

MSC0014A
Score



GENERATION 2.5

for SATB chorus a cappella

[2024]

*Commissioned and premiered by
Modern Sound Collective - Kai Leung, artistic director
Toronto ON Canada*

text & music by
KAI LEUNG



Modern
Sound
Collective

ORIGINAL TEXT

Kai Leung: *Generation 2.5*

*Every Lunar New Year my family goes out for dinner
My Canadian mother says "Gong Hay Fat Choi," which means
"Wishing you happiness and prosperity"
My partner and my brother's fiancée are reminded every year.*

*[My father's best friend is always invited
He was also bullied by xenophobic children on the playground
His children have tan skin in February
They are family without shared blood.]*

*I like to sit next to my grandfather, even though we know sixty words in common
My grandmother comments that I've gained weight (again)
They sacrificed their world for me twenty five years before I was born
They use my English name, and they are glad that I am warm in the winter.*

*I receive pairs of red envelopes;
blessings and protections,
for what, I am unsure.*

*I have been called slurs
by teenagers who should have known their meaning.
Half true, wholly hurtful*

*All of the food is delicious,
I know the tastes but not the names.
It ignites a true longing:*

*Give me something ancient I can belong to
A set of traditions so mundane
that I can believe that they are mine*

*I am not satisfied
Knowing that half of my heritage is the peripheral identity
of an entire generation of children of Canadian immigrants who live with the*

*pressure of bounty,
protection, and blessings
in the form of red envelopes
given by family,*

*and food on the table,
and choice in the matter,
and warmth in the coldest of winters,
and most of all love.*

ABOUT THE COMPOSER

Kai Leung is a passionate choral conductor, singer, voice teacher, and composer. He is the Artistic Director of the Modern Sound Collective, where he conducts *Concreamus*, *Datsuzoku*, *Sehnsucht*, and *Frisson*, and the Artistic Director of Oakville Choral.

Kai holds a Bachelor of Music from the University of Toronto, where he studied voice and composition. His choral works have been performed by the Vancouver Chamber Choir, the Amadeus Choir of Greater Toronto, the Orpheus Choir of Toronto, and many other choral groups around Canada, the United States, and Europe.

ABOUT THE PIECE

Generation 2.5 is a critical exploration of my relationship to Chinese Canadian culture. Since childhood, I have been sad about my limited ability to interact with the Chinese half of my heritage. It seems that most of the Chinese culture that I am able to experience in Canada is simultaneously so special and yet so universal that it borders on cliché. The poem, which was completed in March of 2024, describes my yearly experience at Lunar New Year celebrations with my family, and my desire for a deeper connection to the ancient and mundane aspects of Chinese culture that are unavailable to me due to barriers of geographical distance and language.



www.kaileung.ca

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GENERATION 2.5

for SATB chorus a cappella

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Reserved excitement $\text{♩} = 72$

SOPRANO
p E - ve - ry Lu - nar New Year, my fam - ly goes out for din - ner My Ca - na - di - an

ALTO
p E - ve - ry Lu - nar New Year, my fam - ly goes out for din - ner My Ca - na - di - an

TENOR
p E - ve - ry Lu - nar New Year, my fam - ly goes out for din - ner My Ca - na - di - an

BASS
p E - ve - ry Lu - nar New Year, my fam - ly goes out for din - ner My Ca - na - di - an

Piano
(for rehearsal only)

6

S.
mo - ther says "Gong Hay Fat Choi" which means "Wish - ing you hap - pi - ness and pros - per - i - ty.

A.
mo - ther says "Gong Hay Fat Choi" which means "Wish - ing you hap - pi - ness and pros - per - i - ty.

T.
mo - ther says "Gong Hay Fat Choi" which means "Wish - ing you hap - pi - ness and pros - per - i - ty.

B.
mo - ther says "Gong Hay Fat Choi" which means "Wish - ing you hap - pi - ness and pros - per - i - ty.

Pno.

13 *mf* rit.

Solos

S. My part-ner, and my bro-ther's fi - an-cée *p* *mf* > *mp*

A. are re - min-ded ev-ery year. I like *p* *mf* > *mp*

T. are re - min-ded ev-ery year. I like *p* *mf* > *mp*

B. are re - min-ded ev-ery year. *p* *mf* > *mp*

Pno.

