

Lumen (*Light*)
chant, 3-pt canon
AB-071-01

Abbie Betinis

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ABBIE BETINIS

PERUSAL ONLY
(PERFORMANCE PROHIBITED)

Lumen (*Light*)

Chant with 3-part canon

“Lumen accipe et imperti. Do ut des.”

Receive the light and pass it on. I give that you may give.
- Latin aphorisms

*Commissioned by
Waupaca High School Treble Clef*

ABBIE BETINIS
MUSIC COMPANY

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Commissioned by Waupaca High School Treble Clef 2012; Kira Morrissey, conductor

Lumen

~ unison chant, with 3-part canon ~

Lumen accipe et imperti. Do ut des.

"Receive the light and pass it on. I give that you may give."

lyrics from
LATIN APHORISMS

music by
ABBIE BETINIS

CHANT

Meditatively (♩ = ca. 72)

Lu - men ac - ci - pe et im - per - ti. Do ut des.

CANON

1. Lu - men ac - ci - pe et im - per - ti. Do ut des. *fine*

2. Lu - men, Lu - men, ac - ci - pe, Do ut

3. des. Do ut des, do ut des, et im - per - ti.

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Composer's note: This Latin text is a motto for many schools around the world, so I decided I wanted to make the music sound like one voice is "teaching" the next voice. I played with musical imitation in different ways (pitch, rhythm) because learning isn't just about echoing, but about experimenting too. I also imagined the light (*lumen*) growing and growing each time it passes from singer to singer, so the music starts with small intervals and gradually expands into larger leaps and longer scales.

Performance notes: The Chant is an ostinato which begins the piece, and is meant to continue underneath the 3-part Canon throughout the performance. But the piece can be performed in many ways. Here are some ideas, but feel free to experiment and come up with your own!

The Chant: Try using the chant as a processional. Once in place, begin layering in the canon. / Try using the chant to end the canon: instead of the canon-singers dropping out after their last time through line 1, have each group join the chant until all voices are singing in unison. / Try singing the piece as a four-part round, with the chant as part 1. / Try inviting your audience to join you on the chant. (You may print the lyrics in your program).

The Canon: Try standing in a large circle or horseshoe, perhaps surrounding the audience grouped in parts, so they can easily hear how the melodies travel. Try beginning the canon with a soloist, cueing the singers on either side, then the singers next to them, etc., so the canon travels symmetrically out from the soloist. / For a visual element, use candles or bright silk scarves to pass the 'light' to the next group as they begin the canon. Or join hands with the next group as they begin.

Instrumentation: This score is a cappella, but it's also effective with a low pedal or open fifth for support (organ, strings, etc). I love it when ensembles experiment with instrumentation and accompaniment to make my canons fit your needs.

