

## **Program Notes for It is the Silence**

*It Is The Silence* was commissioned by the San Francisco Girls Chorus, and premiered on November 1, 2002. Its text is based on excerpts from the *Diary of Anne Frank*, taken from two English translations of Anne's *Diary*. *It Is The Silence* is the first section of a longer work that premiered in its entirety during the San Francisco Girls Chorus' 25th Anniversary season, in May of 2004.

Anne Frank was between 13 and 15 years old when she wrote her *Diary*, and hiding in an upstairs annex over a warehouse with her family, and one other family. Despite all of the fear and frustrations she experienced during their two years of hiding, Anne learned how to survive, to find beauty in small things, and to hold on to hope.

The purpose of this composition is to honor the life of Anne Frank, and to gain a deeper understanding of what she, her family, and friends experienced during the Holocaust.

This first movement contains the following two excerpts from Anne Franks' *Diary*:

July 11, 1942

"It is the silence that frightens me so in the evening and at night... I can't tell you how oppressive it is to never... go outdoors, I'm very afraid that we shall be discovered and shot... We have to whisper and tread lightly during the day, [or] the people in the warehouse might hear us... Someone is calling me."

January 13, 1943

"Terrible things are happening outside. At any time of... day, helpless people are being dragged out of their homes... Families are torn apart; men, women, and children are separated... Everyone is scared... the entire world is at war, and the end is nowhere in sight... All we can do is wait... for it to end. Jews and Christians alike are waiting, the whole world is waiting, and many are waiting for death."