

LIBRETTO OF THE EIGHT YEAR OLD

voice & string quartet

PROGRAMME NOTES

Libretto of the Eight Year Old is a musical story describing an extensive world trip by sea, air and automobile across oceans, parts of Europe, Canada and the USA experienced through the eyes of an eight-year old. The eight-year-old was myself, taken by my parents on my first trip away from Australia, along with my brothers, in 1971. Eighteen years later a friend in New York encouraged me to write down what I remembered of the experience. I found it very easy to write through the eyes of a child, for the impressions and images that the trip had left on me at that age were very strong. I read the text to my friend who immediately said: "You must set that to music."

Libretto comes with the message that enquiry, learning and openness to new things are all part of the joy of living, of inner strength and of growing up.

For convenience and flexibility, *Libretto of the Eight Year Old* is available also in a reduction for singer and piano.