

Alexis Renee Ford

Gorgeous Blue Eyes

*“Something Blue”
from Four Wedding Songs*

for SSAATTBB Chorus, a cappella



About the Work

Gorgeous Blue Eyes comes from a larger set entitled the *Four Wedding Songs* which was dedicated as a wedding gift to Stephen and Stacey Squier on the eve of their wedding on July 29th, 2010. The four movements of the work were inspired by the tradition to give a bride “something old, something new, something borrowed, and something blue” with each movement in the piece representing these.

Finding the text for the final “something blue” movement was the most challenging seeing as the color blue is not typically associated with marriage or love. When I ran across this poem by South African poet, Tinka Boukes, I knew I had found the text for my final movement.

The piece opens with short, warm phrases as it layers the various harmonies and textures introduced before the first true climax. As the climax begins to relax, the music falls into the polyphonic textures of the second section. The musical ideas of this final movement attempt to capture everything from the nerves, to the excitement, to the rush and the emotion of those last few moments before the bride takes her first steps down the aisle. Just as the bride’s mind may be consumed by a million different feelings and emotions, the music of the ‘dancing’ section unfolds; any distinguishable melody is passed from voice part to voice part and the ear never quite decides who at that moment is taking charge. The tension builds with each step until the bride finally sees the eyes of her future husband at the end of the aisle. With her gaze fixed, the music broadens and resolves into the piece’s final cadence, finally reaching its end as the bride arrives at the altar and can think of nothing but those eyes.

Duration: Approx. 3’ 45”

*I crave to embrace you
To feel you, your voice
A gentle breeze in my ear
A smile lights up my face
As I look at you
Into those gorgeous blue eyes
Full of life
Full of love
No thoughts make me happier
Than dancing in the sand with you
As shades of purple sunset fades away
Connected to all that is you
Elegant and graceful Time forgotten
The shadow of a smile remains
The sun trying to take another peek
Gazing through the windows of my soul
As I take another look
Deep into those gorgeous blue eyes*

About the Composer



Alexis Renee Ford (b. 1988, USA) is a composer, conductor, singer, music educator, adjudicator, and accompanist. As a composer, Alexis has had performances and premieres of her pieces in Europe, Africa, and throughout the United States. She enjoys taking on new projects and commissions and often does composing workshops and clinics with groups performing her music.

With degrees in both composition and conducting, Alexis currently serves as Director of Music at Grace Lutheran Church in Hockessin, DE and was recently appointed as the Music Director of the professional chamber choir, Vox Populi. In addition, Alexis serves on the board of several non-profit arts organizations, performs regularly in the Greater Philadelphia Area, and maintains a private music studio.

To learn more about Alexis and her work, visit her website at www.alexisreneeford.com

For Stephen and Stacey Squier on the eve of their wedding on July 29th, 2010

Gorgeous Blue Eyes

"Something Blue"
from *Four Wedding Songs*

for SSAATTBB choir, a cappella

Tinka Boukes

Alexis Renee Ford (b. 1988)

Adagio, not dragging ♩ = 65

Soprano 1
Em-brace you your voice

Soprano 2
Em-brace you your voice

Alto 1
I crave to em-brace you To feel you, your voice A gen-tle

Alto 2
I crave to em-brace you To feel you, your voice o

Tenor
I crave to em-brace you To feel you, your voice, your voice o

Bass
I crave to em-brace you To feel you, your voice o

6

mp

A smile _____ lights up _____

mp

lights up my face my face

mp

breeze in my ear A smile lights up my face my face

mp

A smile lights up my face my face

p

As I look at

p

14

mp *mf*

I look at you in - to those gor-geous, in - to those gor-geous, gor-geous blue

mp *mf*

I look at you in - to those gor-geous, in - to those gor-geous, gor-geous blue

mp *mf*

I look at you in - to those gor-geous, in - to those gor-geous, gor-geous blue

mp *mf*

I look at you in - to those gor-geous, in - to those gor-geous, gor-geous blue

you, I look at you

mp *mf*

in - to those gor-geous, in - to those gor-geous, gor-geous blue

mp *mf*

in - to those gor-geous, in - to those gor-geous, gor-geous blue

rit.

