

Words are the Poison

words and music by

Irine Vela & Daniel Keene

a work from *The Little City*
Based on a story by Irine Vela & Daniel Keene
presented by Canto Coro & the
Melbourne Workers Theatre

December 1-15 Brunswick Town Hall

In the heart of the city of the future, a small community is united in its struggle against an increasingly fascist government. Drawing upon the experiences of past struggles (Chile, Greece, Spain, Australia), the community decides to govern itself, sealing itself off from the rest of the city. The government reacts by cutting off services and supplies.

The Little City is about what may come to pass. The Little City is about struggle, despair and hope that people can unite in a common purpose. The music in the play has been inspired by the works of Pablo Neruda, Mikis Theodorakis, Odysseus Elytis, Federico Garcia Lorca and Luis Advis.

dedicated to my parents Anna & Hajnulah Vela
and to Melbourne's CANTO CORO

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1

alto
tenor
piano
piano

al.
ten
b
pno

sop
al.
ten
b
pno

2

solo
sop
al.
ten
pno
pno

3

solo
sop
al.
ten
b
pno
pno

WORDS ARE THE POISON

4

solo

sop

al.

ten

b

pno

pno

what should be for

pro - mi - ses bro - ken

pro - mi - ses bro - ken

pro - mi - ses bro - ken

pro - mi - ses bro - ken

shall we be as

6

ten

b

pno

pno

sop

al.

ten

b

pno

pno

what shall we awake in ourselves what shall we show show our children what

pro - mi - ses

shall we make for our selves

what shall we make for our selves

what shall we take for our selves what shall we give

how shall we sur

solo

sop

al.

ten

b

pno

pno

how shall we sur

what how shall we sur

give give give our children how shall we sur

them what shall we take for us how shall we sur

will we how shall we sur

5

sop

al.

ten

b

pno

pno

tender as infants or hard as nails

tender as infants or hard as nails

tender as infants or hard as nails

tender as infants or hard as nails

shall we be as silent as water or bark like

silent as water or bark like

silent as water or bark like

silent as water or bark like

dogs hard as nails

dogs hard as nails

dogs hard as nails

dogs hard as nails

7

solo

sop

al.

ten

b

pno

pno

vive

vive

vive

vive

vive

Words are the Poison is a song of betrayal by government and the system. Words can be meaningless unless backed up by action. Ultimately it is a song of betrayal by our institutions, by our governments, by the system and by indifference. Is this what we have to look forward to . . . or is there hope for the future?

Irine Vela is a Melbourne-based composer, musician and musical director.

Daniel Keene is a Melbourne-based lyricist.

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