

Program Notes

Each of us has a guiding light in our lives—a North Star that illuminates the path before our feet and exhorts us onward. This piece invites choirs and audiences to reflect on that guiding light, to consider the struggle and effort required to follow after it, and to embrace the hope that it gives us for a brighter tomorrow. Consider asking the audience to take a moment to identify the guiding light in their own lives before you perform the piece; it could be a long-term goal, a set of values, a philosophy, etc. It is my earnest wish that, upon experiencing this piece, audience members would feel a renewed enthusiasm to pursue the guiding light in their lives. And of course, I hope it will inspire you and your choral community to do the same. As the poem says, we might not ever fully reach it or catch up to it, but by following after it, the path before our feet will always be illuminated.

Text

Always we are following a light
Always the light recedes; with reaching hands
We stretch toward this glory while the lands
We journey through are hidden from our sight
Dim, mysterious, folded deep in night.

We care not, all our utmost need demands
Is but the light, the light! So still it stands
Surely our own if we exert our might.

Fool! Never can you grasp this fleeting gleam;
Its glowing flame would die if it were caught
Fool! Never shall you grasp this distant beam;
It always seems a little farther on.

Distraught, but lighted ever onward
(We are lighted ever onward)
Always we are following a light.

—Amy Lowell (1874–1925)
alt. Brandon Martell

Brandon Martell is an American composer, arranger, and music educator. He has two choral works published with Excelcia Music Publishing, and a third scheduled to be released in their Spring 2024 catalog. His competitive marching band arrangements have won the 1A Division Florida Marching Band State Championships four times. Under his leadership, the Calvary Choir from Calvary Christian High School has earned Superior ratings at State MPA twice, and “Critic’s Choice” at District MPA once. Brandon was a Rogers Scholar at the Eastman School of Music and graduated with Distinction in May 2013. He lives in St. Petersburg, Florida with his wife, Shaye, and his two daughters, Raina and Holly.

Lighted Ever Onward

for SATB Chorus divisi and Piano

Amy Lowell

Brandon Martell (b. 1991)

Deliberately ♩ = 68

p

Soprano
Alto

Al - ways, — al - ways we are fol - low - ing a

Tenor
Bass

Deliberately ♩ = 68

p

Piano

8va

8vb

pedal harmonically throughout

3 *mf*

light.

mf

Light.

(8va)

mf

loco

Text: Amy Lowell (1874–1925), “The Lamp of Life,” *alt.*, (PD).

5 *p* ————— *mp*

Al - ways, — al - ways the light re -

The light re -

(8^{va}) ——— | *loco*

p *mp*

8^{vb} *loco*

7

cedes. cedes. With

8^{va} *loco*

3 3 3 3 *p*

9

With reach - ing hands we stretch t'ward this

reach - ing hands we stretch t'ward this

11

glo - ry _____ while the lands we jour - ney through are hid - den

glo - ry _____

8^{va}

13

from our sight.

Dim, mys - te - ri - ous, fold - ed deep in

(8^{va})

loco

p

16

mp

We care not, _____

night.

mp

8^{vb}

19 *mf*

all our ut-most need de-mands is but the light, the

mp *mf*

All our ut-most need de-mands is but the light, the

(8^{va})-----l *loco*

22

light!

light!

mf

24 *p* *pp*

So still it stands, so still it stands;

p *pp*

So still it stands, so still it stands;

p *pp*

LH

28 *mp* sure - ly our own if we ex - ert, if we ex -

sure - ly our own if we ex - ert, if

sure - ly our own if we ex - ert, if

mp sure - ly our own if we ex - ert, if we ex -

30 *rit.* ert our *a tempo* *mf* might.

we ex - ert our might.

we ex - ert our *mf* might.

ert our might.

rit. *a tempo*

32 *accel.*

With motion ♩ = 88

34 *f*

S A Fool! Nev - er can you grasp this fleet - ing

T B *f* Fool! Nev - er can you grasp this fleet - ing

With motion ♩ = 88

36 gleam

gleam; (mm) its

gleam; its

38 glow - ing flame would die if it were

glow - ing flame would die if it were

40

caught.

caught.

42

f Fool! Nev-er shall you grasp this dis - tant

f Fool! Nev-er shall you grasp this dis - tant

44

beam

beam; (mm)

mf it

mf it

beam; it

46

al - ways seems a lit - tle far - ther

al - ways seems a lit - tle far - ther

48

S on.

A on. *mp* Dis -

T 8 on. *mp* Dis -

B on.

p

50

mf cresc. poco a poco

dis-traught, but light-ed ev-er

cresc. poco a poco *(mf) cresc.*

traught, but light-ed ev-er on-ward, dis-traught, but light-ed ev-er

cresc. poco a poco *(mf) cresc.*

traught, but light-ed ev-er on-ward, dis-traught, but light-ed ev-er

cresc. poco a poco

53

*(cresc.)**(f) cresc.*

on-ward, dis-traught, but light-ed ev-er

(cresc.) *(f) cresc.*

on-ward, dis-traught, but light-ed ev-er

(cresc.) *(f) cresc.*

on-ward, dis-traught, but light-ed ev-er

f cresc. poco a poco

dis-traught, but light-ed ev-er

(cresc.)

55 *(cresc.)*

on - ward, on - ward,

(cresc.)

on - ward, on - ward,

(cresc.)

on - ward, on - ward,

(cresc.)

on - ward, on - ward,

(cresc.)

on - ward, on - ward,

(cresc.)

on - ward, on - ward,

57 Solo or small group *ff*

S ev - - er on - ward, ev - - er

ff

A light - ed ev - er on - ward,

ff

T light - ed ev - er on - ward, light - ed ev - er

ff unis.

B light - ed ev - er on - ward, light - ed ev - er

ff

1.3727

60

rit.
dim. poco a poco Rejoin section

on - ward, — ev - er on - ward
light - ed ev - er on - ward, we are light - ed
light - ed ev - er on - ward, on - ward, we are light - ed
on - ward, light - ed ev - er, we are light - ed
on - ward, light - ed ev - er on - ward,

dim. poco a poco
unis.
dim. poco a poco
unis.
dim. poco a poco
rit.
dim.

63 Tutti (*dim.*)

S ev - er on - ward. ***p***

A light - ed ev - er on - ward. ***p***

T ev - er on - ward. ***p***

B light - ed ev - er on - ward. ***p***

(dim.)

66 **Freely** *p* *rit.*

Al - ways, — al - ways we are fol - low - ing a

Al - ways, — al - ways we are fol - low - ing a

8

Freely *p* *rit.*

8^{va}

8^{vb}

68

S

light.

A

light.

T

light.

B

light.

8

light.

(8^{va})

loco