

# Lux Aeterna

S.A.T.B. divisi chorus with piano

Philip Schuessler



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Dedicated to my father Lewis Schuessler

## Note

When confronted with the topic of death, especially in the context of the Communion of a Requiem Mass (as with the typical association of the *Lux aeterna* text), it is difficult for me not to feel overwhelmed or seized up by the sheer timelessness and scope of (and personnel connection to) the concept. Acknowledging death, understanding death and grief as a part of life, is a way of confronting, accepting, and perhaps transcending our daily views of it.

The *Lux aeterna* text is a prayer for the dead. I have chosen to set this text in a way that commemorates the dead in both a reverential and a celebratory way. It is a return for me, in a lot of ways, to a tonal musical grammar – a grammar that still feels fresh and personal to me. As such, it is a musical voice that has never left me despite my forays into other territories – quite the same way that our memories of those who have departed from our lives do not leave us.

This work was written in part at the Brush Creek Foundation for the Arts in Wyoming during a month-long residency in July of 2015.

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## Text

*Lux aeterna luceat eis Domine  
Cum sanctis tuis in aeternum, quia pius es  
Requiem aeternam dona eis Domine  
et lux perpetua luceat eis  
Cum sanctis tuis in aeternum  
quia pius es*

*Let eternal light shine upon them, O Lord  
with Thy saints for ever, for art merciful  
Grant them eternal rest, O Lord  
and may light perpetual shine on them  
in the company of Thy saints for evermore  
because Thou art merciful*


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## Duration


Ca. 15 minutes

## Performance Note

### General

 - crescendo da niente

 - diminuendo al niente

 - *poco* "swells" should be slight and gradual crescendos to and diminuendos from the most recent previous dynamic marking. The increased dynamic should approximate the next loudest dynamic marking (i.e., a *poco* swell from *piano* should be to *mezzo-piano* and then back to *piano*).

Diagonal lines between voices (such as those that occur in mm. 33 – 37 between the tenor and bass indicate the connection of syllables that are part of the same word. In these instances, the particular word(s) is distributed between voices. These "distributed words" should be connected as seamlessly as possible across the voices.

*Sempre* - continue in the same way (until otherwise indicated)

*Tenuto* markings indicate a slight stress (without over emphasis).

### Piano

*Tenuto* markings for the piano indicate a slight stress on the notes without heavily accenting. "Push" the notes.

Pedal indications are generally free.

Quarter-stick or half-stick lid preparation is preferred.

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Tranquillo con rubato ♩ = 48

Piano introduction, measures 1-4. The score is in B-flat major and 3/4 time. The right hand features a melodic line with dynamics *p* and *pp*. The left hand provides a harmonic accompaniment with dynamics *p* and *pp*.

*Ad.*  
(lightly and freely)

Piano introduction, measures 5-10. The score continues with dynamic markings *pp* and *p*. The right hand has a more active melodic line. The left hand continues with accompaniment. A *cresc. poco a poco* marking is present in measure 10.

\* *Ad.*

\*

S.  $\frac{3}{4}$

A.  $\frac{3}{4}$

Vocal entries for Soprano (S.) and Alto (A.), measures 11-14. The vocal lines are in B-flat major and 3/4 time, with lyrics "lux\_".

Piano accompaniment for vocal entries, measures 11-14. The piano part features a rhythmic accompaniment in the left hand and a melodic line in the right hand with a *mf* dynamic marking.

*Ad.*

\*

A

14 Surging forward slightly ♩ = 55

S. *p* *mp* *p*  
lux ae- ter

A. *p* *mp* *p*  
lux ae- ter

T. *p* *mp* *p*  
ae Lux

B. *p* *mp* *p*  
ae Lux

A

14 Surging forward slightly ♩ = 55

Pno. *p*  
Ped. \* Ped. \*

S. *mp* *p* *mp*  
lu - ce - at

A. *mp* *p* *mp*  
lu - ce - at

T. *mp* *p* *mp* *p* *mp*  
lux - ae - ter - na lu - ce - at

B. *mp* *p* *mp* *p* *mp*  
lux - ae - ter - - - na

Pno. *poco mp*  
Ped.

