

NORTHERN LIGHTS

SATB Chorus, a cappella

Music by
Ola Gjeilo

Text:
from Song of Solomon

50 years of timeless choral music



WALTON
MUSIC

About the Work

Northern Lights is my most Norwegian production in years; composed in an attic outside of Oslo at Christmas time in 2007, it's one of the few works I have written in Norway since I moved to New York in 2001. The US is my home now, so I guess my work has been increasingly reflecting my love for American music, writing and scenery. Most of all, this piece and its text is about beauty. About a 'terrible', powerful beauty, although the music is quite serene on the surface:

*Pulchra es amica mea,
suavis et decora sicut Jerusalem,
terribilis ut castrorum acies ordinata.
Averte oculos tuos a me
quia ipsi me avolare fecerunt.*

Thou art beautiful, O my love,
sweet and comely as Jerusalem,
terrible as an army set in array.
Turn away thy eyes from me,
for they have made me flee away.

Looking out from the attic window that Christmas in Oslo, over a wintry lake under the stars, I was thinking about how this 'terrible' beauty is so profoundly reflected in the northern lights, or *aurora borealis*, which, having grown up in the southern part of the country, I have only seen once or twice in my life. It is one of the most beautiful natural phenomena I've ever witnessed, and has such a powerful, electric quality that must have been both mesmerizing and terrifying to people in the past, when no one knew what it was and when much superstition was attached to these experiences.

Northern Norway is one of the areas where *aurora borealis* is easiest to spot, thanks to the warming effects of the Gulf Stream, which makes the area habitable. At www.visitnorway.com, you can find incredible pictures of the *aurora borealis* phenomenon, pictures that also greatly inspired this piece.

To hear a full-length recording of *Northern Lights*, please visit the Walton Music website at www.waltonmusic.com.

Duration: Approx. 4:35

For information about the composer, please read **Ola Gjeilo's biography** on the back cover.

<i>Walton Choral works by Ola Gjeilo:</i>		<i>To Order:</i>	
WLG131	<i>Gloria</i>	SSAA, piano 4-hands	HL08501690
WW1396	<i>Sanctus</i>	SSAATTBB Choir, a cappella	HL08501675
WW1400	<i>Unicornis Captivatur</i>	SATB divisi Choir, a cappella	HL08501679
WW1386	<i>Ubi Caritas</i>	SATB Choir, a cappella	HL08501631
WW1393	<i>Ubi Caritas</i>	SSAA Choir, a cappella	HL08501677
WW1418	<i>Ubi Caritas</i>	TTBB Choir, a cappella	HL08501701
WJMS1093	<i>Prelude</i>	SATB divisi Choir, a cappella	HL08501649
WW1375	<i>Nisi Dominus</i>	SATB divisi Choir, a cappella	HL08501590
WW1352	<i>Hark! a Herald Voice Is Calling</i>	SATB divisi Choir, a cappella	HL08501569
WW1417	<i>Tota Pulchra Es</i>	SATB divisi Choir, a cappella	HL08501700
WW1431	<i>The Spheres</i> from <i>Sunrise Mass</i>	SATB divisi Choir, a cappella	HL08501725
WW1447	<i>Northern Lights</i>	SATB Choir, a cappella	HL08501748
WW1446	<i>Agnus Dei: Phoenix</i>	SSAATTBB a cappella	HL08501749

NORTHERN LIGHTS

For SATB Chorus, a cappella

Oslo, Jan., 2008

OLA GJEILO

$\text{♩} = 63$

p

Soprano
Pul-chra es, — a-mi-ca me - a, pul-chra es, — a-mi-ca me - a, —

Alto
p
Pul-chra es, — a-mi-ca me - a, pul-chra es, — a-mi-ca me -

Tenor
p
Pul-chra es, — a-mi-ca me - a, pul-chra es, — a-mi-ca me -

Bass

Keyboard
(for rehearsal only)

$\text{♩} = 63$

5 A

mf
a, Pul-chra es, — a-mi-ca me - a, — su-a-vis et de-co-ra fi-li-a Je-

mp
a, Pul - chra es, a - mi - ca

mp
Pul - chra es, a - mi - ca

5 *mp*

9 *mf* **B**

a, Pul - chra es, a-mi-ca me - a, su-a-vis et de-co-ra si - cut Je -

ru-sa-lem, Pul - chra es, su-a-vis et de-co-ra si - cut Je -

8 *mf*

me - a, Pul-chra es, a-mi-ca me - a, pul-chra es, a-mi-ca

me - a, Pul-chra es, a-mi-ca me - a, pul-chra es, a-mi-ca

9 *mf*

13 *mp* *p*

ru-sa-lem, Pul - chra es, pul - chra

ru-sa-lem, et de-co-ra fi-li-a Je - ru-sa-lem, et de-co-ra si - cut Je -

8 *mf* *mp*

me - a, pul - chra es, pul - chra

me - a, pul - chra es, pul - chra

13 *mp* *p*

mf *mp* *p*

17

es, ter - ri - bi - lis

ru - sa - lem,

17

mp

21

ut cas - tro - rum a -

mp Pul - chra es, pul - chra es,

mp Pul - chra es, pul - chra es,

mp Pul - chra es, pul - chra es,

21

mp

25

ci - es or - di - na - ta.

pul - chra es, pul - chra,

pul - chra es, pul - chra,

pul - chra es, pul - chra,

25

29

mf Pul - chra es, pul - chra

f A - ver - te o - cu - los tu - os a me,

mf Pul - chra es, pul - chra

mf Pul - chra es, pul - chra

29

33

es, pul - chra es, a -
qui - a ip - si me a - vo - la - re

es, pul - chra es, a -
es, pul - chra es, a -

33

37

mi - ca me - a.
fe - ce - runt, a
mi
mi - ca me

37

41 *ff*

mi - ca me - a.

ca me - a.

