

For the Chapel Choir of Pembroke College, Cambridge

O NATA LUX

for SATB a cappella

Anon (10th Century Hymn)

ANNA LAPWOOD
(b 1995)

Mysterioso ♩ = 90

Musical score for the first system of 'O Nata Lux'. It features five staves: Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass, and Piano (for rehearsal only). The key signature is B-flat major (two flats) and the time signature is 3/4. The tempo is marked 'Mysterioso' with a quarter note equal to 90. The Soprano part has a whole rest. The Alto, Tenor, and Bass parts begin with a half note 'O' followed by quarter notes 'na' and 'ta', then a half note 'lux,' with a fermata. The Piano part provides accompaniment with a half note 'O' followed by quarter notes 'na' and 'ta', then a half note 'lux,' with a fermata. Dynamics include *pp* for the vocal parts.

Musical score for the second system of 'O Nata Lux'. It features five staves: Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass, and Piano (for rehearsal only). The Soprano part has a whole rest followed by a half note 'O' with a fermata. The Alto, Tenor, and Bass parts continue with a half note 'O' followed by quarter notes 'na' and 'ta', then a half note 'lux,' with a fermata. The Piano part continues with a half note 'O' followed by quarter notes 'na' and 'ta', then a half note 'lux,' with a fermata. Dynamics include *pp* for the vocal parts.

*If countertenors are used, it may be more comfortable to swap alto and tenor lines in bars 1–18 and 73–90
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14

na - ta lux de lu - mi -

na - ta lux de lu - mi -

pp O na - ta lux de lu - mi - *mp*

O na - ta lux de lu - mi -

21

-ne, Je - su re - demp - tor sæ - cu - li,

-ne, Je - su re - demp - tor sæ - cu - li,

mf cresc poco a poco (stagger breathing) -ne, Je - su re - demp - tor,

mf cresc poco a poco (stagger breathing) -ne, Je - su re - demp - tor,

26 *(cresc)*

Di-gna-re cle-mens sup-pli-cum, Je-su re-

(cresc)

Di-gna-re cle-mens sup-pli-cum, Je-su re-

(cresc)

Je - - su re - demp - tor, Je - -

(cresc)

Je - - su re - demp - tor, Je - -

30 *(cresc)*

-demp-tor sæ-cu-li, Di-gna-re cle-mens sup-pli-

(cresc)

-demp-tor sæ-cu-li, Di-gna-re cle-mens sup-pli-

(cresc)

-su re - demp - tor, Je - - su,

(cresc)

-su re - demp - tor, Je - - su,

34

ff

- cum Lau - des.

ff stagger breathing

- cum

ff

Lau - des pre - ces - que su - me - re,

ff

Lau - des pre - ces - que su - me - re,

39

stagger breathing

mp

Lau - des.

mp

lau - des pre - ces - que su - me - re, lau - des

mp

lau - des pre - ces - que su - me - re, lau - des

rit - - - - a tempo, flowing

44

pp
O na - ta lux de lu - mi -

pp
O na - ta lux de lu - mi -

pp
pre-cēs-que su - me - re. O na - ta lux de lu - mi -

pp
pre-cēs-que su - me - re. O na - ta lux de lu - mi -

rit - - - - a tempo, flowing

49

-ne, Je - su re - demp - tor sæ - cu - li,

-ne, Je - su re - demp - tor sæ - cu - li,

-ne, Je - su re - demp - tor sæ - cu - li,

-ne, Je - su re - demp - tor sæ - cu - li,

Di - gna - re cle - mens sup - pli cum Lau - des pre - ces - que

Di - gna - re cle - mens sup - pli cum Lau - des pre - ces - que

Di - gna - re cle - mens sup - pli - cum Lau - des pre - ces - que

Di - gna - re cle - mens sup - pli - cum Lau - des pre - ces - que

rit ----- **a tempo**

59

su - me - re. Qui car - ne quon - dam

su - me - re. Qui car - ne quon - dam con - te - gi

su - me - re.

su - me - re.

rit ----- **a tempo**

64

con - te - gi Di - gna - tus es pro per - di - tis

Di - gna - tus es pro per - di - tis, di - gna - tus es pro,

p Qui car - ne quon - dam con - te - gi, qui car - ne quon - dam,

p Qui car - ne quon - dam con - te - gi,

67

f rit *pp* Nos mem-bra con - fer ef - fi - ci, Tu - i be - a - ti

f *pp* Nos mem-bra con - fer ef - fi - ci, Tu - i be - a - ti

f *pp* Nos mem-bra con - fer ef - fi - ci, Tu - i be - a - ti

f *pp* Nos mem-bra con - fer ef - fi - ci, Tu - i be - a - ti

rit

71

(rit) - - - -

cor - po - ris.

cor - po - ris. *pp* O na - ta lux,

cor - po - ris. *pp* O na - ta

cor - po - ris. *pp* O na - ta

(rit) - - - -

77

O na - ta lux,

lux, O na - ta

lux, O na - ta

83 *pp*

O na - ta lux

O na - ta lux

lux, O na - ta

lux, O na - ta

rit -----

89

de lu - - mi - ne.

de lu - - mi - ne.

lux de lu - - mi - ne.

lux de lu - - mi - ne.

rit -----

Composer's note

O nata lux started life as a piece written for a men's voices Compline service at Pembroke College. We were consciously trying to include music by women in every service and I found there was very little music for our forces, so decided to write something myself! When writing the start and end of this piece I had in mind the light of a candle, starting from nothing and steadily growing to a constant flame. The sound in these sections should be well-blended and smooth, and the notes should be held for their full values so that there is never any break in the sound. At 'Jesu redemptor', the crescendo is powered by the lower parts, specifically through their crotchets. There are moments when the writing is intentionally high for the basses, such as at 'Qui carne quondam' – this should begin off the voice and return to a full sound for 'nos membra confer effici'. Bar 46 is a little nod to Tallis's setting of *O nata lux*, the very first choral piece I conducted!

Duration: c4 minutes

Text

O nata lux de lumine,
Jesu redemptor sæculi,
Dignare clemens supplicum
Laudes precesque sumere.

*O Light born of Light,
Jesus, redeemer of the world,
Mercifully deign to accept
Suppliant praise and prayer.*

Qui carne quondam contegi
Dignatus es pro perditis
Nos membra confer effici,
Tui beati corporis.

*You who once deigned to be clothed in flesh
For the sake of the lost,
Grant us to be members
Of thy blessed body.*

Anna Lapwood



Photo: Tom Arber

Anna is a conductor, organist, and broadcaster. Appointed Director of Music at Pembroke College, Cambridge in 2016 aged just 21, she conducts the Chapel Choir and Girls' Choir. Their debut recording, *All Things are Quite Silent*, was released in 2020 to widespread critical acclaim. Anna's passion to support girls and women is evident in almost every aspect of her work, especially at Pembroke. In 2018 she established the Pembroke College Girls' Choir for girls aged 11 to 18 to inspire them to explore the world of choral music. They appeared as guest artists on *To Shiver the Sky* by American composer, Christopher Tin, for Decca US, recording at Abbey Road Studios. Increasingly in demand as a guest conductor, she has also directed the BBC Singers and has led choral workshops around the world. Performing recitals on some of the world's greatest organs each season, Anna released her debut solo album in 2021 on Signum Records. The album features her transcription of Britten's *Four Sea Interludes*. As a radio broadcaster she is a regular contributor to BBC Radio 3 and Radio 4, and has also been featured on Classic FM and presented for Scala Radio. Anna made her TV presenting debut in 2020 hosting coverage of BBC Young Musician.