

***To the Lands Over Yonder* (1945)**

Weinzweig composed his first choral composition, *To the Lands Over Yonder*, while serving in the Royal Canadian Air Force at Rockcliffe Station. The work is based on the melody and translated text of a Copper Inuit dance-song, a song included in a collection of Inuit songs entitled *Eskimo Songs* (1923), which had been collected during the Canadian Arctic Expedition (1913-18).

Much of the work contains unison or octave doublings, resulting in a simple texture that Weinzweig describes as “primitive” and “unpretentious.” The first half of the song largely focuses on a dialogue between two main groupings: male voices and female voices. The texture becomes more complex near the end as all voices repeat “to the lands over yonder” and even break into a brief passage of four-part harmony. While the work does not deviate from the mode of the original tune, the varied choral textures and text repetitions result in an original composition rather than a simple arrangement.

Written by Alexa Woloshyn