41 *ff*

ca me - a.

41 *ff*

ca me - a.

41 *ff*

ca me - a.

45 C *p*

Pul-chra es, a-mi-ca me - a, pul-chra es, a-mi-ca

Pul-chra es, a-mi-ca me - a, pul-chra es, a-mi-ca

Pul-chra es, a-mi-ca me - a, pul-chra es, a-mi-ca

45 *p*

Pul-chra es, a-mi-ca me - a, pul-chra es, a-mi-ca

45 *p*

Pul-chra es, a-mi-ca me - a, pul-chra es, a-mi-ca

D

49 *mp*
 me - a, Pul - chra es, a -

mf
 me - a, Pul - chra es, a - mi - ca me - a, su - a - vis

mp
 me - a, Pul - chra es, a - mi - ca me - a, su - a - vis

mp
 Pul - chra es, a - mi - ca me - a, su - a - vis

49 *mp*
mf
mp

E

52 *f*
 mi - ca me - a, Pul - chra es, a - mi - ca,

f
 et de-co-ra fi - li - a Je - ru - sa - lem. Pul - chra

f
 et de-co-ra fi - li - a Je - ru - sa - lem. Pul - chra

f
 et de-co-ra fi - li - a Je - ru - sa - lem. Pul - chra

52 *f*

55 *mf*

me - a, su - a - vis et de - co - ra si - cut Je - ru - sa - lem, Pul - chra

f

es, a - mi - ca me - a, et de - co - ra fi - li - a Je -

mf

es, a - mi - ca me - a, Pul - chra

mf

es, a - mi - ca me - a, Pul - chra

55 *mf*

f

mf

59

es, pul - chra es, pul - chra

ru - sa - lem, et de - co - ra fi - li - a Je - ru - sa - lem, et de - co - ra si - cut Je -

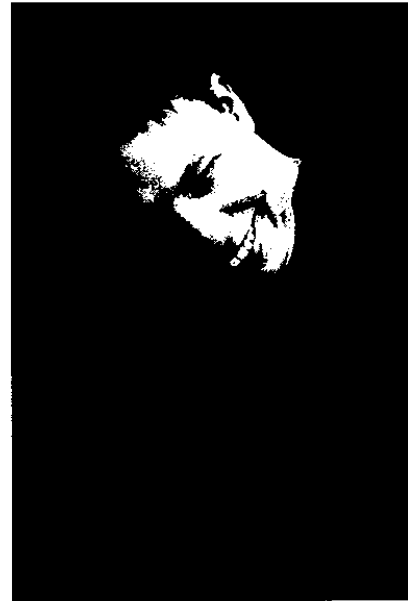
es, a - mi - ca me - a, pul - chra

es, pul - chra es, pul - chra

59

63 *mp* *poco meno mosso*
p
es, Pul - chra es,
mp *p*
ru - sa-lem.
mp *p*
es, Pul - chra es,
mp *p*
es, Pul - chra es,

67 *meno mosso*
pp
pul - chra es.
pp
pul - chra es.
pp
pul - chra es.
pp
pul - chra es.



Ola Gjeilo biography

The music of Manhattan-based Norwegian composer and pianist Ola Gjeilo (b. 1978) has been performed and recorded in more than 30 countries worldwide in venues such as New York's Carnegie Hall, Avery Fisher Hall and Alice Tully Hall, Los Angeles' Disney Hall, Philadelphia's Kimmel Center, The Arsht Center in Miami, the Copenhagen and Oslo Opera Houses, and the National Galleries in London and Washington DC. His music has been featured on PBS and radio stations across the world.

'09-'10 season Composer-in-Residence for the 2008 and 2009 Grammy winning Phoenix Chorale, Gjeilo (pronounced *Yay-lo*) has been commissioned by several notable artists and organizations, such as Barbara Bonney, Solveig Kringelborn, Philip Brunelle, the Edvard Grieg Society, St. Olaf College, Luther College, Choral Arts Ensemble, Taipei Male Choir, Oslo Church Music Festival, and the ACDA Women's Choir Concoctium. His choral music has also been performed by elite choirs such as the Kansas City Chorale, Conspirare, World Youth Choir, VocalEssence, BYU Singers, and the Swedish Broadcasting Corporation's Radiokören.

Ola's debut piano CD, *Stone Rose*, featuring his own lyrical pieces in the crossroads between classical, jazz and popular music, was released in 2007 by the multiple Grammy nominated label 2L and is available on amazon.com and iTunes.

After studying for his Bachelor's Degree at the Norwegian Academy of Music in Oslo, the Royal College of Music in London and the Juilliard School in New York, he completed his Master's Degree in composition at Juilliard in 2006.

Walton became the exclusive publisher of his choral music in 2007.

For more information about Ola Gjeilo and his music, please visit his website at www.olagjeilo.com



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