

# As a Woman

Virginia Woolf (1882-1941)  
Quote adapted from "Three Guineas" [Ch.3]

Joan Szymko

$\text{♩} = 56$  opt. solo #1\* *p* *mp* opt. solo #2 *p*

As a wo - man I have no coun - try, As a

3 *mf* opt. solo #3

wo - man I have no coun - try As a

5 *f* *mf* Tutti Alto

wo - man, I have no, no coun - try As a

8 + S1 + S2 rit. . .

wo - man I want no coun - try, As a wo - man I want no coun - try, As a

12 *mp* *p* A tempo S1/S2

wo - man I want no coun - try. As a

\* a single soloist may sing Ms.1-7



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S *mf* *mp* *f*  
 wo-man the whole world is my coun-try. As a wo-man the whole world is my

S *mf* *mp* *f*  
 wo-man the whole world is my coun-try. As a wo-man the whole world is my

A *mp* *f*  
 As a wo-man the whole world is my

[piano for rehearsal only]

# for perusal only

20 *sempre f* rit. . . . . *Meno mosso* ♩=50 *p*

coun - try As a wo-man the whole world is my coun-try. As a

*sempre f* *p*  
 coun - try As a wo-man the whole world is my coun-try. As a

*sempre f* *p*  
 coun - try As a wo-man the whole world is my coun-try. As a

*sempre f* rit. . . . . *Meno mosso* ♩=50 *p*

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wo - man, as a wo - man, as a wo - man.

wo - man, as a wo - man, as a wo - man.

wo - man, as a wo - man, as a wo - man.

for perusal only

### Notes from the Composer

I was inspired to write "As a Woman" after having participated in the 1983 encirclement of the Boeing Cruise Missile Plant in Kent, WA which was sponsored by the Puget Sound Women's Peace Camp. I saw this quote on a placard being carried by one of the other participants. The quote is from Virginia Woolf's long essay, *Three Guineas* (1936-37) on her views about war and women, and how to prevent war. The three part quote suggested the form of the piece; as each line is sung three times.



Joan Szymko

Joan Szymko's music is sung by distinguished ensembles across North America and abroad, with performances at international festivals, state and regional conferences and at six consecutive national conferences of the American Choral Director's Association. The ACDA has recognized her lasting contribution to the choral arts by awarding her the 2010 Raymond W. Brock Memorial Commission. For additional information, visit [www.joanszymko.com](http://www.joanszymko.com)



Virginian Woolf at age 20

The English writer, Virginia Woolf (1882-1941) is widely considered to be a major 20th century novelist and one of the foremost modernist writers of her day. She was an innovator and her novels were very experimental. *Three Guineas*, the text source for *As a Woman* is an essay Woolf penned in 1937. It is structured as a response to a gentleman's letter asking her to join his efforts to prevent the looming war.