



Amy Gordon

Commissioned by Jennifer Gaderlund for the Graham Middle School Choirs

Light Up

From Light Cycle

Music by Amy Gordon
Text by Rhoda Gordon

Instrumentation: SA (SSA Divisi) Choir & Piano
Duration: 3 minutes

Light Up (the first 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 Choir (Opt. SSA) and Piano. 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.

This piece is suitable for any Treble-voiced ensemble. It may be performed as a stand-alone piece or paired with **I Celebrate Life** as the complete *Light Cycle* suite. The round in the middle section is a great way for any Treble-voiced ensemble to explore polyphony and part independence. The descant and divisi parts may be included or omitted depending on the needs of the ensemble.

Text

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.

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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Piano

Dance-like ♩=116
sempre legato

mp

pedal freely

Pno.

poco rit.

S

a tempo
mp

Think _____ (k) light rays.

A

mp

Think _____ (k) light rays.

Pno.

a tempo

The musical score is written for piano and voice. The piano part begins with a 3/4 time signature and a tempo of 116 beats per minute, marked 'Dance-like' and 'sempre legato'. The piano accompaniment consists of a right hand with chords and a left hand with a steady eighth-note pattern. The vocal parts for Soprano (S) and Alto (A) enter at measure 11, marked 'a tempo' and 'mp'. They sing the lyrics 'Think _____ (k) light rays.' with a melodic line that spans across measures. The piano accompaniment continues throughout, with a 'poco rit.' marking at measure 6 and an 'a tempo' marking at measure 11. The score ends with a final chord in the piano part.

Light Up (from *Light Cycle*)

15

S

Think _____ (k) light _____ rays.

A

Think _____ (k) light _____ rays.

Pno.

19

mf

S

Dance, _____ dance _____ a - long their path.

mp

A

Dance, _____

Pno.

mf

23

mp

S

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

mf

A

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

Pno.

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.

f

A

mp cresc.

Glow, glow, glow and dance.

f

Pno.

mp cresc.

f

36

More Relaxed ♩ = 108

mp

S

mp

A

More Relaxed ♩ = 108

mp

Pno.

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.

f

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

Pno. *mf*

Detailed description: This block contains the musical score for measures 48 through 51. It is written for Soprano 1 (S1), Soprano 2 (S2), Alto (A), and Piano (Pno.). The key signature has two flats (Bb and Eb). S1 has an optional descant marked with a forte (f) dynamic. S2 and A have a melody, with S2 also marked with a forte (f) dynamic. The piano accompaniment has a rhythmic pattern marked mezzo-forte (mf). The lyrics are: "Smil - ing - ly, laugh - ing - ly move with glee."

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*

Detailed description: This block contains the musical score for measures 52 through 55. It continues with the same vocal parts and piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: "Em - a - nate love in - to oth - ers' way." The piano part has a forte (f) dynamic. The score ends with a double bar line and a repeat sign.

Light Up (from *Light Cycle*)

Dance-like ♩=116
sempre legato

Pno. *mp*

57

61

Pno. *mf*

poco rit.

65

a tempo
tutti mp

S
Think _____ (k) light rays.

A
mp
Think _____ (k) light _____ rays.

a tempo

Pno. *mp*

The musical score is written for Piano (Pno.) and Soprano (S) and Alto (A) voices. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The tempo is marked as 116 beats per minute. The score is divided into four systems. The first system (measures 57-60) is for Piano, marked 'Dance-like', 'sempre legato', and 'mp'. The second system (measures 61-64) is for Piano, marked 'mf'. The third system (measures 65-67) is for Piano, marked 'poco rit.'. The fourth system (measures 68-71) is for Soprano (S) and Alto (A) voices, marked 'a tempo' and 'tutti mp'. The Soprano and Alto parts have lyrics: 'Think _____ (k) light rays.' and 'Think _____ (k) light _____ rays.' respectively. The Piano part continues in the fourth system, marked 'a tempo' and 'mp'.

72

S

Think _____ (k) light _____ rays.

A

Think _____ (k) light _____ rays.

Pno.

div.

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

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. *mf*

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

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*