

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

**By**

**Dr. Amy Dunker**

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**Voicing:** SATB a cappella

**Composer:** Amy Dunker

**Text Author:** 16<sup>th</sup> Century Text

**Language:** English

**Harmonic Language:** Tonal (D Major)

**Duration:** 3 Minutes

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**Copyright Year:** 2007

**Composition Year:** 2005

**Recording Information:** [Holidays of the New Era, Vol. II](#), Kuhn Choir, Jan Rosenthal, Choir Master. ERM Media ERM – 6829

## **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.

**Form:**

|                  |             |                |
|------------------|-------------|----------------|
| <b>Intro</b>     | ms. 1 -7    |                |
| A                | ms. 8 – 31  | Themes 1 and 2 |
| B + A'           | ms. 28 – 46 | Themes 3 and 2 |
| <b>Interlude</b> | ms. 47 – 48 |                |
| C + A''          | ms. 49 – 69 | Themes 4 and 2 |
| <b>Interlude</b> | ms. 70 – 71 |                |
| A'''             | ms. 72 – 77 | Theme 2        |
| <b>Interlude</b> | ms. 77 – 78 |                |
| A''''            | ms. 79 – 83 | Theme 2        |
| D                | ms. 84 – 94 | Theme 5        |

In this work themes interlock and overlap. Appearances of a segment of Theme 2 (Section A) in the B and C sections bind the thematic material together. Motivic material from the introduction are used as interlude material.

**Introduction and Interlude Material (ms. 1 -4):**

Moderato con spirito  $\text{♩} = 120$

Soprano  
What cheer? Good cheer! What cheer?

Alto  
What cheer? — Good cheer! What cheer? —

Tenor  
What cheer? Good cheer!

Bass  
What cheer? — Good cheer!

**Theme 1 (Soprano, ms. 8 – 10):**

Be mer - ry and glad

9  
S this good New Year! \_\_\_\_\_

**Theme 2 (Soprano, ms. 11 – 17):**

A  
'Lift up your hearts and be \_\_\_\_\_

13  
S \_\_\_\_\_ glad in Christ's birth, the an - gels bade.' \_\_\_\_\_

**Theme 3 (Soprano, ms. 28 -31):**

B  
Say to each oth - er \_\_\_\_\_ if an - y

31  
S be sad:

**Theme 4 (Tenor, ms. 52 – 54):**

*f*  
Right wel-come, wel-come, ye be to me;

**Theme 5 (Soprano, ms. 84 – 89):**

*ff* E  
Be mer-ry and glad. Be mer-ry and glad. Be

88  
S  
mer-ry and glad.

**Tessitura:**

|           |          |
|-----------|----------|
| Soprano I | A4 – A5  |
| Alto      | D4 – F#5 |
| Tenor     | G3 – A4  |
| Bass      | A2 – D4  |

**Text:**

*What Cheer?*

What cheer? Good cheer?  
Be merry and glad this good New Year!  
Lift up your hearts and be glad  
in Christ's birth, the angel bade,  
Say to each other, if any be sad:  
What cheer? What cheer? What cheer?  
What cheer?

Now the King of Heaven his birth hath take,  
Joy and mirth we ought to make;  
Say each to other for his sake:  
What cheer? What cheer? What cheer?  
What cheer?

I tell you all with heart so free:  
Right welcome, welcome ye be to me;  
Be glad and be merry for charity.  
What cheer? What cheer? Good cheer! Good cheer!

Be merry and glad, be merry and glad,  
Be merry and glad this good New Year!

(From No. 28 of Richard Hill's *Commonplace Book*, 16<sup>th</sup> Century)

*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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