21 *cresc. poco a poco* *mf* *pp*

S. at eis Do - mi - ne cum

A. *cresc. poco a poco* *mf* *pp*  
lu - ce - at eis Do - mi - ne cum

T. *cresc. poco a poco* *mf*  
eis Do - mi - ne Do - mi - ne

B. *cresc. poco a poco* *mf*  
Do - mi - ne Do - mi - ne

Pno. *p* *mp* *p* *pp*  
\* Ped.

24 *poco rit.* *poco* *pp* *mf*

S. sanc - tis tu - is in ae

A. *poco* *pp* *mp*  
sanc - tis tu - is in

T. *pp* *poco* *p* *mf*  
cum sanc - tis tu - is in

B. *pp* *poco* *p* *mf*  
cum sanc - tis tu - is in

Pno. *mp* *mp* *mf* *p*  
\* Ped.



♩ = 48

28

S. *p* ae - ter - num ae -

A. *p* ae - te - num *mp* ae - ter - num *p* ae - ter

T. *p* div. *pp* ae - - ter - - num ae - -

B. *p* div. *pp* ae - ter - - num ae -

Pno. *pp*

Ped. \* Ped.

♩ = 48

31

S. *mp* ter ae - ter - num ae - ter - - ae - ter -

A. *mp* num ae - ter - num ae - ter - num ae - ter - num

T. *pp* poco ae

B. *pp* - ter - - num ter

Pno. *mp* *p* *mp*

34 *p*

S. num ae - ter ae - ter - num ae - ter ae - ter -

A. *p* ae - ter - num ae - ter - num *mf* ae - ter - num ae - ter - num

T. *poco* na ter. *p*

B. *poco* ae na *p*

Pno. *p* *p* *pp* *mp* *p*

\* Led.

38 *mf* *mf* *f*

S. num Do - mi - ne

A. *mf* *f* Do - mi - ne

T. unis. *mf* *f* *pp* div. ae -

B. unis. *mf* *f* *pp* Do - mi - ne

Pno. *p* *mp* *p* *mp* *p* *pp*

\* Led.

rit.

♩ = 40

A tempo (♩ = 48)

S. *p*

A. *p*

T. ter - num ae - ter - num Do - mi -

B. div. ae - ter - num ae - ter - num Do - mi -

rit.

♩ = 40

A tempo (♩ = 48)

Pno. *p* *mp* *pp* *pp*

\* Led.

S. *p* Do - mi - ne

A. *p* Do - mi - ne

T. - - - ne

B. - - - ne

Pno. *ppp* *p* *ppp* *pp* *ppp* *mp* *pp* *p*

**B**

Lightly, like distant bells

♩ = 60

54

Pno.

*molto dim.* *pp* *ppp* *pp*

\* Ped.

61

Pno.

*mp* *pp* *pp*

\* Ped. \* Ped. *pp*

67

S.

*div. p* *pp*

cum sanc - tis

A.

*div. p* *pp*

cum sanc - tis

T.

*unis. pp* *poco* *sempre*

sanc - tis sanc - tis sanc

B.

*unis. pp* *poco* *sempre*

sanc - tis sanc - - tis sanc - - - tis

67

Pno.

*p* *poco* *p* *poco*

*mp*

\* Ped.

71

S. *p* tu - is in -

A. *p* tu - is in -

T. *pp* (no swell) *pp* sanc - - tis ae - - ter - num ae -

B. *pp* (no swell) tis - tis - sanc - tis ae - ter - num

Pno. *p* *poco* *pp* *p*

\* Ped. \* Ped.