10 Fondly, with great care ♩ = 66

21

S. to sit next to my grand-fa - ther e - ven though we know six - ty words in com-mon.

A. to sit next to my grand-fa - ther e - ven though we know six - ty words in com-mon.

T. grand-fa - ther e - ven though we know six - ty words in com-mon. *mp*

B. e - ven though we know six - ty words in com-mon. *mp*

Pno.

Ponderous $\text{♩} = 60$
pp

27 *mf with certainty*

S. My grand-mo-ther com-ments that I've gained weight a-gain. (nn) They sac-ri-ficed their

A. My grand-mo-ther com-ments that I've gained weight a-gain. (nn) They sac-ri-ficed their

T. (nn) that I've gained weight a-gain. (nn) They sac-ri-ficed their

B. (m) a-gain. (nn) They sac-ri-ficed their

Pno.

mf with certainty *pp*

Ponderous $\text{♩} = 60$

34 *mp*

S. world for me twen-ty five years be-fore I was born.

A. world for me twen-ty five years be-fore I was born.

T. world for me twen-ty five years be-fore I was born. They use my En-lish name, *p vulnerable*

B. world for me twen-ty five years be-fore I was born. They use my En-lish name, *p vulnerable*

Pno.

mp *p vulnerable*

40

43

S. *p* *mm* *p*
They use my

A.

T. *p* *mp*
They use my En - glish name, They use my En - glish
They use my En - glish name

B. *p* *mp*
They use my En - glish name, They use my En - glish

Pno.

50

S. *p* *cresc.*
En - glish name, They use my En - glish name, They use my

A. *p* *cresc.*
They use my En - glish name, They use my En - glish name, They use my

T. *mp* *cresc.*
name, They use my En - glish name, They use my En - glish

B. *mp* *cresc.*
name, They use my En - glish name, They use my En - glish

Pno.

rit.

61 A tempo (♩ = 60)

57

S. En - glishname, my En - glish name and they are glad,

A. En - glishname, my En - glish name and are glad, glad,

T. name, They use my En - glish name and they are glad, glad, they are they are

B. name, They use my En - glish name and are glad,

Pno.

rit.

61 A tempo (♩ = 60)

63

S. They are glad, They are glad, They are *cresc.*

A. They are glad, They are glad, They are *cresc.*

T. glad, they are glad, They are glad, they are glad, *cresc.*

B. They are glad, *cresc.*

Pno.

molto rit. $\text{♩} = 48$
ff overwhelmed I am warm in the win - ter. *mf* //

S. glad that I am warm in the win-ter I am warm in the win ter.

ff overwhelmed
 A. — that I am warm, I am warm in the win - ter. *mf* //

T. — that I am warm in the win-ter I am warm in the win - ter. *mf* //

B. I am warm in the win-ter I am warm in the win - ter. *mf* //

molto rit. $\text{♩} = 48$

Pno.

76 A thought that needs reconciling $\text{♩} = 60$
p intense I re-ceive pairs of red en-ve-lopes; — I re-ceive pairs of red en-ve-lopes;

S. I re-ceive pairs of red en-ve-lopes; — I re-ceive pairs of red en-ve-lopes;

p intense A. re-ceive pairs of red en-ve-lopes; — I re-ceive pairs of red en-ve-lopes;

T. — — — — —

B. — — — — —

bles - sings and pro - tec - tions, *p*

bles - sings and pro - tec - tions, *p*

76 A thought that needs reconciling $\text{♩} = 60$

Pno.

89 $\text{♩} = \text{♩}$ *p* *unforgiving*

82

S. *pp* _____ *mf* _____

en-ve-lopes; _____ I have been called *p* *unforgiving*

A. *pp* _____ *mf* _____

pairs of red en-ve-lopes; _____ I have been called

T. *p* _____ *mp* *pp* _____ *mf* _____

bles-sings and pro-tec-tions, _____ for what, I am un-sure _____

B. *p* _____ *mp* *pp* _____ *mf* _____

bles-sings and pro-tec-tions, _____ for what, I am un-sure.

Pno.

