

NEW

HORIZONS

OXFORD

Sacred  
SSATB and organ

— CECILIA MCDOWALL —  
Celestial Fire

Commissioned by Oakham School and first performed by Oakham School Chapel Choir,  
conductor Peter Davis, on 4 May 2013

# Celestial fire

(Veni, Creator Spiritus)

Denise Levertov (1923–97);  
John Cosin (1594–1672),  
based on 'Veni, Creator Spiritus'

CECILIA McDOWALL

**Mystical, always flowing** ♩ = c.76

SOPRANO 1 & 2

ALTO

TENOR *mp* freely, quasi plainchant

BASS *mp*

ORGAN *mp* *mf* *mp*

*Man. drone-like*

Come, Ho - ly Ghost our souls in - spire,

Come, Ho - ly Ghost, come,

Come, come,

Come, come,

and light-en with ce - les - tial

fire;

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*mp* *mf*

come,

*mp* *mf*

come, Ho - ly Ghost,

fire;

*mf*

thou the a-

*mf*

thou,

*mf*

*mp*

15

*mp dolce*

light, light,

*mp dolce*

light, light,

- noint - ing Spi - rit art, who - dost thy sev'n-

Spi - rit, who - dost thy sev'n -

19

*mp* with ce - les - - tial fire; *mf*

*mp* with ce - les - tial fire; *mf*

- fold gifts im - part:

- fold gifts im - part:

*mp* *mf*

23

**Più mosso** ♩ = c. 84 *mp*

As swim - mers, *mf* freely, quasi plainchant

Thy bless - èd unc - tion from a -

Thy bless - èd unc - tion from a -

Thy unc - -

**Più mosso** ♩ = c. 84

Ped.

27 *mf*

— swim - - mers dare, dare to lie face -  
 - bove is com - fort, life, and fire of  
 - bove is com - fort, life, and fire of  
 - tion from a - bove, fire of

31 *f*

to the sky, the sky  
 love, com - fort, life, and fire of love;  
 love; and  
 love; en - a - ble

*f* *mf* *f* *mf*

(Ped.)

35 *mf* *poco*

and wa - ter bears them,

*mf* *poco*

and wa - - - ter, wa - ter bears them, wa - - - ter

wa - - - ter, and wa - - - ter,

with per - pe - tu - al light the dull - ness of

39 *f*

as hawks rest u - pon air and

bears them, as hawks rest u - pon air and

wa - - - ter bears them, bears them,

our blind - ed sight, our sight:

43

air, air sus -

air sus - tains them, air sus -

air, air sus -

and air sus - tains them, sus - tains,

*Solo*

47

- tains them, air

- tains them, air

- tains them, air

air sus - tains, sus - tains, air

*Solo*

50

*mp*  
sus - tains,  
*mp*  
sus - tains,  
*mp*  
sus - tains.  
*mp*  
sus - tains, sus - tains.

53

*mp dolce*  
so  
*mp dolce*  
so would  
(end solo)  
*mp bright*



56

*poco*

would I learn

I learn, would I learn, would I

*mp dolce*

A - - noint and cheer,

*mp dolce*

A - - noint, a - - noint and

Ped. (8') *mp*

59

*mp*

to at - tain

learn to at - - - tain

cheer our soil - ed face.

cheer our soil - ed face

62 *f*

S. 1  
free - - fall, and float, and

S. 2  
free - - - fall, and float, and

A.  
free - - - fall, and float, and

T.  
free - - - fall, and float, and

B.  
with the a - bun - dance of thy grace:

*f*

66

float,

float,

float, float in - to Cre - a - tor Spi-rit's deep em - brace,

float, keep far our foes, give peace at

keep far our foes,

*mf*

*mf dolce* *dim.*

Man.

70 *mp*

S. 1 & 2 float, know - ing no ef - fort earns

A. *mp* know - ing, know - ing no ef - fort earns

T. *mp* home; where thou art guide, guide,

B. *mp* give peace at home, at home; where

Ped. *mp*

74 *p dolce*

ah

*p dolce* ah that all sur - round - ing grace.

*p dolce* where thou art guide no ill can come, can

*p dolce* — thou art guide, where thou art guide no

*p*

78

*cresc. poco a poco*

A - - men, a - men, a - men, a -

*cresc. poco a poco*

A - men, a - men, a -

*cresc. poco a poco*

come, no ill can come.

*cresc. poco a poco*

ill can come, no ill can

*cresc. poco a poco*

**f**

**allarg.**

82

**f**  
*lunga*

- - - - - men, a - men, a - men.

**f**

- - - - - men, a - men, a - men.

**f**

A - - men, a - men, a - men.

**f**

come. A - - men, a - men, a - men.

**allarg.**

*lunga*

**f**

NEW

HORIZONS

NEW HORIZONS showcases the wealth of exciting, innovative, and occasionally challenging choral music being written today. It encompasses the whole gamut of small-scale choral genres, both secular and sacred, and includes pieces for upper-voice and mixed choirs. With titles by some of the most accomplished choral composers active in Great Britain and abroad, the series introduces new repertoire and fresh talent to a broad spectrum of choirs.

### Cecilia McDowall

Born in 1951 and educated at Edinburgh and London Universities, Cecilia McDowall has been described by the *International Record Review* as having a 'communicative gift that is very rare in modern music'. An award-winning composer, McDowall is often inspired by extra-musical influences, and her choral writing combines rhythmic vitality with expressive lyricism. Her music has been commissioned, performed, and recorded by leading choirs, among them Phoenix Chorale and the Choir of New College, Oxford, and is regularly programmed at prestigious festivals in Britain and abroad.



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