75

S. *pp* ae - ter - num

A. *pp* ae - ter - num

T. *poco* *sempre* *pp* (no swell) ter - num ae - ter - num ae - ter - num ae - ter - num ae - ter - num

B. *pp* *poco* *sempre* *pp* (no swell) ae - ter - num ae - ter - num ae - ter - num ae -

Pno. *p*

\* Ped.

80 *p* *mp* *mp* *mp* *mp*

S. *p* *mp* *mp* *mp* *mp*

A. *p* *mp* *mp* *mp* *mp*

T. *pp* *poco* *mp*

B. *pp* *poco* *pp* *poco* *mp*

80 *mp* *p* *mp*

Pno. *mp* *p* *mp*

\* *Red.*

84 *pp* *pp* *poco* *pp* *poco*

S. *pp* *pp* *poco* *pp* *poco*

A. *pp* *pp* *poco* *pp* *poco*

T. *div. p*

B. *div. p*

84 *p* *mp*

Pno. *p* *mp*

\* *Red.* \*

88

S. *pp* *poco* *mp*  
 ae - - ter - nam do - na

A. *poco* *mp*  
 ter - nam do - na  
 ae - ter - nam

T. *mp* *unis.*  
 ae - ter - nam do - na

B. *mp* *unis.*  
 ae - ter nam do - na

Pno. *p* *mp* *mf*  
 Ped. \*

92

S. *p* *mp* *mf*  
 eis Do - mi - ne lux per - pe -

A. *p* *mp* *mf*  
 Do - mi - ne lux per - pe -

T. *p* *mp* *mf*  
 eis lux per - pe -

B. *p* *mp* *mf*  
 eis lux per - pe -

Pno. *mp* *p* *mp* *p* *mp* *pp* *mp*  
 Ped. \* Ped.

96

S. *poco* *mf*  
- tu - a lu - ce - at eis

A. *poco* *mf*  
- tu - a lu - ce - at eis

T. *poco* *mf* *p*  
- tu - a lu - ce - at eis Do - mi - ne

B. *poco* *mf* *p*  
- tu - a lu - ce - at eis Do - mi - ne

Pno. *pp* *mf* *p* *mf* *pp* *mf*  
*mf* (*mf*)  
\* Ped.

100

S. *p* *mp* *p*  
Do - mi - ne

A. *p* *mp* *p*  
Do - mi - ne

T. *mp* *p* *pp*  
lux - -

B. *mp* *p* *pp*  
lux - - ae - -

Pno. *pp* *mp* *mf* *pp*  
(*mp*)  
\* Ped. \* Ped.



103

S. *pp* Lux per - - pe - - tu - a

A. *pp* Lux per - - pe - - tu - a

T. *pp* ae - - ter - - na Lux per - - pe - - tu - a

B. *pp* ter - - na Lux per - - pe - - tu - a

Pno. *mp* *p*

\* Red.

106

S. *mf* lu *p* lu - ce - at *f* lu - ce - at eis

A. *mf* lu *p* lu - ce - at *f* lu - ce - at eis

T. *mf* lu - - ce - at eis *p* lu - ce - at

B. *mf* lu - ce - at *p* eis lu - ce - at

Pno. *mf* *p* *mf*

\* Red.

♩ = ♩ (♩ = 40)

subito *pp*

110

S. *pp* Do - mi - ne Do - mi -

A. *pp* Do - mi - - ne Do -

T. *f* eis Do - mi - ne

B. *f* eis Do - mi - ne

Pno. *f* *p*

\* Ped.

C

Andante arioso ♩ = 72

*mp*

114

S. - ne Do - me - ne re - qui - em

A. mi - - ne Do - mi - ne

T.

B.

Pno. *mp*

\* Ped.

\* Ped.

C

Andante arioso ♩ = 72

118

S. ae - ter - nam re - qui - em ae - ter - nam

A. *mp* ae - ter - nam re - qui - em ae - ter - nam

T. *mp* ae - ter - nam

B. *mp* do - na eis ae - ter - nam

Pno. *p* *pp*

\* Ped.

rit. . . . .