19 *ff* *f* *mf*

eyes Full of life Full of love No thoughts make me hap-pi-er

ff *f* *mf*

eyes Full of life Full of love No thoughts make me hap-pi-er

ff *f* *mf*

eyes Full of life Full of love make me hap-pi-er

ff *f* *mf*

eyes Full of life Full of love make me hap-pi-er

ff *f*

eyes Full of life Full of love

ff *f*

eyes Full of life Full of love

Andantino ♩ = 65

26 *mp* *p*

Than Dan cing_ Dan cing_

mp *p*

Than Dan - cing_ Dan - cing_

p

Dan cing_ Dan cing_ Dan cing

p

Dan cing_ Dan cing_ Dan cing_

mp

dan - cing_ in the sand with you

p

dan - cing, dan - cing, with you, with

32 *mp*

Dan - cing — dan cing — dan - cing dan - - cing —

mp

Dan - cing — dan cing — dan - cing dan - - cing —

mp *mf*

— dan cing — dan - cing — pur - ple

mp *mf*

— dan cing — dan - cing — pur - ple

mf

As shades — of pur - ple sun - set fades a - way —

mp *mf*

As — shades, as — shades fades — a - way Co -

you, with you shades of pur - ple sun - - set

FOR PERSAL USE ONLY

36

mf

— All that is you _____ a sha- dow—

mf

— All that is you _____ a sha- dow—

mp

mf

sun - set, _____ sun-set El-e-gant and grace- ful _____ Time for - got- ten _____ a

mp

mf

sun - set, _____ sun-set El-e-gant and grace- ful _____ Time for - got- ten _____ a

mp

mf

— That is you _____ grace - ful _____ a sha-dow

mp

nec - ted to all that is you _____
Co - nec - ted _____ grace - ful, a smile

40 *f*
 — of a smile — the sun — Ga-zing

f
 — of a smile — the sun — Ga-zing

f
 sha-dow, a smile re- mains, a smile re-mains the sun, the sun, — the sun

f
 sha-dow, a smile re- mains, a smile re- mains — the sun, — the sun

f
 re - mains — the sun try-ing to take a no-ther, a-no-ther peek

f
 re - mains, re-mains, a smile re-mains the sun, a -no-ther peek
 re - mains, re-mains, a smile re-mains the sun, a peek

45

mf
 through my soul, my soul As I take a-no-ther look

mf
 through my soul, my soul As I take a-no-ther look

mf
 the wind-ows of my soul, my soul, my soul As I look

mf
 the wind-ows of my soul, my soul, my soul As I look

mf
 ga-zing through As I take a-no-ther look I look a-no-ther

mf
 ga-zing through my soul I take, I look, As I

FOR PEPUSAL USE ONLY

rit. Tempo primo

50 *f* *mf* *mp*

Deep In - to those gor - geous, in - to those gor - geous blue eyes

f *mf* *mp*

Deep In - to those gor - geous, in - to those gor - geous blue eyes

f *mf* *mp*

Deep In - to those gor - geous, in - to those gor - geous blue eyes

f *mf* *mp*

Deep In - to those gor - geous, in - to those gor - geous blue eyes

f *mf* *mp*

look Deep In - to those gor - geous, in - to those gor - geous blue eyes

f *mf* *mp*

look In - to those gor - geous, in - to those gor - geous blue eyes

More choral works by Alexis Renee Ford

Tu Lumen	<i>SSATB, a cappella</i>
A Boy and a Girl	<i>SSAATTBB, a cappella</i>
Christus Factus Est	<i>SSATBB, a cappella/string orchestra/organ</i>
A Late Walk	<i>SSAA, Soprano and Alto solo, a cappella</i>
Misericordias Domini	<i>SSATB, a cappella</i>
Rorate Caeli	<i>SATB, Soprano solo, a cappella</i>
Hush-A-Bye	<i>SATB, Soprano trio, a cappella</i>
Who Knows If The Moon's	<i>SATB, Soprano and Tenor solo, a cappella</i>
Three Strands	<i>SSAATB, Soprano solo</i>
She Tells Her Love	<i>SATB, a cappella</i>
A Thing of Beauty	<i>SATB, Soprano and Tenor solo, a cappella</i>
Ubi Caritas Et Amor	<i>SSATB, Tenor solo, a cappella</i>
All Lovely Tales	<i>SATB, a cappella</i>

For more information, recordings, and sample scores
of these and other compositions, visit
www.alexisreneeford.com