

TODAY

OZIOMA OGBAJI

LUCY WALKER

(b 1998)

With movement

SOPRANO *p*
To-day I rise, to-day I rise, to-day I soar

ALTO *p*
To-day I rise, to-day I rise, to-day I soar

TENOR *p*
To-day I rise, to-day I rise, to-day I soar

BASS

PIANO
(for rehearsal only)

With movement

4 *mf* *mp*
As the day keeps un -

mf *mp*
in splen - dour. As the day keeps un -

mf *mp*
in splen - dour. As the day keeps un -

mf *mp*
soar in splen - dour. As the day keeps un -

f
- veil - ing all her gran - deur Let the chains, let the

f
- veil - ing all her gran - deur Let the chains, let the

f
- veil - ing all her gran - deur

f
- veil - ing all her gran - deur

mp
chains of yes - ter - day break a - way, break a - way!

mp
chains of yes - ter - day break a - way, break a - way!

mp
yes - ter - day break a - way, break a - way!

break a - way, break a - way!

15 *mf*

To-day is here, to-day is here, I will not cling

mf

To-day is here, to-day is here, I will not cling

mf

To-day is here, to-day is here, I will not cling

19 *f* **Slower, in 4** *mp* **rall** *p*

to yes - ter-day, yes - ter - day!

f *mp* *p*

to yes - ter-day, yes - ter - day!

f *mp* *p*

to yes - ter - day, yes - ter - day!

mp *p*

to yes - ter - day, yes - ter - day!

Slower, in 4 **rall**

Composer's note

As an accessible and versatile opener or introit, this piece sets an uplifting verse of poetry by Nigerian poet Ozioma Ogbaji. Though not overtly sacred, the spiritual message of the text is hopeful and empowering, and this is reflected in the brightness of the musical scenery. A denser central section with close, chromatic lines bridges two outer phrases which are characterised by the sweeping leaps and warm harmonies of the opening. *Today* was composed in December 2020, and aims to serve as a brief but poignant musical reminder that hope can overcome struggle.

Duration: c2 minutes

Text

Today I rise, I soar in splendour
As the day keeps unveiling all her grandeur
Let the chains of yesterday break away!
Today is here, I will not cling to yesterday!

from *Today* by Ozioma Ogbaji
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Lucy Walker



Credit: Helena Marion Photography

Lucy Walker (b 1998) is quickly establishing her place as one of Britain's foremost emerging compositional voices. Originally from the North-East of England, Lucy is now based in Cambridge, where she completed her postgraduate studies in 2021. Recognised as one of Classic FM's Rising Stars in 2024, Lucy is gaining repute for her vibrant choral writing, described by Bob Chilcott as 'full of light, and beautifully crafted'. In 2022, Lucy was appointed Composer-in-Residence with St Martin's Voices, the flagship professional vocal consort based at St-Martin-in-the-Fields, and, alongside, has won numerous high-profile commissions, including writing for the BBC Singers, VOCES8, The Sixteen, various UK Cathedral Choirs, and Anna Lapwood and the Choir of Pembroke College, Cambridge. Lucy's works have been frequently broadcast on national radio, featured on commercial recordings, and are gaining popularity in performance across Europe and the US. Lucy also works as a music educator, teaching musical analysis, theory and harmony to undergraduate students at the University of Cambridge. Lucy is passionate about making music, especially choral music, accessible and inclusive, and her compositions and teaching work aim to reflect this mission.