

THY LIGHT IS COME

Program Notes

Thy Light Is Come was commissioned and premiered by Peter Fyfe and Christ Episcopal Church in Nashville, Tennessee. The text, drawn from Isaiah 60, proclaims in glorious fashion that God's presence is the light that illuminates a new future. The opening choral fanfare on the word "Arise" establishes a celebratory mood, and the work's four sections employ quickly-shifting tonal centers and a wide palette of expressive demands to musically depict the scripture's poetic imagery. After a return of the opening fanfare confirms that our light has indeed come, an extended "Amen" coda brings the anthem to a joyous and full-throated conclusion.

This festive anthem was originally composed and premiered as a work for mixed voices and organ. In 2004, at the request of Washington (D.C.) National Cathedral Choral Society Music Director J. Reilly Lewis, the composer created a new version of the piece that included brass and timpani. The new version was performed three times to a total audience of 10,000 as the concluding work on each of the Choral Society's critically acclaimed "The Joy of Christmas" concerts at the Washington National Cathedral, by the 240-voice Cathedral Choral Society with the Washington Brass, timpani and organ, conducted by Dr. Lewis.

Instrumentation

SATB Voices
Organ
3 Bb Trumpets
2 Trombones
Bass Trombone
Tuba
Timpani (set of 4)

Substitute Parts:

F Horn 1 is a substitute part for Bb Trumpet 3
F Horn 2 is a substitute part for Trombone 1

These horn parts do not appear in the score, and should only be used if performers for Bb Trumpet 3 and/or Trombone 1 are not available.



This is a transposed score

Bb Trumpets sound a major second lower than written