

Light of Heaven
(from *Children of the Light*)

for

Chorus SATB
Soprano Solo
Piano – Two Players

Music & Words
John Newell

ABIERTO MUSIC

Light of Heaven

from *Children of the Light*

Text by John Newell

John Newell

Quietly, but not too slowly ♩ = 56

S. A. *p* Light of hea - ven, _____ Pure _____ and in - des -

Piano

I.

II.

pp sempre

5

3

tract - i - ble, _____ Be - yond a - ris - ing and ceas - ing, _____ Give us thy bless - ings, _____ Pur - i - fy,

5

9

— trans - form, a - wa - ken us. _____ Shine thru our words, deeds and thoughts,

9

13

That we may give bless-ings to o - thers.

pp *sempre*

pp *sempre*

13



17

pp Light of hea - ven, _____ Pure _____ and in - des - truct - i - ble, _____

pp Light of hea - ven, _____ Pure _____ and in - des - truct - i - ble, _____

pp Light of hea - ven, _____ Pure _____ and in - des - _____

mp Light of hea - ven, _____ Pure _____ and in - des - truct - i - ble, _____ Be - yond a - _____

17



20

Be-yond a - ris - ing and ceas - ing, Give us thy bles - sings, Pur - i -

Be-yond a - ris - ing and ceas - ing, Give us thy bles - sings,

8 truct - i - ble, Be - yond a - ris - ing and ceas - ing, Give us thy bles - sings,

ris - ing and ceas - ing, Give us thy bless - ings, Pur - i - fy,

20

23

fy, trans-form, a - wa - ken us. Shine through our words,

Pu - ri - fy, trans - form, a - wa - ken us. Shine thru our words,

8 Pur - i - fy, trans - form, a - wa - ken us. Shine through

trans - form, a - wa - ken us. Shine thru our words,

23

— deeds and thoughts, That we may give bles-sings. to o - thers. —

— deeds — and thoughts, — That we may give bles - sings to o - thers. —

8 our words, — deeds — and thoughts, That we may give bles-sings. to

deeds and thoughts, — That we may give bless-ings to o - thers. —

26

29 *Soprano Solo*

p Light of

8 o - thers. — *p* Light of hea - ven, —

pp sempre

29 *pp sempre*

33

hea - ven, Pure and in-des-truct - i - ble, Be - yond a - ris - ing and

Pure and in-des - truc - ti - ble, Be - yond a - ris - ing and ceas - ing,

33

36

ceas - ing, Give us thy bless-ing, Pur - i - fy, trans-form, a -

Give us they bless - ings, Pur - i - fy, trans - form, a - wa -

36

39

wa - ken us. Shine thru our words, deeds and thoughts, ken us. Shine thru our words, deeds and thoughts,

42

That we may give bles-ings to o - thers. That we may give bles-ings to o - thers.

46

Tutti

Measure 46: *p* Light of hea - ven, _____ Pure _____ and in - des - truct - i - ble, Be - yond a -

Measure 47: *pp* Light of hea - ven, Light of hea - ven, Light of hea - ven,

Measure 48: *pp* Light of hea - ven, Light of hea - ven, Light of hea - ven,

Piano accompaniment (measures 46-48): *pp sempre*

49

Measure 49: ris - ing and ceas - ing, _____ Give us they bless - ings, _____ Pur - i - fy, _____

Measure 50: Light of hea - ven, Light of hea - ven, Light of hea - ven,

Measure 51: Light of hea - ven, Light of hea - ven, Light of hea - ven,

Piano accompaniment (measures 49-51): *pp sempre*

— trans - form, — a - wa - ken us. — Shine thru our words,

Light of hea - ven, Light of hea - ven, Light of hea - ven,

Light of hea - ven, Light of hea - ven, Light of hea - ven,

Light of hea - ven, Light of hea - ven, Light of hea - ven,

52

deeds and thoughts, That we may give bless - ings to o - thers.

Light of hea - ven, Light of hea - ven, Light of hea - ven,

Light of hea - ven, Light of hea - ven, Light of hea - ven,

Light of hea - ven, Light of hea - ven, Light of hea - ven,

55

58 *ritard. e diminuendo*

Light of hea - ven. Light of hea - ven.

8 Light of hea - ven. Light of hea - ven.

Light of hea - ven. Light of hea - ven.

58

Light of Heaven is a movement from a larger work of mine, *Children of the Light* (2014). It is based upon a mantra that I composed in 1996. The mantra grew out my interest in the Tibetan Buddhist tradition. The text is a very free elaboration of what is known as the “vajra guru” mantra:

Om Ma Hum Vajra Guru Padma Siddhi Hum.

Padmasambhava is revered as the Vajra Guru. He was the master who brought Buddhism to Tibet in the 8th century. The Sanskrit word *vajra* means diamond (pure and indestructible) or thunderbolt (the irresistible force of enlightenment). It originally referred to a powerful weapon of war!

I composed a version of this movement in the late '90s for a high school choir in western Massachusetts, where I then lived. It was probably meant to be part of the larger work all along. The original version used two flutes instead of a second keyboard part from ms. 15 to the end; certainly this version would work quite well with two flutes.

John Newell

Selected Choral Works

A Timbered Choir SATB div., piano. Eight movements. Intermediate/advanced
Children of the Light SATB, sop. & bar. solos, piano (4 hands). Advanced
Deep River SATB, *a cappella*; arrangement. Easy/intermediate
Wexford Carol SATB, soprano solo, piano; arrangement. Easy/intermediate
Pleasure It Is SAB, *a cappella*. Easy/intermediate
God is Love SATB (some sop. div.), *a cappella*. Easy
Seven Antiphons for Advent Unison, optional chordal accompaniment. Easy
Veni Creator Spiritus SATB div., *a cappella*. Advanced
Suite of English Lyrics SSATB *a cappella*, baritone solo. Advanced
Kyrie Eleison SATB div., *a cappella*. Advanced
The Greatest of These is Love SATB, soprano solo, piano. Intermediate
Wake Up, Children! SATB *a cappella*, soprano solo. Intermediate
Make a Joyful Noise SATB, organ. Intermediate
O Lord, if my lips could sing SATB, organ. Easy/intermediate
O Sabbath Rest of Galilee SATB *a cappella*, soprano solo. Intermediate
Noel SSATB, *a cappella*. Intermediate
Our Father, Who Art in Heaven SSATB *a cappella*. Easy
O Sing Unto the Lord SATB, piano (4 hands). Advanced

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