

### ***Shoppin' Blues* (1985)**

*Shoppin' Blues* is part of a small collection of mixed choral works Weinzweig composed in 1985-87 following a thirty-year break from choral writing. As with *Triologue* and *Private Collection* (sung by solo soprano), *Shoppin' Blues* emphasises the rhythmic and phonetic quality of texts rather than poetic.

According to Weinzweig, *Shoppin' Blues* “describes the course of a carefree shopping trip that turns into a frenetic experience under pressure of persuasive inducements.” Following separate entrances from each section, the choir sings mostly in block rhythms to emphasise the shopping endeavours: “lookin’ everywhere, down street, Bay Street... .” Similar to *Hockey Night in Canada*, which also premiered at the same concert, the choir builds intensity through staggered, almost frenetic, statements until the final block statements: “I don’t really care; I’ve got shoppin’ blues. Here, there, everywhere.”

Written by Alexa Woloshyn