

Commissioned by Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church, Jeffrey Brillhart, Director of Music and Fine Arts  
in loving memory of Virginia Smith

# Easter Hymn

for SATB Chorus and Organ, with opt. Brass Quartet

Christina G. Rossetti  
(1830-1894)

David Conte (b. 1955)

**Andante sostenuto** (♩ = 72)

Soprano Alto *unis. mf*

Tenor Bass *unis. mf*

Organ *mf*

16'

The

The

7 **A**

*f*

sun a - ris - es from the sea, And all a - round his

*f*

sun a - ris - es from the sea, And all a - round his

**A**

**B** GELOBT SEI GOTT  
Melchior Vulpius (1560?-1616)

13

rays — are — fling - ing, —

rays — are — fling - ing, —

**B**

*mf*

19

*mf* The flow'rs — are op - 'ning on the lea, — The

The flow'rs are — op - 'ning on the lea, the lea, — The —

*mf*

The flow'rs — are — op - 'ning on the lea, — the — lea, — The —

*mp*

*mp*

\*Cue-sized notes are to be played in the absence of brass.

mer - ry birds are sing - ing. C

24 *f*

mer - ry birds are sing - ing, are sing - ing.

*f*

mer - ry birds are sing - ing, are sing - ing.

*mf*

*mp* *mf*

C

29

*mp* *mf*

35 *mp* D

But not a -

*mp*

But not a -

D

*mp*

40

*mf* *mp*

lone for morn - ing skies Shall praise un - to our

lone for morn - ing skies Shall praise to our

45

**E**

God be giv - en: This day our Sav - ior

giv - en:

God be giv... be giv - en: This day our Sav - ior

**E**

6

50 *mf*

S did a - rise

A did a - rise, And o -

T did a - rise, And o - *unis.*

B did a - rise,

*mf*

*mf*

*mf*

*mf*

55 *unis.* *allargando*

And o - pened the gate of

- pened, and o - pened the gate of

- pened the gate of

And o - pened the gate of

*allargando*

**F** *a tempo* (♩ = 72)

59 *f*

heav - en. \_\_\_\_\_

heav - en. \_\_\_\_\_

heav - en. \_\_\_\_\_

heav - en. \_\_\_\_\_

**F** *a tempo* (♩ = 72)

65

*mp*

heav - en. \_\_\_\_\_

71

S  
A

*mp* **G**

A bliss - ful bright e -

T

*mp*

A bliss - ful bright e -

B

*unis. mp*

A bliss - ful bright e -

*mf* **G** *mp*

76

*mf* *mp*

ter - ni - ty Bought by the ris - ing of the

*mf* *mp* *unis.*

ter - ni - ty Bought by the ris - ing of the

*mf* *mp*

ter - ni - ty Bought by the ris - ing, the

*mf* *mp*

81 *mf* *mp*

Giv - er, To Whom all praise, all

*mf* *mp*

Giv - er, To Whom all praise, all

*mf* *mp*

ris - ing of the Giv - er, To Whom all praise, all

85 *mf* **H**

S hon - or, be,

*mf*

A hon - or, hon - or be, For

*mf*

T hon - or, hon - or be,

*mf*

B hon - or, hon - our be,

*mf* **H**



90

*unis.*

*allarg.*

For ev - er, \_\_\_\_\_ and for \_\_\_\_\_

ev - er, \_\_\_\_\_ and for ev - er, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

*unis.*

For ev - er, \_\_\_\_\_ and for ev - er, \_\_\_\_\_

For - ev - er, \_\_\_\_\_ and for \_\_\_\_\_

*allarg.*

*mp*

Copying is illegal  
Review only

**I** A bit broader than Tempo I (♩ = 66)

95 *f*

S  
A  
T  
B

ev - er, Al - le - lu - ia,  
er, Al - le - lu - ia,  
ev - er, Al - le - lu - ia,

**I** A bit broader than Tempo I (♩ = 66)

*f*

Still broader (♩ = 58)

*molto allarg.*

**J** Maestoso (♩ = 56)

99 *cresc.* *f*

al - le - lu - ia,  
al - le - lu - ia,  
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,

Still broader (♩ = 58)

*molto allarg.*

**J** Maestoso (♩ = 56)

*f*

*molto allarg.*

103

*molto allarg.*

### Program Notes

Christina G. Rossetti (1830–1894) began writing at age 7, but was 31 before her first work was published. She was hailed as the natural successor to Elizabeth Barrett Browning. A devout Anglo-Catholic, her popularity faded in the early 20th century from Modernism’s backlash, but in the past few decades she has been rediscovered. Her visionary poetry has a deeply religious quality, and a keen sense of the spiritual world.

*Easter Hymn* sets three verses of Rossetti’s poem *Easter Morning*, one of nearly a dozen poems she wrote about Easter. My setting strives to capture both the awe and joy of Christ’s resurrection. The main musical motive is a rising scale. Interwoven into the composition is the *Easter hymn* “Gelobt sei Gott” by Melchior Vulpius (1570–1615) which is stated in the brass quartet between Rossetti’s verses. This leads to the chorus taking up this music in the final “Alleluias.”

*Easter Hymn* was commissioned by Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church, Jeffrey Brillhart, Director of Music and Fine Arts, in loving memory of Virginia Smith. The piece was premiered on Easter Sunday, April 12th, 2020.

4:40  
January 6–14, 2020  
San Francisco, CA

