

Dan O'Neill

Two Pieces for *a cappella* Choir

Complementary Colours (SSATB)

Changing Hues (SATB)

(2010)

ca. 10'30''

Programme Note

These two pieces for a cappella choir were completed in early 2010. They are similar in that the titles of both are related to colour in some way. The first of the two, *Complementary Colours*, is influenced by the ‘colour wheel’. The colour wheel is a graph which shows all the possible colours that can be achieved by combining the three primary colours: red, blue and yellow. This process opens up a new array of colours which have distinct relationships to one another. One of these relationships is called ‘complementary’. The idea was that each musical phrase would complement the next, in a similar way to those of the complementary colours on the colour wheel. In *Changing Hues* however the central idea was quite different. Again influenced by colour, this piece deals more with the changing of one colour by the addition of another. There is a predominant colour that is present throughout the work. Against this come interjections that change the mood of the sustained colour. These interjections create the ‘changes of hue’ and give the music its direction.

Notes to Performers

All the accidentals hold through the bar unless cancelled by a natural sign.

In *Complementary Colours* each transition between vowel sounds is to be sung smoothly and without a break for breath.

Staggered breathing is to be used for long held notes.

In ‘*Changing Hues*’ the repeated notes are to be articulated with an ‘l’ sound and then revert back to the default ‘*Auh*’.

Whenever a note is repeated without a vowel change, that vowel is sung again smoothly.

This mark ‘ above a note means to take a short breath before continuing.

Both these pieces are sung with strictly **no** vibrato, this is to insure that the pitches do not alter using wide vibrato.