

# **An Analysis of Amy Dunker's *Lux Aeterna***

**By**

**Dr. Amy Dunker**

[www.amydunker.com](http://www.amydunker.com)

**Voicing:** SSA a cappella

**Composer:** Amy Dunker

**Text Author:** Traditional Liturgical

**Language:** Latin

**Harmonic Language:** Modal

**Duration:** 2 1/2 Minutes

**Publisher:** Alliance Publications, Inc., AP-10026 [www.apimusic.org](http://www.apimusic.org) (608) 748-4411 Ext. 124

**Copyright Year:** 2007

**Composition Year:** 2005

## **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, 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.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Amy Dunker website. [www.amydunker.com](http://www.amydunker.com) (accessed 01/24/08).

**Composer's Program Notes:**

*Lux Aeterna* is loosely based on the North Indian Raga Gambheer Basant, a morning raga to be performed between 6:00 AM and 9:00 AM. This raga is similar to the Phrygian mode. It is inspired by the events of the 2004 Asian Tsunami that claimed the lives of so many people in India, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Indonesia and Africa.

*Lux Aeterna* was written for LaDonna Manternach and the Clarke College Cantabile Singers. It was premiered by that ensemble in April, 2005.

**Form:**

- A ms. 1 – 15
- B ms. 16 – 34
- B' ms. 17 – 42
- A' ms. 43 - 56

**Theme A:**

Musical notation for Theme A, starting at measure 8. The notation is on a single staff with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody begins with a half note G4, followed by quarter notes F4, E4, D4, and C4. A fermata is placed over the C4 note. The melody then continues with quarter notes B3, A3, G3, and F3, followed by a half note E3. The lyrics "lux ae-ter - na, lux\_\_ ae-ter - na," are written below the notes. A dynamic marking of *mp* is at the end of the line.

**Theme B:**

Musical notation for Theme B, starting at measure 16. The notation is on a single staff with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody begins with a quarter note G4, followed by quarter notes F4, E4, D4, and C4. A fermata is placed over the C4 note. The melody then continues with quarter notes B3, A3, G3, and F3, followed by a half note E3. The lyrics "Do - mi - ne, \_\_\_\_\_" are written below the notes. A dynamic marking of *mp* is at the beginning of the line.

**Tessitura:**

Soprano I	C4 – Ab5
Soprano II	C4 – Eb5
Alto	C4 – C5

**Text:**

**Lux aeterna luceat eis, Domine, cum sanctis  
tuis in aeternam: quia pius es.  
Requiem aeternam dona eis, Domine;  
et lux perpetua luceat eis.**

**Let eternal Light shine upon them, O Lord, with Thy Saints  
forever, for Thou art merciful.  
Rest eternal grant them, O Lord;  
and let perpetual light shine upon them.**

*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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