

## 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 Vulpus (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.

### Text

The sun arises from the sea,  
And all around his rays are flinging,  
The flowers are opening on the lea,  
The merry birds are singing.

But not alone for morning skies  
Shall praise unto our God be given:  
This day our Savior did arise  
And opened the gate of heaven.

A blissful bright eternity  
Bought by the rising of the Giver,  
To Whom all praise, all honor be,  
For ever and for ever.

*(Alleluia!)*

—Christina G. Rossetti (1830–1894)

### Available Editions

Choir Score	9220
▶ <b>Brass Quartet Full Score</b>	<b>9220A</b>
Brass Quartet Parts	9220B

### David Conte (b. 1955)

For biographical information visit:  
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# 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

Tenor Bass

Organ

*mf*

16'

*unis. mf*

The

The

7 **A**

S  
A

T  
B

Org.

*f*

*f*

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

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

13

Tpts. 1 2

Tbns. 1 2

S  
A

T  
B

Org.

rays are fling - ing,

rays are fling - ing,

**B**

19

S  
A

T  
B

Org.

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

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

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

45 E

Tpt. 1 *mp* *mf* *mp*

Tpt. 2 *mp* *mf* *mp*

Tbn. 1 *mp* *mf* *mp*

Tbn. 2 *mp* *mf* *mp*

S  
God be\_ giv - en: This day our Sav - ior

A  
God be\_ giv - en: This day our Sav - ior

T  
God be\_ giv - en: This day our Sav - ior

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

Org. E

*allargando*

55

Tpts. 1 2

Tbns. 1 2

*unis.*

S And o - pened the gate of

A - pened, and o - pened the gate of

T - - - - - pened the gate of

B And o - pened the gate of

**F** 59 *a tempo* (♩ = 72)

Tpts. 1 2

Tbns. 1 2

S *f* heav - en.

A *f* heav - en.

T *f* heav - en.

B *f* heav - en.

66

Tpts. 1 2

Tbns. 1 2

Org.

72

S

A

T

B

Org.

*mp* **G**

A bliss - ful bright e - ter - ni -

*mp*

A bliss - ful bright e - ter - ni -

*mp*

A bliss - ful bright e - ter - ni -

*unis. mp*

A bliss - ful bright e - ter - ni -

*mf* **G**

*mp*

81

Tpt. 1

Tpt. 2

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2

S

A

T

B

Org.

*p* *mp* *p*

*p* *mp* *p*

*p* *mp* *p*

*p* *mp* *p*

*mf* *mp*

*mf* *mp*

*mf* *mp*

*mf* *mp*

Giv - er, To Whom all praise, all hon - or,

Giv - er, To Whom all praise, all hon - or,

Giv - er, To Whom all praise, all hon - or,

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

Org.

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

95

Tpt. 1 *mf*

Tpt. 2 *mf*

Tbn. 1 *mf*

Tbn. 2 *mf*

S *f*  
ev - er, Al - le - lu - ia,

A *f*  
ev - er, Al - le - lu - ia,

T *f*  
er, Al - le - lu - ia,

B *f*  
ev - er, Al - le - lu - ia,

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

Org.



