

Nicholas Lemme

# Quae est ista

*Canticum Canticorum 6: 3,9,8*

for Choir (TTB) a cappella

(2024)

*from the Office of the BVM*

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*Commissioned by Paul Fonfara for Penelope Fonfara and Andrew Senior  
in memory of Joseph Fonfara 1945-2017, and Kim Senior 1957-2023*

## Text

†

Quæ est ista quæ procéssit sicut sol,  
et formósa tamquam Jerúsalem?  
Vidérunt eam filiaë Sion,  
et beátam dixerunt,  
et regínæ laudavérunt eam.

Quae est ista quae procéssit sicut sol?

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## Translation

Who is this that cometh up like the sun?  
and comely as Jerusalem?  
\* The daughters of Zion saw her,  
and called her blessed:  
and the queens also praised her.

Who is this that cometh up like the sun?

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## Performance Notes

†

At the nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, one may consider the angels proclaiming such sentiments as are sung in this piece. Mary, being a pure vessel, born into a world much like our modern one with its natural joys and malefactions, proceeds like a radiant dawn bringing forth a new light for our hearts. She did this with her “fiat” when she agreed to bring forth the Savior into the world, and she will do it again when it is time to enter the “New Jerusalem.”

The setting of this text is intended to place both singer and listener as a witness to that *great sign* that “*appeared in heaven: A woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars.*” We stand full of awe at the beauty that the Blessed Virgin represents and bestows as she proceeds to deliver aid to us in our journey towards salvation.

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for Choir (TTB) a cappella (2024)

Cant. 6: 3,9,8

n e lemme

(\* 1978)

Adagietto  
*mp*

Tenor I  
Quae est i - sta, quae est i - sta, quae est

Tenor II  
Quae est i - sta, quae est i - sta, quae est

Bass  
Quae est i - sta, quae est i - sta, quae est

*mf*

8

T. I  
i - - - - - sta quae pro - cés - sit si - -

T. II  
i - - - - - sta quae pro - cés - sit si - -

B.  
i - - - - - sta quae pro - cés - sit si - -

rall. . . . . a tempo

15

T. I  
- cut sol, et for - mó - - sa tam - quam Je - ru - sa - lem,

T. II  
- cut sol, et for - mó - sa tam - quam Je - rú - sa - lem,

B.  
- cut sol, et fo - mó - - sa tam - quam Je - rú - sa - lem,

23

T. I  
tam - quam Je - ru - sá - lem? *rall.* *a tempo* *mf con moto* Vi - dé - runt e -

T. II  
tam - quam Je - ru - sá - lem? *mf* Vi - dé - runt e -

B.  
tam - quam Je - ru - sá - lem? *mp* "mm"

31

T. I  
- am fi - li - ae Si - on, et be - á - tam di - xé - runt, di - *mf* *rall.*

T. II  
- an fi - li - ae Si - on, et be - á - tam di - xé - runt, di - *mf*

B.  
et be - á - tam di - xé - - - *mf*

39 a tempo

T. I -xé - runt, et re - gí - na lau - da - vé - runt e - am. rall.

T. II xé - runt, et re - gí - na lau - dá - vé - runt e -

B. - runt. et re - gí - na lau - da - vé - runt

46 a tempo

T. I Quae est i - sta quae pro - cés -

T. II - am. Quae est i - sta quae pro - cés - sit

B. e - am. Quae est i - sta quae pro - cés -

53 rall.

T. I -sit si - - cut sol, si - cut sol?

T. II si - - - cut sol, si - cut sol?

B. -sit cut sol, si - - cut sol?