



Amy Gordon

Commissioned by Jennifer Gaderlund for the Graham Middle School Choirs

Light Cycle

Light Up &
I Celebrate Life

Music by Amy Gordon
Text by Rhoda Gordon

Instrumentation: SA (SSA Divisi) Choir & Piano
Duration: 5.5 minutes

Light Cycle is a two-movement suite for Intermediate to Advanced Treble ensembles. The suite, commissioned by Jennifer Gaderlund for the Graham Middle School Choirs, sets two beautiful poems by Rhoda Gordon (**Light Up** and **I Celebrate Life**), the composer's late grandmother, for SA (SSA divisi) Choir and Piano.

Light Up is the first movement of the *Light Cycle* suite. The Piano features a constant rhythmic motor, representing our hopefully constant dancing throughout life. The Sopranos and Altos begin in unison and then break into harmony as the texture unfolds. The middle section contains a round between the Sopranos and Altos, with the Altos offset by two beats. A third (optional) descant part sings above the round between the Sopranos and Altos. The opening material returns with the repeated text "Think light rays" but develops the material further with a few moments of divisi. The piece dramatically builds as the choir repeats the word "glow", finally resolving with the call to "glow and dance". The Piano's rhythmic motor finally comes to a rest at the last measure.

I Celebrate Life is the second and last movement of the *Light Cycle* suite. 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" 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."

Light Cycle is suitable for any Treble-voiced ensemble. The pieces may be performed together or as stand-alone pieces. Both pieces explore imitative polyphony and would be a great way for any Treble-voiced ensemble to explore polyphony and part independence. The SSA divisi may be included or omitted as suited to the needs of the ensemble.

Light Up

Think light rays
Dance along their path

Think radiance
Glow and dance

Smilingly, laughingly
Move with glee

Emanate love
Into others' way

Think light rays
Dance along their path

Radiate golden
Glow and dance.

I Celebrate Life

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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Light Up

From *Light Cycle*

Music by Amy Gordon

Text by Rhoda Gordon

Dance-like ♩=116
sempre legato

Piano

mp

pedal freely

6

poco rit.

Pno.

11

a tempo
mp

S

Think _____ (k) light rays.

mp

A

Think _____ (k) light rays.

a tempo

Pno.

Light Up (from *Light Cycle*)

15

S Think _____ (k) light _____ rays.

A Think _____ (k) light rays.

Pno.

19

S Dance, — dance _____ a - long their path.

A Dance, —

Pno.

mf

23

S Dance, — dance _____ a - long their path. Think

A Dance, — dance _____ a - long their path. Think

Pno.

mp *mf*

27

S ra - di'ance, ra - di'ance.

A ra - di'ance, ra - di'ance.

Pno.

31 *mp cresc.*

S Glow, glow, glow and dance.

A *mp cresc.* Glow, glow, glow and dance.

Pno. *mp cresc.* *f*

36 **More Relaxed** ♩ = 108 *mp*

S

A *mp*

Pno. *mp* **More Relaxed** ♩ = 108

Light Up (from *Light Cycle*)

1st repeat: Sopranos Only

2nd repeat: Altos join Sopranos in unison

3rd repeat: Altos move to harmony

40 *mf*

S
Smil-ing - ly, laugh-ing - ly move _____ with glee.

A
3rd repeat only mf
Smil-ing - ly, laugh-ing - ly move _____ with glee. —

Pno. *mp*

pedal sim.

44

S
Em - a - nate love in - to oth - ers' way.

A
— Em - a - nate — love in - to oth - ers' way.

Pno.

48 *f* Optional descant (If including, use only a few Sopranos)

S1 Smil - ing - ly, laugh - ing - ly move with glee.

f Most Sopranos on melody (if including descant)

S2 Smil - ing - ly, laugh - ing - ly move with glee.

A *f* Smil - ing - ly, laugh - ing - ly move with glee.

Pno. *mf*

52

S1 Em - a - nate love in - to oth - ers' way.

S2 Em - a - nate love in - to oth - ers' way.

A Em - a - nate love in - to oth - ers' way.

Pno. *f*

Light Up (from *Light Cycle*)

57 **Dance-like** ♩=116
sempre legato

Pno. *mp*

61

Pno. *mf*

65

Pno. *poco rit.*

68 *a tempo*
tutti mp

S
Think _____ (k) light rays.

A
Think _____ (k) light _____ rays.

Pno. *mp*

72

S Think _____ (k) light _____ rays.

A Think _____ (k) light _____ rays.

Pno.

Optional descant (If including, use only a few Sopranos)

76

S1 *mp* Dance, _____ dance, _____ dance, _____ dance. _____

S2 *mf* Dance, _____ dance _____ a - long their path.

A *mp* Dance, _____

Pno. *mf*

Light Up (from *Light Cycle*)

80

mf

S1 Dance, _____ dance, _____ a - long their path. _____

mp *mf*

S2 Dance, _____ dance _____ a - long their path.

mf

A Dance, _____ dance _____ a - long their path. _____

Pno.

84

tutti
sub. p *poco a poco cresc.*

S Ra - di - ate gold - en, ra - di - ate gold - en. *div.* *mf*

sub. p *poco a poco cresc.* *mf*

A Ra - di - ate gold - en, ra - di - ate gold - en.

Pno. *sub. p* *poco a poco cresc.* *mf*

88 *mp cresc.*
tutti
S Glow, glow, glow
A *div. mp cresc.*
Glow, glow, glow, glow
Pno. *mp cresc.*

92 *ff rit.* *mf a tempo* *mp*
S and dance.
A *ff* *mf tutti* *mp*
and dance.
Pno. *ff* *a tempo* *mp*

96 *molto rit.*
Pno. *p*

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I Celebrate Life

From *Light Cycle*

Music by Amy Gordon

Text by Rhoda Gordon

In a Fast 2 ♩. = 100

With hushed excitement

mp *fp*

Soprano Alto

I cel - e-brate life

In a Fast 2 ♩. = 100

With hushed excitement

mp

Piano

6

mp *fp*

Soprano Alto

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

sf *mp*

Pno.

11

mp *fp*

Soprano Alto

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

sf *sf* *mp*

Pno.

pedal sim.

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.

I Celebrate Life (from *Light Cycle*)

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*

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*

I Celebrate Life (from *Light Cycle*)

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, I am *div.* *f* part of, I am

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

Pno.

(8va)

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

I Celebrate Life (from *Light Cycle*)

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*

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.

I Celebrate Life (from *Light Cycle*)

rit. -----

S *fp* *div.* *ff* *tutti mp* *molto rubato*
light (t) to cel - e - brate by is

A *fp* *ff* *mp*
light (t) to cel - e - brate by is

Pno. *rit.* *molto rubato*
f

a tempo
S *fp* *fp*
love, is love, is

A *fp* *fp*
love, is love, is

Pno. *a tempo*
fp *fp*

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

fp *p*

S
love.

A
love.

Pno.

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

p

pedal freely

103 *molto rit.*

Pno.

mp *pp*