

Christopher Beardsley

The Lightener of the Stars

for SATB choir and organ

**CHRISTOPHER BEARDSLEY****THE LIGHTENER OF THE STARS**

2006 VANGUARD PREMIERES CHORAL COMPOSITION CONTEST  
HONORABLE MENTION

Sponsored by Vanguard Voices, Dearborn, Michigan, USA  
G. Kevin Dewey, Artistic Director.

*The Lightener of the Stars* was first performed by the Vanguard Voices  
on June 3 2007 in the  
Ford Community and Performing Arts Centre, Dearborn, Michigan, USA.

**THE LIGHTENER OF THE STARS**

Behold the Lightener of the stars  
On the crests of the clouds,  
And the choralists of the sky  
Lauding Him.

Coming down with acclaim  
From the Father above,  
Harp and lyre of song  
Sounding to Him.

Christ, Thou refuge of my love,  
Why should not I raise Thy fame!  
Angels and saints melodious  
Singing to Thee.

Thou Son of the Mary of graces,  
Of exceeding white purity of beauty,  
Joy were it to me to be in the fields  
Of Thy riches.

O Christ my beloved,  
O Christ of the Holy Blood,  
By day and by night  
I praise Thee.

*From the Carmina Gadelica  
Translated from the Gaelic by  
Alexander Carmichael (1832-1912)*

*Duration 5 minutes*

# The Lightener of the Stars

Text from the Carmina Gadelica  
Translated by Alexander Carmichael (1832-1912)

Christopher Beardsley

**Gently, sustained** (♩=c60)

SOPRANO  
ALTO  
TENOR  
BASS

Be - hold, \_\_\_\_\_

ORGAN

*p* Sw.  
Man.

6

Solo *mp*

S.  
A.  
T.  
B.

Be - hold \_\_\_\_\_ the  
Be - - - hold, \_\_\_\_\_ Be -  
Be - - - hold, \_\_\_\_\_ Be -  
Be - - - hold, \_\_\_\_\_ Be - -

10

S. Light - en - er of the stars\_\_\_\_\_

- - hold,\_\_\_\_\_ Be - hold,

A. - hold,\_\_\_\_\_ Be - hold,

T. hold, Be - - hold,

B. hold,\_\_\_\_\_ Be - - hold,

14 *Tutti* *p*

S. On the crests, crests\_\_\_\_\_ of the clouds, And the

A. *p* On the crests of the clouds\_\_\_\_\_

T. *p* On\_\_\_\_\_ the crests\_\_\_\_\_ of the clouds, And the

B. *p* On the crests\_\_\_\_\_ of the clouds,\_\_\_\_\_

17

S. *\** chor - - a-lists of the sky Laud - ing Him.\_\_\_\_\_

A. chor - - a-lists, Laud - ing Him.\_\_\_\_\_

T. chor - - a-lists of the sky Laud - ing Him.\_\_\_\_\_

B. *\** chor - - a-lists of the sky Laud - ing Him.\_\_\_\_\_

\* Here, and in similar places, the demisemiquavers should not be hurried.

20

S. \_\_\_\_\_

A. \_\_\_\_\_

T. \_\_\_\_\_

B. \_\_\_\_\_

23

S. *p* Com - ing down with ac-claim From the Fa - -

A. *p* Com - ing down with ac-claim From the Fa - -

T. *p* Com - ing down with ac- claim From the Fa - - ther a -

B. *p* Com - ing down with ac- claim From the Fa - - ther

\* See note, page 3.

26

S. *mp* ther a - bove, Harp and lyre of *mp*

A. *p* - ther a - bove, Harp and lyre

T. *mp* bove, Harp and lyre

B. *mp* a - bove, Harp and lyre

29

S. *mf*  
 song, song, song Sound - ing to Him.

A. *mf*  
 of song, of song Sound - ing to Him.

T. *p* *mf*  
 Harp and lyre of song Sound - ing to Him.

B. *mf*  
 of song, of song Sound - ing to Him.

32

S. *mf poco marcato*  
 Christ, Thy re- fuge of my love

A. *mf poco marcato*  
 Christ, Thy re- fuge of my love

T. *mf poco marcato*  
 Christ, Thy re- fuge of my love

B. *mf poco marcato*  
 Christ, Thy re- fuge of my love

Gt *p* *mf*

Ped.