121

S. *mf* Do - mi - ne *f* lu - ce - at eis

A. *mf* Do - mi - ne *f* lu - ce - at eis

T. *mf* do - na eis Do - mi - ne *f* lu - ce - at eis

B. *mf* Do - mi - ne *f* lu - ce - at eis

Pno. *mp* *p* *p*

\* Ped.

124  $\text{♩} = 66$  *Gentile*  $\text{♩} = \text{♩} (\text{♩} = 44)$  *pp* *div.*

S. *pp* *div.*  
Do - - mi - - ne

A. *pp* *div.*  
Do - - mi - - ne

T. *pp*  
Do - mi - ne Do - - -

B. *pp*  
Do - mi - ne Do - - -

124  $\text{♩} = 66$  *Gentile*  $\text{♩} = \text{♩} (\text{♩} = 44)$

Pno. *pp* *poco p*  
\* *Red.*

128 *p*

S. *p*  
Do - - - mi - - ne - - - mi - - -

A. *p*  
Do - - - mi - - - ne - - - Do - - - ne - - -

T. *p*  
- mi - - - - - ne - - - Do - mi - ne - - -

B. *p*  
- mi - - - - - ne - - - Do - mi - ne - - -

128 *pp* *p cresc. poco a poco*  
\* *Red.*

130 *mf* **Dying away**

S. Do ne mi ne

A. mi Do ne

T. **Dying away**

B. **Dying away**

Pno. *mp* *mf* *mf < f* *p*

\* Red \*

S.  $\frac{12}{8}$

A.  $\frac{12}{8}$

rit. ----- ♩ = 50

133

Pno. *pp* *ppp*

Red \*

D

139 Liltingly ♩. = 66

S. *mp* *p* *mp*  
 cum sanc - tis tu - is \_\_\_\_\_ sanc - tis tu - is \_\_\_\_\_

A. *mp* *p* *mp*  
 sanc - tis tu - is \_\_\_\_\_ sanc - tis tu - is \_\_\_\_\_

T.   
B.

D

139 Liltingly ♩. = 66

Pno. *p*

*Red.* \*

143

S. *p*  
 \_\_\_\_\_

A. *p*  
 \_\_\_\_\_

T. *mp*  
 cum sanc - tis tu - is \_\_\_\_\_ sanc - tis tu - is \_\_\_\_\_

B. *mp*  
 cum sanc - tis tu - is sanc - tis tu - is \_\_\_\_\_

143

Pno. *p*

*Red.* \*

147

S. *mp* ae - ter - num

A. *mp* ae - ter - num

T. *pp* *mp* in ae - ter - num

B. *pp* *mp* in ae - ter - num

Pno. *pp* *mp* *p*

Red. \*

151

S. *>pp*

A. *>pp* *pp* pi

T. *>pp* *pp* a

B. *>pp* *pp* qui

Pno. *p* *ppp* *mp*

\* Red.

154

S. *pp* us *f* es

A. *f* es

T. *f* es

B. *f* es

Pno. *mf* *ppp* *mf* *p* *mp* *poco p*

\* Led. \* Led.

157

S. *pp* pi - us es *p* in - - - ae - - -

A. *pp* pi - us es *p* in - - - ae - - -

T. *pp* pi - us es *p* in - - - ae - - -

B. *pp* pi - us es *p* in - - - ae - - -

Pno. *p* *mp* *mf*

\* Led. \* Led.



160

S. *f* *mp* *mf*  
- ter - - - num

A. *f* *subito p* *mp*  
- ter - - - num ae - ter -

T. *f* *subito p* *mp*  
- ter - - - num ae - ter- num ae - ter- num ae - ter- num

B. *f* *mp* *mf*  
- ter - - - num

Pno. *ppp* *f* *mf*

poco rit. . . . .

