



Amy Gordon

Commissioned by Jennifer Gaderlund for the Graham Middle School Choirs

I Celebrate Life

From Light Cycle

**Music by Amy Gordon
Text by Rhoda Gordon**

**Instrumentation: SA (SSA Divisi) Choir & Piano
Duration: 2.5 minutes**

I Celebrate Life (the second and last movement of the *Light Cycle* suite), commissioned by Jennifer Gaderlund for the Graham Middle School Choirs, sets the beautiful poem by Rhoda Gordon, the composer's late grandmother, for SA (SSA divisi) Choir and Piano. The piece opens with an excited yet hushed ostinato in the Piano. The choir sings the first four lines of the poem by repeating the beginning line and adding the next line until it is complete, utilizing the modern technique of additive processes popular in Minimalism. In the more pensive middle section, the ostinato transforms into a more poignant texture as the Choir "realizes the joy of being through seeing the glorious creation" that they are a part of. The ostinato then speeds up and returns to the hushed excitement heard in the opening. The piece concludes with the Choir building up to the most important line of the text: "The most powerful light to celebrate by is love."

This piece is suitable for any Treble-voiced ensemble. It may be performed as a stand-alone piece or paired with **Light Up** as the complete *Light Cycle* suite.

Text

I celebrate life
With beauty,
With color,
With singing;
I realize
The joy of being
Through seeing
The glorious
Creation I am part of.
The most powerful
Light to celebrate by
Is love.

About the composer: Amy Gordon is an active composer, arranger, songwriter, and vocalist based in Los Angeles, CA. As a choral composer, she has worked with and been commissioned by numerous choirs, including being the composer-in-residence for Nova Vocal Ensemble. She has also scored numerous films and webcasts. She has a BA in Composition from Loyola Marymount University and an MM in Composition from California State University, Long Beach.

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I Celebrate Life

From *Light Cycle*

Music by Amy Gordon

Text by Rhoda Gordon

Soprano Alto

In a Fast 2 $\text{♩} = 100$

With hushed excitement *mp* *fp*

I cel - e-brate life

Piano

mp

Soprano Alto

6 *mp* *fp*

(f) with beau - ty. I cel - e-brate life

Pno.

sf *mp*

Soprano Alto

11 *mp* *fp*

(f) with beau - ty, with col - or. I cel - e-brate life

Pno.

sf *sf* *mp*

pedal sim.

I Celebrate Life (from *Light Cycle*)

16 *mf* *mp* *mp*

S
A

(f) with beau-ty, with col-or, with sing-ing. With beau-ty, with col-or, with

Pno.

20 *mp* *f*

S
A

sing-ing. With beau-ty, with col-or, with sing-ing.

sing-ing. With beau-ty, with col-or, with sing-ing.

Pno.

25 *sub. p* *fp* *rit.* *ff*

S
A

I cel-e-brate life (f) with

I cel-e-brate life (f) with

Pno.

sub. p *rit.* *f*

a tempo
30 *fp* *fp*
S sing - ing, with sing - ing, with
A sing - ing, with sing - ing, with
Pno. *a tempo* *fp* *fp*

molto rit. *More Relaxed* ♩. = 66
34 *fp* *p*
S sing - - - - ing.
A sing - - - - ing.
Pno. *molto rit.* *More Relaxed* ♩. = 66 *p*
pedal freely

38 *mp*

I Celebrate Life (from *Light Cycle*)

42 *mp*

S I re - al - ize the joy of be - ing through

A I re - al - ize the joy — of be - ing through

Pno. *p* *mp*

46

S see - ing — the glo - ri - ous cre - a - tion

A see - ing — the glo - ri - ous cre - a - tion

Pno. *p*

50

S I re - al - ize the joy of be - ing through see - ing — the

A I re - al - ize the joy — of be - ing through see - ing — the

Pno. *mp* *Sva*

53

S
glo-ri_ous cre - a - tion I am part of, ___ I am

A
glo-ri_ous cre - a - tion I am part of, ___ I am

Pno.

8va

55

S
mf part of, ___ *div.* I am *f* part of, ___ I am

A
mf part of, ___ *f* part of, ___ I am

Pno.

(8va)

I Celebrate Life (from *Light Cycle*)

58

S

A

Pno.

tutti mp

rit.

p

part of, I am part of.

part of, I am part of.

(8va)

mp

rit. loco

p

62

Pno.

accel.

p

mp With excitement

In a Fast 2 $\text{♩} = 100$

66

S

Pno.

With excitement mp

fp

The most pow - er - ful light

70 *mp*

S (t) —

A *With excitement mp*

to cel - e - brate by with beau - ty.

Pno. *sf mp*

pedal sim.

73 *fp mp*

S The most pow - er - ful light (t)

A to cel - e - brate by with

Pno.

76 *fp*

S The most pow - er - ful light

A beau - ty, with col - or.

Pno. *sf sf mp*

I Celebrate Life (from *Light Cycle*)

80 *mp* *mp*

S (t) With-

A to cel - e - brate by with beau - ty, with col - or, with sing - ing. With-

Pno.

83 *mp* *mp*

S beau - ty, with col - or, with sing - ing. With beau - ty, with col - or,

A beau - ty, with col - or, with sing - ing. With beau - ty, with col - or, with

Pno.

87 *f* *sub. p* *sub. p*

S with sing - ing. The most pow - er - ful

A sing - ing. The most pow - er - ful

Pno. *sub. p*

rit. -----

91 *fp* *div.* *ff* *tutti mp* *molto rubato*

S
light (t) to cel - e - brate by is

A
light (t) to cel - e - brate by is

Pno. *rit.* *molto rubato*

a tempo

95 *fp* *fp* *fp* *fp*

S
love, is love, is

A
love, is love, is

Pno. *a tempo* *fp* *fp*

I Celebrate Life (from *Light Cycle*)

molto rit. ----- **More Relaxed** ♩ = 66

fp ----- ***p***

S
love.

A
love.

molto rit. ----- **More Relaxed** ♩ = 66

p

Pno.

pedal freely

103 ***molto rit.***

mp ----- ***pp***

Pno.