

An Analysis of Amy Dunker's *Celtic Blessing*

By

Dr. Amy Dunker

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Voicing: SATB a cappella

Composer: Amy Dunker

Text Author: Traditional Irish

Language: English

Harmonic Language: Neotonal

Meter: 2/2, 3/2

Texture: Homophony, Counterpoint

Duration: 3 1/2 Minutes

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Composition Year: 2005

Dedication: This setting of the Celtic Blessing was written for the Clarke Collegiate Singers under the direction of Fran Vogt in celebration of Catherine Dunn's legacy as President of Clarke College from 1984 – 2006. The work was first performed at Sister Catherine Dunn's retirement mass with the Singers surrounding her and singing the text that she would always sing to the graduates at graduation.

Composer Biography:

Composer-trumpeter-educator Amy Dunker's music resists easy categorization. From avant-garde improvisation to minimalistic sound sculptures to neo-romantic echoings, Amy delves deeply into the nature of human experience. Her works have been performed throughout the United States, Czech-Republic, Italy, Ireland, the Ukraine, France, Thailand, Japan, Mexico, Germany, Great Britain, and Puerto Rico. Amy Dunker is an Associate Professor of Music at Clarke College where she teaches composition, theory, aural skills and trumpet. Amy received her bachelor's degree (music education) from Morningside College, a master's degree in trumpet performance from the University of South Dakota, a master's degree in composition from Butler University and a doctorate in composition from the University of Missouri-Kansas City Conservatory of Music. Major influences in her musical education include Stanley DeRusha, Chen Yi, James Mobberley and Michael Schelle. Amy's works have been recorded on the ERM Media, NextAGem, Centerpoint and Whatsit labels. Her music is published by Alliance Publications, Inc.

Other Choral Works by Amy Dunker:

A Day (SSAATB) AP-10045
Ave Maria (SSA) AP-10044
Blow, Blow Thou Winter Wind (SSA and 3 Flutes) AP-10025
O Magnum Mysterium (SATB and Organ) AP-10024
What Cheer? (SATB) AP-10023

Form:

Introduction	ms. 1 – 11
A	ms. 12 – 27
A'	ms. 28 – 42
B	ms. 39 – 52

The entrance of the B section overlaps the conclusion of the A' section.

Theme 1 (Alto, ms. 13 – 15):

mf

May the road rise _____ to _____ meet you. _____

Detailed description: A musical staff in treble clef with a common time signature. The melody starts with a quarter note G4, followed by a quarter note A4, then a half note B4. The next measure contains a quarter note C5, a quarter note D5, and a half note E5. The final measure contains a quarter note D5, a quarter note C5, and a half note B4. The lyrics are placed below the staff with lines indicating where they align with the notes.

Theme 2 (Alto, ms. 39 – 45):

mp

May God hold _____ you in _____

Detailed description: A musical staff in treble clef with a common time signature. The melody consists of a sequence of quarter notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4. The lyrics are placed below the staff with lines indicating where they align with the notes.

A

_____ the palm _____ of his hand.

Detailed description: A musical staff in treble clef with a common time signature. The melody consists of a sequence of quarter notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4. The lyrics are placed below the staff with lines indicating where they align with the notes.

Range:

Soprano	D4 – F5
Alto	D4 – E5
Tenor	D3 – F4
Bass	E3 – D4

Text:

A Celtic Blessing

May the road rise to meet you.
May the wind be always at your back.
May the sun shine warm upon your face.
May the rains fall softly upon your fields.
Until we meet again
May God hold you in the hollow of his hand.

*Dr. Amy Dunker is an Associate Professor of Music at Clarke College in Dubuque, IA, USA
where she teaches composition, theory, aural skills, trumpet and directs the new music ensemble.*

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