



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: SATB (Orig. SSA) Choir & Piano
Duration: 3 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 SATB (orig. SSA) 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 Mixed-Voice ensemble.

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*

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In a Fast 2 ♩. = 100

With hushed excitement
mp *fp*

Soprano Alto
Tenor Bass

I cel - e - brate life

With hushed excitement
mp *fp*

I cel - e - brate life

Piano

6

mp *fp*

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

mp *fp*

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

Pno.

sf *mp*

I Celebrate Life (from *Light Cycle*)

11

S
A

mp *fp*

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

T
B

mp *fp*

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

Pno.

sf sf mp

pedal sim.

16

S
A

mf mp mp

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

T
B

mf mp mp

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

Pno.

20

S
A

mp *f*

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

T
B

mp *f*

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

Pno.

25

S
A

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

I cel - e - brate life (f) with

T
B

sub. p *fp* *ff*

I cel - e - brate life (f) with

Pno.

sub. p *rit.* *f*

I Celebrate Life (from *Light Cycle*)

a tempo

30 *fp*

S
sing - ing, with sing - ing, with

A
sing - ing, with sing - ing, with

T
sing - ing, with sing - ing, with

B
sing - ing, with sing - ing, with

a tempo

Pno. *fp*

I Celebrate Life (from *Light Cycle*)

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

The score consists of four vocal staves (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and two piano staves. The vocal parts are in G major and 4/4 time. The piano accompaniment is in G major and 4/4 time. The tempo is marked *molto rit.* and **More Relaxed** with a metronome marking of ♩ = 66. The vocal parts begin at measure 34 with the lyrics "sing - - - - ing." and end at measure 37. The piano accompaniment begins at measure 34 and ends at measure 37. The piano part features a steady eighth-note accompaniment in the left hand and a more active right hand. The dynamics range from *fp* (fortissimo piano) to *p* (piano). The piano part includes a *pedal freely* instruction at the end of the first system. The second system of the piano part begins at measure 38 with a *mp* (mezzo-piano) dynamic.

S
sing - - - - ing.

A
sing - - - - ing.

T
sing - - - - ing.

B
sing - - - - ing.

Pno.
mp

pedal freely

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

T *p* I re - al - ize the joy of be - ing

B *p* I re - al - ize the joy of be - ing

Pno. *p* *mp*

46

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

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

T *p* through see - ing the glo - ri - ous cre - a - tion

B *p* through 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

T
I re - al - ize the joy ___ of be - ing through see - ing _____ the

B
I re - al - ize the joy of be - ing through see - ing _____ the

Pno. *mp*

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

T
glo - ri_ous cre - a - tion I am part of, _____ I am

B
glo - ri_ous cre - a - tion I am part of, _____ I am

Pno.

I Celebrate Life (from *Light Cycle*)

55

mf *f*

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

A part of, ___ I am part of, ___ I am

T part of, ___ I am part of, ___ I am

B part of, ___ I am part of, ___ I am

(8va)

Pno. *mf* *f*

Detailed description: This is a page of a musical score for a vocal ensemble and piano. It features four vocal staves (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and a piano accompaniment section. The music is in G major and 4/4 time. The vocal parts have lyrics: "part of, ___ I am part of, ___ I am". The piano part consists of a right-hand melody and a left-hand accompaniment. Dynamic markings include *mf* (mezzo-forte) and *f* (forte). A *div.* (divisi) marking is present above the Soprano staff in the second measure. The piano part has a *mf* marking in the first measure and an *f* marking in the second measure. The score is numbered 55 at the beginning of the Soprano staff.

58

S
part of, I am part of.

A
part of, I am part of.

T
part of, I am part of.

B
part of, I am part of.

(8va)

Pno.
rit. loco

62

accel.

In a Fast 2 ♩ = 100

Pno.
p
mp With excitement

I Celebrate Life (from *Light Cycle*)

66

S
A

With excitement
mp *fp*

The most pow - er - ful light

T
B

Pno.

70

S
A

mp
(t)

With excitement
mp

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

T
B

Pno.

sf *mp*

pedal sim.

73

S
A

fp *mp*

The most pow - er - ful light (t)

T
B

to cel - e - brate by with

Pno.

76

S A

The most pow - er - ful light

T B

beau - ty, with col - or.

Pno.

sf sf mp

fp

80

S A

(t) With-

T B

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

Pno.

mp mp

83

S A

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

T B

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

Pno.

mp

I Celebrate Life (from *Light Cycle*)

87

S
A

f *sub. p*

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

T
B

f *sub. p*

sing - ing. The most pow - er - ful

Pno.

sub. p

91

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

T

fp *ff* *mp*

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

B

fp *ff* *mp*

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

Pno.

rit. *molto rubato*

f

a tempo
fp

95

S
love, _____ is love, _____ is

A
love, _____ is love, _____ is

T
love, _____ is love, _____ is

B
love, _____ is love, _____ is

a tempo
fp

Pno.

The musical score is for a four-part vocal setting with piano accompaniment. The vocal parts (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) all sing the same lyrics: "love, is love, is". The piano accompaniment consists of a right-hand part with a rhythmic eighth-note pattern and a left-hand part with chords. The score includes dynamic markings such as *fp* (fortissimo piano) and *a tempo* (at the original tempo). The piece is in G major and 6/8 time. The score is numbered 95 at the beginning of the vocal staves.

I Celebrate Life (from *Light Cycle*)

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

S
love. *fp* *p*

A
love. *fp* *p*

T
love. *fp* *p*

B
love. *fp* *p*

Pno.
molto rit. ----- *More Relaxed* ♩ = 66
p
pedal freely

Pno.
103 *molto rit.*
mp *pp*