Composer's Notes

One morning seated at the piano, I listened to Sir Ralph Richardson recite William Blake's poem *The Lamb* on perpetual loop, desiring earnestly to capture its simplicity and timelessness. After a long period of silence, I began to play. It was as if a gateway had opened, and the setting was finished in almost real-time. It was the first time such a thing had happened to me when writing. I don't know if that experience will ever happen again, but I'll cherish it always with profound gratitude.

–Luke Mayernik

Text

Little Lamb who made thee
Dost thou know who made thee
Gave thee life & bid thee feed.
By the stream & o'er the mead;
Gave thee clothing of delight,
Softest clothing wooly bright;
Gave thee such a tender voice,
Making all the vales rejoice!
Little Lamb who made thee
Dost thou know who made thee

Little Lamb I'll tell thee!
He is called by thy name,
For he calls himself a Lamb:
He is meek & he is mild,
He became a little child:
I a child & thou a lamb,
We are called by his name.
Little Lamb God bless thee.
Little Lamb God bless thee.

-William Blake (1757-1827)

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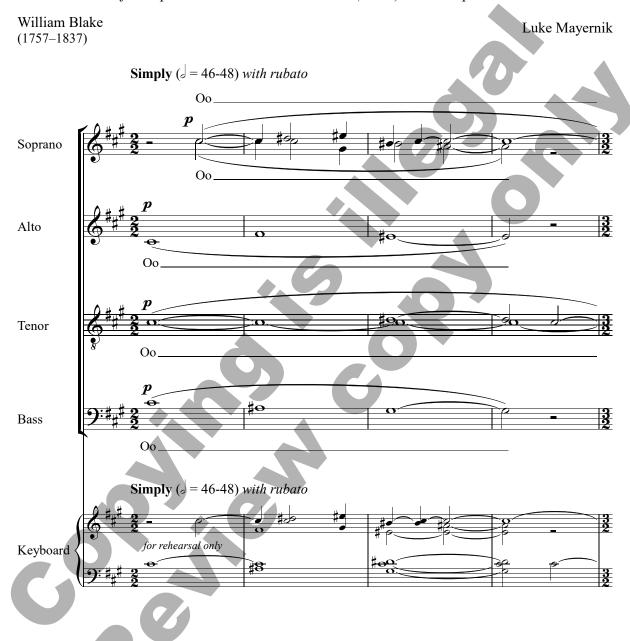
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Winner of the 2023 VOCES8 Composition Competition To Susie – my childhood friend, sweetheart, and lifelong friend

The Lamb

for Soprano Solo and SATB Chorus (divisi) unaccompanied



Text: "The Lamb by William Blake, 1757–1827, from Songs of Innocence (1789) (PD).





















