

Oskar Österling

Ecce Beatam Lucem

“Behold the Blessed Light”

For Choir SATB and Organ

2025

Ca. 6,30”

Text:

Ecce Beatam Lucem

*Ecce beatam lucem;
Ecce bonum sempiternum,
Vos turba electa celebrate Jehovah eiusque
natum
aequalem Patri deitatis splendorem.
Virtus Alma et maiestas passim cernenda adest.
Quantum decoris illustri in sole,
quam venusta es luna,
quam multo clar' honore sidera fulgent,
quam pulcra quaeque in orbe.*

*O quam perennis esca tam sanctas mentes pascit!
praesto gratia et amor, praesta ver novum;
praesto est fons perpes vitae.
Hic Patriarchae cum Prophetis, hic David,
Rex David ille vates,
cantans sonans adhuc aeternum Deum.
O mel et dulce nectar, O fortunatam sedem!
Haec voluptas, haec quies, haec meta, hic scopus
Nos hinc attrahunt recta in paradisum.*

Translation:

Behold the Blessed Light

*Behold the blessed light;
Behold eternal goodness,
You throng of the elect, praise God and His Son
who is equal to the Father; praise the splendour
of the deity.
A gentle power and majesty is seen everywhere.
How bright the splendour of the sun,
How fair you are, O moon;
How the stars gleam in their great glory!
How fair is all upon the earth!*

*O how such eternal nourishment feeds holy
minds!
Mercy and love are here; Here is a new spring,
Here is the eternal fount of life.
Here the Patriarchs and Prophets, here David,
King David the bard,
singing still to the eternal God.
O honey and sweet nectar, O blessed place!
This delight, this peace, this goal, this mark
draw us from here straight to Paradise.*

Translation edited by the composer.

Dedication

Written for:

A Capriccio and Anton Leanderson

Andréas

Notes on the translation:

Every setting of *Ecce Beatam Lucem* that I have heard (not that there are many) use the Latin text. For my setting, I wanted to mix the Latin with an English version, to make the poetry more direct, but also because English has a little more rough-around-the-edges “oumph” to it that fit well with my visions of the piece.

However, the only English translation I found was an uncredited version online, which was slightly problematic, not least in that it wasn't very faithful to the original. I made edits to a few lines to preserve what I find to be the poetry of the text that was lost in the original translations.

Importantly, the line “*praesta ver novum*” is sometimes erroneously printed as “*praesta NEC novum*”, changing the meaning completely. The correct translation, thus, is: “Here is a new spring”.

Performance notes:

Sections marked “Solo” may be sung by a solo soprano or a solo tenor, or a duet in octaves. It is free and up to the conductor to assign solos as they wish, or to divide the sections so that there are alternating soloists for each entrance.

From letter L, the section marked “free and chant-like” is to be interpreted with a very free and speech-like rhythm. It is based on and (somewhat) written in the idiom of anglican chant, but since that notation might be unfamiliar to most I have approximated the rhythm with more standard notation. The main thing to note is that the written rhythm is mostly a guideline, and it is important that the conductor and singers are guided more by the flow of the words than the written rhythm.

Ecce Beatam Lucem

"Behold the Blessed Light"

Words by Paulus Schedius Melissus (1539-1602)

Music by Oskar Österling

Ca. 6,30"

*2004-

Dazzling and bright (♩=112)

Soprano

Alto

Tenor

Bass

Organ

I ***ff*** 8', 4', 2'+Mixtures

II ***mf***

16" ***ff***

sub. p

Copy for perusal. This music is copyright protected.

© Oskar Österling 2025

Org.

Org.

S

A

T

B

Be - hold! _____

Be - hold the bles - sed

Be - hold! _____

Be - hold the bles - sed

Be - hold! _____

Be - hold the bles - sed

Be - hold! _____

Be - hold the bles - sed

Org.

Both hands to Great

Copy for perusal. This music is copyright protected.

*Bottom two notes in this figure should be played with the RH thumb.
If the stretch is too big, omit the bottom note in the figure throughout.

25

S

A

T

B

mf

mf

hold

hold

e - ter - nal

e - ter - nal

e - ter - nal

good - ness

good - ness

Org.

Copy for perusal. This music is copyright protected.

29

S e - ter - nal good ness, e - ter - nal

A e - ter - nal good - ness, e - ter - nal

T e - ter - nal good - ness, good - ness, e - ter - nal

B e - ter - nal good - ness, good - ness, e - ter - nal

Org.

33

S good ness, you thron of the e - lect praise God and his

A good - ness, you thron of the e - lect praise God and his

T good - ness, you thron of the e - lect praise God and his

B good - ness, you thron of the e - lect praise God and his

Org.

Copy for perusal. This music is copyright protected

37 *ff*

S (p.)

Son!

A *ff*

Son!

T *ff*

Son!

B *ff*

Son!

Org. *ff*

D *p* repeat text ad.lib: start together; continue unsynchronized

S

Aequalem patris deitatis splendorem...

p repeat text ad.lib: start together; continue unsynchronized

A

Aequalem patris deitatis splendorem...

p repeat text ad.lib: start together; continue unsynchronized

T

Aequalem patris deitatis splendorem...

B

D Strings 8', Voix Celeste

Org. *pp*

44

mf

Solo

Praise _____ God _____

S

A

T

B

repeat text ad.lib: start together; continue unsynchronized

Aequalem patris deitatis splendorem...

Org.

48

mf *p*

Solo

Praise _____ God _____ and his _____ Son _____ Who is _____

S

A

T

B

Keep repeating text on new notes

Keep repeating text on new notes

Org.

Copy for perusal. This music is copyright protected.

Ecce Beatam Lucem

7

[E]

Solo

S

A

T

B

Org.

f

f

f

f

f

f

ff

ff

e - qual to the fath - er: Praise the splen-dour of the

Praise the splen-dour of - the

Praise the splen - dour

Praise the splen-dour, the splen-dour

Praise the splen - dour, the splen - dour

S

A

T

B

Org.

pp

pp

de - i - ty, of the de - i - ty

of the de - i - ty

of the de - i - ty

of the de - i - ty

3 3 3 3

Strings 8', Voix Celeste

Copy for perusal. This music is copyright protected.

*Omit notes in bracket if soloist is a tenor;
replace with a crotchet rest and rejoin other tenors on subsequent system.

Ecce Beatam Lucem

8

F

mp *mf*

S A T B

A gent - le pow - er and

Org.

65 *sub. p* *f*

S A T B

maj - es - ty are seen eve - ry - where

Org.

f *ff*

Copy for perusal. This music is copyright protected.