

77 Take time savor the chords a tempo

pp *mp*

S *mf* full sum-mer, sun. *tutti mf* Ah Ah full sun. *p* In the

A Ah full strong sun. In the full sun. *p poco a poco cresc.*

T Ah full sun. In the full sun. *p poco a poco cresc.*

B Ah full sun. ... full sun. In the

92 *p poco a poco cresc.*

S *mp poco a poco cresc.* In the fruit - fall sea - son. *f* I tell you, *sub.mp* har - vest.

A *poco a poco cresc.* full sun. ... fruit - fall sea - son. *f* I tell you, *sub.mp* har - vest.

T ... full sun. In the fruit - fall sea - son. *f* I tell you, *sub.p* har - vest.

B full sun. ... fruit - fall sea - son. *f* I tell you, *sub.p* har - vest.

99 *f sub.p*