

# CHILDREN OF LIGHT

For SSAA (*Divisi*), Piano & Percussion

Darius Lim

# CHILDREN OF LIGHT

Commissioned by the Hong Kong Children's Choir

The story of Children of Light was originally written for the Hong Kong Children's Choir in 2018 as a sequel to one of my earlier fantasy choral works, The Echoes of the Lost World. In Echoes of the Lost World, the story depicts the discovery of a mystical world of infinite beauty and a lost civilization.

Children of Light is a choral work written with fragments of musical theatre. Singers are asked to act and dance with dramatic theatrical movements and expression as the music moves between a narrative and theatrical mode. There are sections in the work where singers are to sing and act as explorers in the already-found lost world.

The music of Children of Light starts with the explorers in the winter caves of the Lost World, searching to find a way out. They travel through the caves and soon see lights from afar. As they approach the lights, they meet the mystical winged illuminated beings from the city of Light - The Children of Light. The story unfolds with the children of Light lifting the explorers from the caves and into the majestic city of Light and the explorers are once again, invited to join in the music and dance.

*This work was inspired by the true story of a darker side of life, where I was inspired to write about a friend who recently slipped into depression. She felt like there was no way out of her problems, but eventually with the help of 3 close friends whom she called her "angels", she lifted herself out of depression and into a better life: into the light.*

*"There is always a light at the end of the tunnel!"*

## **PERFORMANCE INSTRUCTIONS**

Grand piano should be placed in the center of the concert hall with the lid removed (if not, fully opened).

For the sections where singers are required to sing into the piano, the effects "cave sounds" can only be achieved if the sustain pedal is held down.

Besides the piano accompaniment, all other instruments are optional.

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## WALKING IN THE CAVES OF THE LOST WORLD

Selected Soloist : Curious characters who call their friends (other soloists) to join in their search.  
Stand around a grand piano, pianist holds sustain pedal down.  
(If there is no grand piano, soloist may sing ad lib. standing around the audience)  
Singers behave as though looking into a cave or a well, searching.

*Depending on acoustic, one bar rest can be shortened or stretched*

*Characters are encouraged to glance at each other during these silences.*

**A** Freely (♩=60)

*Small Group 1*

*Soprano 1*  
Lis-ten To the e-choes of the night! Look! Look! Is some-one there?

*Small Group 2*

*Soprano 2*  
Lis-ten To the e-choes of the night! Look! Look! Is some-one there?

*Small Group 3*

*Soprano 3*  
Lis-ten To the e-choes of the night! Look! Look! Is some-one there?

*Small Group 4*

*Soprano 4*  
Lis-ten To the e-choes of the night! Look! Look! Is some-one there?

*Small Group 5*

*Alto 1*  
Lis-ten To the e-choes of the night! Look! Is some-one there?

*Small Group 6*

*Alto 2*  
Lis-ten To the e-choes of the night! Look! Is some-one there?

*Alto 3*

**A** Freely (♩=60)

*Piano*  
pp

*Ped.*  
Keep sustain pedal down

9  
S1. *p* Is some-one there?\_\_ *hum pp* mm\_\_

S2. *p* Is some-one there?\_\_ *hum pp* mm\_\_

S3. *p* Is some-one there?\_\_ *Solo or Section mf* In the moon-light. shi-ning the stars a-bove glow the

S4. *p* Is some-one there?\_\_ *hum pp* mm\_\_

A1. *p* Is some-one there?\_\_ *hum pp* mm\_\_

A2. *p* Is some-one there?\_\_ *hum pp* mm\_\_

A3. *hum pp* mm\_\_

♩=70  
Like distant bells ringing through the moutains

**B** *p*

18

S1. *mp* In the moon - shi-ning the stars glow the

S2. *mp* In the moon - shi-ning the stars glow the

S3. *mp* whis-per-ing win-ter dan-ces in the snow In the moon-light\_ shi-ning the stars a-bove glow the

S4. *mf* In the moon-light\_ shi-ning the stars a-bove glow the

A1. *mf* In the moon-light\_ shi-ning the stars a-bove glow the

A2. *mp* In the moon - shi-ning the stars glow the

A3. *mp* In the moon - shi-ning the stars glow the

Pno. *mp*

26

S1. *p* *mp*  
 whis-per - ing win - ter dan - ces in the snow \_\_\_\_\_ in the snow \_\_\_\_\_