162

S. *ppp*  
num ae - ter- num ae - ter- num

A. *pp* *ppp*  
num ae - ter- num ae - ter- num ae - ter- num

T. *pp* *ppp*  
ae - ter- num ae - ter num ae - ter num

B. *ppp*

162

poco rit. . . . .

Pno. *ppp* *pp* *let ring*

\* Ped.

E

♩ = 50

div.

*pp*

165

T. *pp* ae - ter - num ae - ter - num ae - ter - num

B. *pp* ae - ter - num ae - ter - num ae - ter - num

E

♩ = 50

Pno. *mp* *pp* *mp* *pp* *p*

\* Ped.

\* Ped.

170

S. *mf* qui - a pi - us es

A. *mf* qui - a pi - us es

T. *p* qui - a pi - us es unis. *mp* Do - mi -

B. *p* qui - a pi - us es unis. *mp* Do - mi -

Pno. *p*

\* Ped.

Timelessly, ponderously

175

S. *p*

A. *pp* ae-ter - num ae - ter - num ae - ter - - num ae -  
 ae - ter - - num ae - ter-num ae - ter - - num ae -

T. *p*  
 ne

B. *p*  
 ne

175

Pno. *pp*

*pp*

\* Red.

180

A. ter ae-ter - num ae - ter - num ae - ter - num ae -  
 ter - num ae - ter - num ae - ter - num ae - ter - - num ae -

Pno. *p*

\* Red.

ter ae - ter - num ae - ter - num ae - ter - num ae -  
 ter - num ae - ter - num ae - ter - num ae - ter - num ae -

T. *pp* poco  
 sanc - tis  
 sempre

B. *pp* poco  
 sanc - tis sanc -

184

Pno.

\* *Red.*

188

S. *p*  
 re - qui - em - ae - ter - num.

A. ter ae - ter - num ae - ter - num ae - ter - num ae -  
 ter - num ae - ter - num ae - ter - num ae - ter - num ae -

T. sempre *pp* (no swell)  
 sanc - tis sanc - tis sanc - tis tu -

B. *pp*  
 tis sanc - tis sanc - tis tu - is

188

Pno.

\* *Red.* \*

192

*poco* *p* *poco* *p*

S. ae - ter - num ae - ter - num ae - ter - num ae - ter -

A. ter - num ae - ter - num ae - ter - num ae - ter - num ae - ter -

T. - is tu - is tu - is tu - is in ae - ter - num

B. *pp* (no swell) *mp*  
tu - is tu - is tu - is in ae - ter - num

Pno. *mp* *p*  
Ped. \* Ped.

197

*pp* *pp* *pp* *p* *pp* *p* *pp* *pp* *pp*

S. - ter - num ae - ter - num ter

A. num ae - ter - num ae - num

T. ae - ter - num

B. ae - ter - num

Pno. *mp* *pp* *pp* *mp*  
\* Ped.

201

S. ae num ter

A. ter ae

T. ae - - ter -

B. ae - - ter -

pp

pp

Pno. *p* *mp* *pp* *mp* *pp*

3 3 3

\* Ped.

206

S. num ae-ter

A. num ae-ter

T. num ae-ter ae-ter

B. num ae-ter ae-ter

mp

mp

mp

mp

Pno. *p* *mp* *mp* *pp* *mf*

3 3 3 3

211 *ppp* unis. mm

S. num\* (mm)

A. *ppp* unis. mm

T. *ppp* num\* (mm) mm

B. *ppp* num\* (mm)

211 *ppp* *p* *Evenly, plaintively* let ring \* *Ped.*

Pno.

217 *dim. poco a poco* mm mm

S.

A. *dim. poco a poco* mm mm

T. *dim. poco a poco* mm

B. *dim. poco a poco* mm

217 \* *Ped.* \* *Ped.*

Pno.

\* Slowly close to humming on the "mm" of "-num"

222

S. *mm*

A. *mm*

T. *8*

B.

Pno. *pp* let ring and fade

\* *Red.*