

## Letter to America

### Credits and Information

Cindy Kallet wrote “Letter to America” in the summer of 2017 after hearing about the refugees who, in late January 2017, just a week after the presidential inauguration, were found, barefoot and freezing, crossing the northern New England and New York borders into Canada, fearing for their lives if they remained in the United States. The song imagines one refugee’s view of a country previously envisioned through the lens of the inscription on the Statue of Liberty.

Give me your tired, your poor,  
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,  
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.  
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me,  
I lift my lamp beside the golden door! - Emma Lazarus

The song’s style pays tribute to some Irish ballads of emigration, which speak of America as the promised land.

The song was copyrighted in the US by Cindy Kallet in 2020, and published that same year by Sleepy Creek Music, BMI.

The song was recorded, mixed and mastered in 2020 by Grey Larsen at Grey Larsen Mastering, Bloomington, Indiana, USA.

Mark Hood consulted on the mixing and mastering.

Cindy Kallet: guitar and voice

Grey Larsen: piano, three low D tin whistles, Irish alto flute, harmonium and voice

In the extended rendition of the song, Grey Larsen adds an Irish alto flute solo - a slow air called “The Green Fields of Canada,” his wordless interpretation of a traditional Irish ballad of emigration. Grey accompanies the air with two harmonium parts (a drone and a counterpoint line) and Cindy Kallet adds guitar. Grey first heard this ballad sung by Andy Irvine on a recording by the Irish band Planxty.

#### Instruments heard on the recording:

Guitar: made by Michael Gurian c. 1970

Low tin whistles: Carbony Celtic Winds, Big Bore in D with close finger spacing via chimney extenders, made in 2020

Irish also flute: Irish flute in low A made by Casey Burns in 2003, with eight keys, made of African blackwood and sterling silver

Harmonium: lap model made in India by Bina c. 1990

Piano Sample: Ivory II American Concert D (Steinway grand) made by Synthogy