S2. *p* *mp*  
 whis-per - ing win - ter dan - ces in the snow \_\_\_\_\_

S3. *p* *mp*  
 whis-per - ing win - ter dan - ces in the snow \_\_\_\_\_

S4. *mp* *mp*  
 whis-per - ing win - ter dan - ces in the snow the snow \_\_\_\_\_ in the snow \_\_\_\_\_

A1. *mp* *mp*  
 whis-per - ing win - ter dan - ces in the snow the snow \_\_\_\_\_ in the snow \_\_\_\_\_

A2. *p* *mp*  
 win - - - ter dance - in snow \_\_\_\_\_ dan-ces in the snow \_\_\_\_\_

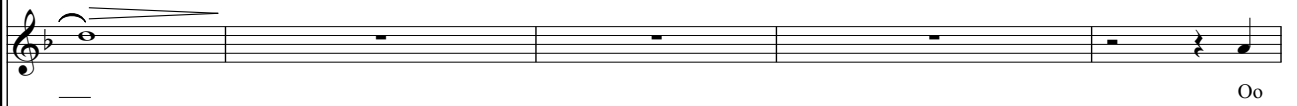
A3. *p* *mp*  
 win - - - ter dance - in snow \_\_\_\_\_ dan-ces in the snow \_\_\_\_\_

Pno. *pp* *p*  
 Musical accompaniment for piano, including chords and melodic lines.

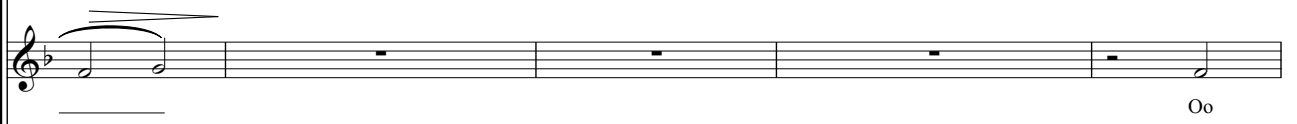
Performance suggestion: Choir to spread out on stage,  
Gesture : "Walking in the winter among falling snow"

33

S1.  Oo\_

S2.  Oo

S3.  Oo

S4.  Oo

A1.  Oo

A2. *Solo or Group*  
*mf*  
 Some-thing in the wind is whis-per - ing a dis-tant song drift-ing quiet-ly in the breeze of old

A3. *Solo or Group*  
*mf*  
 Some-thing in the wind is whis-per - ing a dis-tant song drift-ing quiet-ly in the breeze of old

Pno.  lightly



38

S1. *p*  

 night

S2. *p*  
 some - where a song an - gels night

S3. *p*  
 some - where a song an - gels night

S4. *p*  
 some - where a song an - gels night

A1. *mp*  
 Some-where there are voi-ces e - cho - ing a dis-tant tune, like a time-less me - lo - dy; a word-less song.

A2. *mp*  
 Some-where there are voi-ces e - cho - ing a dis-tant tune, like a time-less me - lo - dy; a word-less song.

A3. *tutti mp*  
 Some-where there are voi-ces e - cho - ing a dis-tant tune, like a time-less me - lo - dy; a word-less song.

Pno.

Candle lights slowly go off one by one  
Piano pedal stays on to create the echo

42

*p* *mp*

S1. Look! Is some - one there? \_\_\_

S2. Look! Is some - one there? \_\_\_

S3. Look! Is some - one there? \_\_\_

S4. Look! Is some - one there? \_\_\_

A1. Look! Is some - one there? \_\_\_

A2. Look! Is some - one there? \_\_\_

A3. Look! Is some - one there? \_\_\_

Pno. Sustain pedal on this bar. Allow voices to ring through the piano.

*ped.* *ped.*

Hold sustain pedal throughout until choir sings next phrase



**C** Hall Lights slowly come on  
Choreography: Freeze in a pose  
They have discovered  
a light at the end of the cave!

**C**  $\text{♩} = 90$  Choir to spread out throughout the stage and converse in dramatic actions  
whispering "Is someone there?" and "What is that I hear?"