36 *f*

S. Why should I not raise Thy fame! *divisi*

A. Why should I not raise Thy fame!

T. Why should I not raise Thy fame!

B. Why should I not raise Thy fame!

**Più mosso** (♩=72)

39 unis. *f*

S. An - gels and saints me - lo - di - ous, me - lo -

A. An - gels and saints me - lo -

T. An - gels and saints me - lo - di - ous,

B. An - gels and saints me -

**Più mosso** (♩=72)



42 **poco accel.**

S. *divisi* Sing - ing **ff** to Thee.\_\_\_\_

A. Sing - ing **ff** to Thee.\_\_\_\_

T. me - lo - di - ous Sing - ing **ff** to Thee.\_\_\_\_

B. - lo - - di - ous Sing - ing **ff** to Thee.\_\_\_\_

**poco accel.**

45 **Tempo primo** (♩=60)

S. unis. **p sostenuto** Thou Son\_\_\_\_\_ of the Ma - ry of gra - ces, Of\_

A. **p sostenuto** Thou Son\_\_\_\_\_ of the Ma - ry

T. **p sostenuto** Thou Son\_\_\_\_\_ of the Ma - ry of gra - ces,

B. **p sostenuto** Thou Son\_\_\_\_\_ of

**Tempo primo** (♩=60)

Sw. **p**

\*Organ: Play small notes ad lib. This section (to bar 56) should preferably be sung unaccompanied.

49

S. ex - - ceed - ing white pur -

A. of the gra - ces, Of ex-ceed - ing white pur -

T. Of ex-ceed-ing white pur - i - ty of beau - ty, of beau -

B. the Ma - ry of gra - - ces, Of ex-ceed - - ing

53

S. - i - ty of beaut - - - y, Joy

A. - i - ty of beau - - - ty, beau - - - ty,

T. - - - ty, of beau - - - ty, Joy

B. white pur - i - ty of beau - - - ty,

(Play)

Gt. *mf*

57

*cresc.* *f*

S. were it to me to be in the fields Of Thy

*mf* *cresc.* *f*

A. Joy were it to me to be in the fields Of Thy

*cresc.* *f*

T. were it to me to be in the fields Of Thy ri - - -

*mf* *cresc.* *f*

B. Joy were it to me to be in the fields Of Thy ri -

(Play)

*cresc.* *f*

61

*p* **Meno mosso** *mf*

S. ri - - - ches. O

*p* *mf*

A. ri - - - ches. O

*p* *mf*

T. - ches, ri - - ches. O

*p*

B. - - - ches.

**Meno mosso**

*p* Sw. *p*

(Ped.)

65

S. Christ my be-lov - èd, O Christ of\_

A. Christ my be - lov - èd, O Christ

T. Christ my be-lov - èd, O Christ

B. O Christ my be-lov - èd, O Christ

*mf poco cresc.*

68

S. the Ho-ly Blood, By day and by night

A. of the Ho-ly Blood, By day and by night

T. of the Ho - ly Blood, By day and by night

B. of the Ho-ly Blood, By day and by night

*p*

72 Solo *f* rit. al fine Tutti *p*

S. I \_\_\_\_\_ praise Thee, \_\_\_\_\_ I \_\_\_\_\_ praise, \_\_\_\_\_

A. \_\_\_\_\_ I \_\_\_\_\_ praise,

T. \_\_\_\_\_ I \_\_\_\_\_ praise,

B. \_\_\_\_\_ I \_\_\_\_\_

*mf* rit. al fine *p*

77

S. \_\_\_\_\_ I \_\_\_\_\_ praise \_\_\_\_\_ Thee.

A. \_\_\_\_\_ I \_\_\_\_\_ praise \_\_\_\_\_ Thee.

T. \_\_\_\_\_ I \_\_\_\_\_ praise \_\_\_\_\_ Thee.

B. \_\_\_\_\_ I \_\_\_\_\_ praise \_\_\_\_\_ Thee.