

PROGRAM NOTE

Arise, Be Enlightened! is a short motet for unaccompanied chorus commissioned by Ensemble ArtChoral in Montréal (Matthias Maute, Artistic Director) with support from the Canada Council for the Arts. It was written for their upcoming CD recording and for premiere on their “Hallelujah - timeless melodies for the soul” program at Maison Symphonique, Place des Arts, Montréal in January 2024. This piece sets an excerpt from Isaiah 60: 1-2: “Arise, be enlightened, O Jerusalem, for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee; the Lord shall rise upon thee indeed, and His glory shall be seen within thee.” The first half of the piece is a setting of the words in Latin. In the second half, the music goes beyond words. A kind of cosmic scat takes over, with wordless syllables conveying a feeling of transcendence.

Kati Agócs, 2023