47

$\text{♩} = 90$

S1.

**C**  $\text{♩} = 90$

Pno. *mp*

*Mysterious in a half whisper*  
All Sopranos

7-part split on next bar

51 *mp*

S1. I see a light through the dark - ness creep - ing I see a light like a mov - ing star

A3. *mp*  
All Altos  
I see a light through the dark - ness creep - ing I see a light like a mov - ing star

Pno.

55 *mf*

S1. I see a light like a fire that\_ is burn - ing from a dream is this a dream?\_\_\_\_\_

S2. *mf*  
I see a light like a fire that\_ is burn - ing from a dream is this a dream?\_\_\_\_\_

S3. *mf*  
I see a light like a fire that\_ is burn - ing from a dream is this a dream?\_\_\_\_\_

S4. *mf*  
I see a light like a fire that\_ is burn - ing from a dream is this a dream?\_\_\_\_\_

A1. *mf*  
I see a light like a fire that\_ is burn - ing from a dream is this a dream?\_\_\_\_\_

A2. *mf*  
I see a light like a fire that\_ is burn - ing from a dream is this a dream?\_\_\_\_\_

A3. *mf*  
I see a light like a fire that\_ is burn - ing from a dream is this a dream?\_\_\_\_\_

Pno. *mf*

All sections to look at an opposite section

59

S1. *mf*  
I see a light through the dark - - - ness

S2. *mf*  
I see a light through the dark - - - ness

S3. Beam-ing through the night beam-ing through the night like a fire\_ mov-ing in - to sight mo-ving in - to sight voi-ces sing-ing

S4. *fp*  
Shine like a bright - est star that's mov - ing through the

A1. *fp*  
Shine like a bright - est star\_ that's mov - ing through the

A2. *Shine mf* *Burning Fire*  
lu - ce - at ar - den - ti ig - ne glow-ing in the night

A3. *Shine* *Burning Fire*  
lu - ce - at ar - den - ti ig - ne glow-ing in the night

Pno. *sempre staccato*  
*no pedal*

S1. *f*  
light from a dis - tant world that is call - ing to us all!\_

S2. *f*  
light from a dis - tant world that is call - ing to us all!\_

S3. *f*  
ring-ing from the light ring-ing from the light there is some-one call - ing to us all!\_

S4. *f*  
night A world that is call - ing to us all!\_

A1. *f*  
night A world that is call - ing to us all!\_

A2. *f*  
Can - ta - ta mus - si - ca call - ing to us all!\_

A3. *Enchanted music* *f*  
Can - ta - ta mus - si - ca call - ing to us all!\_

Pno. *f*

S1. *mf* I feel the wind rise! *f* Let us fly! *fp* Ve - ni - te Vo - lant! Fly!

S2. *mf* I feel the wind rise! *f* Let us fly! *fp* Ve - ni - te Vo - lant! Fly!\_\_\_\_\_

S3. *mf* I feel the wind rise! *f* Let us fly! *fp* Ve - ni - te Vo - lant! Fly!\_\_\_\_\_

S4. *mf* I feel the wind rise! *f* Let us fly! *fp* Ve - ni - te Vo - lant! Fly!

A1. *mf* I see the light!\_\_\_\_\_ *f* Let us fly! *fp* Ve - ni - te Vo - lant! Fly!

A2. *mf* I see the light! *f* Let us fly! *fp* Ve - ni - te Vo - lant! Fly!

A3. *mf* I see the light! *f* Let us fly! *fp* Ve - ni - te Vo - lant! Fly!

Pno. *mf* *mp*

Cym.

**D**

"Fly from the caves!"

15

67 *f*

S1. Fly! Ve - ni - te Ve - ni - te Vo - lant car - pe

S2. Fly! Ve - ni - te Ve - ni - te Vo - lant car - pe

S3. *Stagger breathe*  
*mf*  
In to the star - light of the night Such en - chan ted beau - ty! Lights of the

S4. *mf*  
In to the star - light of the night Such en - chan ted beau - ty! Lights of the

A1. *mf*  
In to the star - light of the night Such en - chan ted beau - ty! Lights of the

A2. *mf*  
In to the star - light of the night Such en - chan ted beau - ty! Lights of the

A3. *mf*  
In to the star - light of the night Such en - chan ted beau - ty! Lights of the

**D**

Pno. *mf*

Glock.