89 $\text{♩} = \text{♩}$

91

S. rit. _____ A tempo ($\text{♩} = 60$) *p sub.* *fugly* trill

slurs. _____ by teen-a-gers who should have known their mean-ing. half true,

A. _____ *p sub.* *fugly*

slurs. _____ by teen-a-gers who should have known their mean-ing. half true,

T. *pp* _____ *fugly* trill

slurs. _____ half true,

B. *pp* _____ *fugly*

slurs _____ half true,

Pno. rit. _____ A tempo ($\text{♩} = 60$)

88 *mp tender* whol - ly hurt - ful. **101** *mp* *f*

S. *mp tender* whol - ly hurt - ful. All of the food is de - li -

A. *mp tender* whol - ly hurt - ful. All of the food is de - li -

T. *mp tender* whol - ly hurt - ful. All of the food is de - li - cious.

B. *mp tender* whol - ly hurt - ful. All of the food is de - li - cious.

Pno. **101**

103 *mp* *f*

S. - cious. I know the tastes but not the names. It ig-nites a true long - ing

A. - cious. I know the tastes but not the names. It ig-nites a true long - ing

T. - cious. I know the tastes but not the names. It ig-nites a true long - ing

B. - cious. I know the tastes but not the names. It ig-nites a true long - ing

Pno.

rit.

112 Demanding $\text{♩} = 54$

109 *mp* *mf*

S. a true long - ing: Give me some-thing an - cient

A. a true long - ing: Give me some-thing an - cient
a true long - ing: ing:

T. *mp* *mf*
a true long - ing: Give me some-thing an - cient

B. *mp* *mf*
a true long - ing: Give me some-thing

Pno. rit. 112 Demanding $\text{♩} = 54$

115

poco a poco accel. . . .

S. I can be-long to A set of tra - di - tions so mun - dane that I can be-lieve that (3 part SAs) that

A. I can be-long to: a set of tra-di-tions so mun - dane that I can be-lieve that

T. I can be-long to: A set of tra - di - tions so mun - dane that They

B. an cient to be - - long

Pno. poco a poco accel. . . .

120

ff emptiness *p* *cresc. sempre*

S. they are I am not sat - is - fied half_ half

ff emptiness *p* *cresc. sempre*

S. A. they are mine, not sat - is - fied half half

ff emptiness *p* *cresc. sempre*

A. they are I am not sat - is - fied half_ half_ of me

ff emptiness *mp* *cresc. sempre*

T. they are I am not sat - is - fied know - ing that half of my her - i - tage

(3 part TBs)

mp *cresc. sempre*

T. B. know - ing that half of my her - i - tage

(3 part TBs)

ff emptiness *mp* *cresc. sempre*

B. to: I am not sat - is - fied know - ing that half of my her - i - tage

Pno.

125

S. half of my i - den ti ty _____ gen - - - e - -

S. A. half of my i - den - ti - ty gen - e - ra - tion of Ca - na - di - an

A. is the per - i - pher - al i - den - ti - ty of a gen - e - ra - tion

T. is the per - i - pher - al i - den - ti - ty of an en - tire gen - - - e - -

T. B. is an en - tire gen - e - ra - tion of chil - dren of Ca - na - di - an

B. is an en - tire gen - e - ra - tion of chil - dren of Ca - na - di - an

Pno



131

129

S. *ff*
 -ra - tion of chil - dren who live with the pres - sure

S. A. *ff*
 chil - dren who live with the pres - - - - - sure

A. *p sub. cresc. sempre*
 of chil - dren who live, who live with the pres - sure of boun - ty, pro - tec - tion, and bless - ings in the

T. *ff*
 -ra - tion of chil - dren who live with the pres - sure

T. B. *ff* *p cresc. sempre*
 im - mi - grants pres - sure of boun - ty, pro - tec - tion, and bless - ings in the

B. *ff* *p cresc. sempre*
 im - mi - grants pres - sure of boun - ty, pro - tec - tion, and bless - ings in the

131

Pro. *ff*
 Musical accompaniment for piano with triplets and dynamic markings.



133 *mp* *cresc. sempre*

S. of _____ food and choice and

S. A. of _____ food_ and choice and_

A. form of red en-ve-lobes giv-en by fam-ily, and food on the ta-ble, and choice in the mat-ter, and

T. *mp* *cresc. sempre* red en-ve-lobes giv-en by fam-ily, and food on the ta-ble and choice in the mat-ter, and

T. B. form of red en-ve-lobes giv-en by fam-ily, and food on the ta-ble, and choice in the mat-ter, and

B. form of red en-ve-lobes giv-en by fam-ily, and food on the ta-ble, and choice in the mat-ter, and

Pno.

