DECEMBER LIGHT (FROM A CALENDAR OF LIGHT)

SATB Chorus

Text by Barbara Crooker

daletrumbore
composer

DECEMBER LIGHT

In this icy light, the ghostly fronds
of ice ferns cover the glass,
as the sky descends,
erasing first the far blue hills,
the cornfield hatchmarked with stubble,
coming to our street—
the sky flinging itself
down to the ground.

These winter nights
are never black and dense,
but white, starlight
dancing off the land.
And then the luminous dawns,
the pearled skies full of hope
no matter what else we know.

—Barbara Crooker

This piece sets two excerpts from Crooker's poem "Winter Light."

PROGRAM NOTE

In *December Light*, even the darkest winter lights are brightened by starlight dancing off of snow. The returning light offers a metaphor for resilience, with luminous dawns "full of hope / no matter what else we know." This piece is excerpted from *A Calendar of Light*, a 75-minute work that takes the shape of a calendar and holds us accountable for our relationship with the earth, especially in the greater context of climate change. Ultimately, the piece calls for reflection and action.

A Calendar of Light was commissioned by The Esoterics and is dedicated, with gratitude, to its Artistic Director, Eric Banks. This work was composed in part at the Tusen Takk Foundation, with thanks to Geoffrey Peckham and Patricia Melzer for their generous support.

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December light

from A CALENDAR OF LIGHT

SATB chorus a cappella

Barbara Crooker — Dale Trumbore

♩ = ca. 63

S. 1: In this i - cy light, fronds of ice ferns cov - er the

S. 2: In this i - cy light, the ghost-ly fronds of ice ferns cov - er the

A.: In this i - cy light the ghost-ly fronds of ice ferns cov - er the

Pno.

5

S. 1: glass, oh oh oh ah

S. 2: glass, oh oh oh

A. 1: glass, oh oh oh

A. 2: glass, oh oh oh

Pno.

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9

S. 1

S. 2

A. 1

A. 2

Pno.

mf

oh

13

S. 1

oh ah oh In this i - cy light, the ghost-ly fronds of ice ferns cov - er the

S. 2

A. 1

A. 2

mf *pp*

oh

FOR PERUSAL ONLY

19

S. 1

glass, as the sky de - scends,

S. 2

oh as the sky de - scends,

A. 1

oh de-scends

A. 2

oh the sky de-scends,

T.

the sky de-scends,

B.

de-scends,

Pno.

poco rit. Slightly slower

22

S.

far blue hills,

A.

e-ras-ing first the far blue hills, the corn-field hatch-marked with stub-ble com-ing to our

T.

e-ras-ing first the far blue hills, the corn-field hatch-marked with stub-ble com-ing to

B.

e-ras-ing first the far blue hills, the corn-field our

Pno.

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40

S. 1: oh danc-ing off the land. And then the

S. 2: oh danc-ing off the land. And then the

A. 1: oh the land. And then the

A. 2: oh danc-ing off the land. And then the

T.: land danc-ing off the land. And then the

B.: the land. And then the

Pno.

rit. In time; ♩ = ca. 58

45

S.: lu - mi - nous dawns, the pearled skies full of hope

A.: lu - mi-nous dawns, the pearled skies full of hope

T.: lu - mi-nous dawns, the pearled skies full of hope

B.: lu - mi-nous dawns, the pearled skies full of hope

Pno.

FOR REVIEW ONLY

50

S. no mat-ter what else we know.

A. no mat-ter what else, no mat-ter what else we know we know,

T. no mat-ter what

B.

Pno.

55

rit. Slow; calm

S. oh we know we know.

A. oh we know we know.

T. else we know we know, we know.

B. no mat-ter what else we know we know, we know.

Pno.

FOR PERUSAL ONLY