Cym.

Tri.

*Seize the night*

71

S1. *Seize the night*  
 noc - tem car - pe noc - - tem Now hear the mu - sic

S2. *Seize the night*  
 noc - tem car - pe noc - - tem Now hear the mu - sic

S3. time - less ci - ty; se - cret sights! Now hear the mu - sic

S4. time - less ci - ty; se - cret sights! Now hear the mu - sic

A1. time - less ci - ty; se - cret sights! Now hear the mu - sic

A2. time - less ci - ty; se - cret sights! Now hear the mu - sic

A3. time - less ci - ty; se - cret sights! Now hear the mu - sic

Pno.

Glock.



S1. e - cho through with might!

S2. e - cho through with might!

S3. e - cho through with might!

S4. e - cho through with might!

A1. e - cho through with might!

A2. e - cho through with might!

A3. e - cho through with might!

Pno.

Glock.

Cym.

**E** "Discover at the City of Light!"

18

77

*f* Like a trumpet

S1. Puh puh puh puh puh! puh puh puh! puh puh puh!

S2. Hear the glo - rious sound! Light! Light the fire of life!

S3. When the trum-pets sound Pow'r-ful Glo-rious sound! Feel the beat and drum! Now be-gin the dance!

S4. When the trum-pets sound Pow'r-ful Glo-rious sound! Feel the beat and drum! Now be-gin the dance!

A1. When the trum-pets sound Pow'r-ful Glo-rious sound! Feel the beat and drum! Now be-gin the dance!

A2. When the trum-pets sound! Pow'r-ful Glo-rious sound! Feel the beat and drum! Now be-gin the dance!

A3. When the trum-pets sound! Pow'r-ful Glo-rious sound! Feel the beat and drum! Now be-gin the dance!

**E**

Pno. *f*

Cym.

Tri.

F. Cym.

81 *Dolce* *Fly!* 19

S1. Vo - - - - lant! dan - - - cing

S2. Vo - - - - lant! Dan - cing in the

S3. *Find the light in the dream*  
In - - ve - - ni - - re lux in

S4. In - - ve - - ni - - re lux in

A1. In - - ve - - ni - - re lux in

A2. In - - ve - - ni - - re lux in

A3. In - - ve - - ni - - re lux in

Pno. *mp*

Glock.

F. Cym.

S1. moon - - ight dan - - cing moon - - light

S2. moon - light Dan - cing in the moon - light

S3. *Feel the music*  
 Som - ni - um Sen - - ti - re mu - - si ca

S4. Som - ni - um Sen - - ti - re mu - - si ca

A1. Som - ni - um Sen - - ti - re mu - - si ca

A2. Som - ni - um Sen - - ti - re mu - - si ca

A3. Som - ni - um Sen - - ti - re mu - - si ca

Pno.

Glock.

F. Cym.

**F**

Singers to freeze in a pose

87 *f* *f*  $\text{♩} = 90$  *stomp clap*

S1. *f* *f*  $\text{♩} = 90$  *stomp clap*  
 Re - sur - ge - mus! Quod ae - que sen ti ant - pul - sum tym - pa num Sen - ti - re mu - si - ca!..

S2. *f* *f*  $\text{♩} = 90$  *stomp clap*  
 Re - sur - ge - mus! Quod ae - que sen ti ant - pul - sum tym - pa num Sen - ti - re mu - si - ca!..

S3. *Rise!* *f*  
 Re - sur - ge - mus!

S4. *f*  
 Re - sur - ge - mus!

A1. *f* *f*  $\text{♩} = 90$  *stomp clap*  
 Re - sur - ge - mus! hoc lo - co som - ni - a\_\_ vi - te

A2. *f* *f*  $\text{♩} = 90$  *stomp clap*  
 Re - sur - ge - mus! hoc lo - co som - ni - a\_\_ vi - te

A3. *f* *f*  $\text{♩} = 90$  *stomp clap*  
 Re - sur - ge - mus! hoc lo - co som - ni - a\_\_ vi - te

**F**  $\text{♩} = 90$

Pno. *f* *mf*

Glock.