137 *mf*

S. warmth in the win - ter and most most most of all love. most of all

S. A. warmth in the win - ter and most most of all love. most of all

A. warmth in the col-dest of win - ter and most of all love most of all love. most of all love.

T. warmth in the col-dest of win-ter and most of all most of all love.

T. B. warmth in the col-dest of win - ter and most of all love.

B. warmth in the col-dest of win - ter and most of all love.

Pno.

142 *f* *rit.* *fff* unbearable

S. love.

S. A. *f* *fff* unbearable

A. *f* *fff* unbearable

most of all love.

T. *f* *fff* unbearable

love.

T. B. *f* *fff* unbearable

love.

B. *f* *fff* unbearable

and most of all love.

rit.

Pno

148 Resolute $\text{♩} = 48$
p vulnerable

S. I want to know my- self _____ I want to

A. _____ *p determined* _____

T. *p vulnerable* through first-hand mem - o - ries. _____ *p vulnerable*
 I want to know my- self _____ I want to

B. _____ *p determined* _____
 through first-hand mem - o - ries. _____

Pno.

156

S. pay my debt, _____ *pp* I want to know _____

A. _____ *mp steadfast* _____ *pp*
 The debt of sa - cri - fice. _____ I want to know

T. pay my debt, _____ *pp* I want to know _____

B. _____ *mp steadfast* _____ *pp*
 The debt of sa - cri - fice. _____ I want to know

162

Pno.

165

mp *mf* *mf* *p*

S. I want to know that I de - serve my names.

mp *mf* *mf* *p*

A. I want to know that I de - serve my names.

mp *mf* *mf* *p*

T. I want to know that I de - serve my names.

mp *mf* *mf* *p*

B. I want to know that I de - serve my names.

Pno.

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Sami Anguaya	<u><i>Dawn, Where Are You Now?</i></u>	SSAATTBB, piano, 2 woodblocks	Sami Anguaya	4 min	2024	MSC0013
Sami Anguaya	<u><i>Lying Awake, Waiting</i></u>	SSAATTBB a cappella	Tom Robinson & Sami Anguaya	4 min	2022	MSC0001
Emily Green	<u><i>Somewhere in Space</i></u>	SSAA & percussion trio	Edith Södergran	3.5 min	2023	MSC0002
Emily Green	<u><i>What the Silence Offers</i></u>	SSAATTBB a cappella & amplified speaker	Erica Kath	9 min	2022	MSC0012
E.K.R. Hammell	<u><i>Too Still for Dreams</i></u>	SSAATTBB & piano	A.E. Wetherald	4.5 min	2022	MSC0003
Francesca Hauser	<u><i>That Shadow, My Likeness</i></u>	SSAATTBB & piano	Walt Whitman & Christina Rossetti	4 min	2024	MSC0013
Francesca Hauser	<u><i>Twilight</i></u>	SSAATTBB & piano	Sara Teasdale	3.5 min	2022	MSC0004
Elizabeth Legierski	<u><i>Spring and Fall</i></u>	SSAATTBB a cappella	Gerard Manley Hopkins	3 min	2018	MSC0007
Kai Leung	<u><i>Generation 2.5</i></u>	SSAATTBB a cappella	Kai Leung	7 min	2024	MSC0014
Kai Leung	<u><i>When David Heard</i></u>	SSAATTBB a cappella	2 Samuel 18:33	3 min	2022	MSC0005
Carol Kayee Mak	<u><i>The Sirens' Song</i></u>	SSATBB & piano	William Browne	5 min	2019	MSC0008
Hirad Moradi	<u><i>Ah, Moon of My Delight!</i></u>	SSAATTBB a cappella	Omar Khayyam	8 min	2022	MSC0015
Danial Sheibani	<u><i>The Affable Enigma</i></u>	SSSAAATTTBB a cappella	Rūmī	3 min	2021	MSC0009
Madox Terrell	<u><i>Remember</i></u>	SSAATTBB a cappella	Christina Rossetti	2.5 min	2020	MSC0010
Nicholas Wanstall	<u><i>Le Pont Mirabeau</i></u>	SATB & piano	Nicholas Wanstall	3 min	2018	MSC0006
Nicholas Wanstall	<u><i>May This Place</i></u>	SSAATB a cappella	Nicholas Wanstall	3 min	2018	MSC0006



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