Cym.

F. Cym.

Tamb.

Choreography Set 1:  
The choir is to choreograph their own energetic "children of the night" dance.  
Every singer to dance energetically!

S1. Quod ae-que sen - ti-ant\_pul - sum tym-pa num Sen - ti-re mu - si-ca!\_ whow!

S2. Quod ae-que sen - ti-ant\_pul - sum tym-pa num Sen - ti-re mu - si-ca!\_ whow!

S3. Quod ae-que sen - ti-ant\_pul - sum tym-pa num Sen - ti-re mu - si-ca!\_ whow!

S4. Quod ae-que sen - ti-ant\_pul - sum tym-pa num Sen - ti-re mu - si-ca!\_ whow!

A1. Sen-ti-re mu-si-ca! Quod ae-que sen - ti-ant\_pul - sum tym-pa num Sen - ti-re mu - si-ca!\_ whow!

A2. Sen-ti-re mu-si-ca! Quod ae-que sen - ti-ant\_pul - sum tym-pa num Sen - ti-re mu - si-ca!\_ whow!

A3. Sen-ti-re mu-si-ca! Quod ae-que sen - ti-ant\_pul - sum tym-pa num Sen - ti-re mu - si-ca!\_ whow!

Pno.

Cym.

Tri.

Djembe

Shek.

Cow.

Tamb.

S1.

S2.

S3.

S4.

A1.

*Choreography Set 2: New movements for A2 & A3*

A2.

A3.

Pno.

Cym.

Tri.

Djembe

Shek.

Cow.

Tamb.

Choreography Set 3  
New dance movements for S1

97

S1. Sen - ti-re mu - si-ca!\_ Mu - - si - ca!\_ Mu - si-ca!\_

S2. Sen - ti-re mu - si-ca!\_ hoc lo-co som - ni-a\_\_\_ vi - te Sen - ti-re mu - si-ca!

S3. Sen - ti-re mu - si-ca!\_ hoc lo-co som - ni-a\_\_\_ vi - te Sen - ti-re mu - si-ca!

S4. Sen - ti-re mu - si-ca!\_ hoc lo-co som - ni-a\_\_\_ vi - te Sen - ti-re mu - si-ca!

A1. Sen - ti-re mu - si-ca!\_ hoc lo-co som - ni-a\_\_\_ vi - te Sen - ti-re mu - si-ca!

A2. shi - ning!\_ In the moon light shi - ning!\_

A3. shi - ning!\_ In the moon - light shi - ning!\_

Pno.

Tri.

Djembe

Shek.




S1. 


S2. 


S3. 

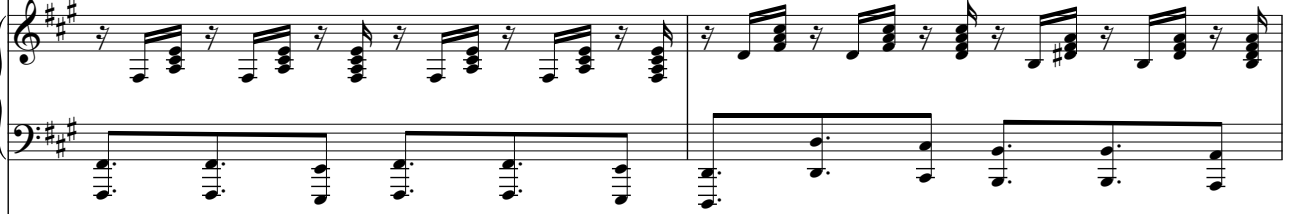
Choreography Set 4  
New dance movements for S4 & A1

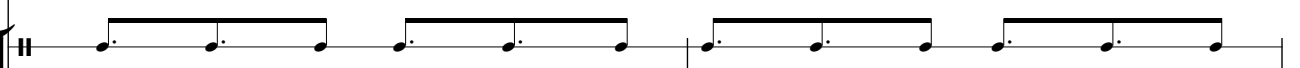
S4. 

A1. 

A2. 

A3. 

Pno. 

Tri. 

Djembe 

Shek. 

Bongos 

Cow. 

Tamb. 