

Alexis Renee Ford

# Rorate Caeli

(Drop Down Ye Heavens)

for SSATB Chorus, a cappella



## About the Work

**Rorate Caeli** was written for Grace Lutheran Church in Hockessin, DE and premiered during the Advent season on December 7th, 2013. The text comes from the book of Isaiah and speaks of the yearning of the Jewish people for the coming of Messiah. Originally set to plainchant, several composers throughout history have set the text to music. This setting, although the melodic material is not directly based on the original chant, does echo the chant-like quality associated with this text in the soprano solo line. Likewise, the piece should be performed as if it is an echo of ancient chant - with a free, flowing tempo and a simple sense of meter-less line.



*Rorate caeli desuper  
Et nubes pluant justum*

*Vide Domine afflictionem populi tui,  
Et mitte quem missurus es:  
Emitte Agnum dominatorem terrae  
De Petra deserti ad montem  
Filiae Sion:  
Ut auferat ipse jugum  
Captivitatis nostrae.*

Drop down ye heavens, from above,  
And let the skies pour down righteousness:

Behold, O Lord, the affliction of thy people  
And send forth Him who is to come  
Send forth the Lamb, the ruler of the earth  
From Petra of the desert to the mount of the  
daughter of Sion  
That He may take away the yoke  
of our captivity

**Duration:** Approx. 3:30

## 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](http://www.alexisreneeford.com)

For Grace Lutheran Church in Hockessin, DE

# Rorate Caeli

(Drop Down Ye Heavens)

for SATB choir and Soprano solo, *a cappella*

Traditional Latin Text

Alexis Renee Ford (b.1988)

**Freely ( $\text{J} = 80$ )**

Soprano Solo

Soprano

Alto

Tenor

Bass

Piano  
(for rehearsal only)

**Freely ( $\text{J} = 80$ )**

**p**

**mp**

**mp**

**mp**

**Ro-**

**p**

**mp**

7

p

et nu-bes plu-ant ju - stum

cae - li Vi - de, vi - de, vi - de,

cae - li Vi - de, vi - de, vi - de,

cae - li Vi - de,

ra - te cae - li Vi - de,

p

mf

f

mf

f

f

mf

f

15 *mp chant-like, free*

af - flic- ti - o-nem po -

**p**

vi - de do - mi - ne Vi - de Do-mi - ne Do-mi - ne

**p**

vi - de do - mi - ne Vi - de Do-mi - ne, Do-mi - ne

**p**

8 vi - de Do - mi - ne Vi - de Do-mi - ne Do-mi - ne

**p**

vi - de Do - mi - ne Vi - de Do-mi - ne Do-mi - ne

8

8

**p**

8

22

- pu - li tu - i et\_\_\_ mit-te quem mis - su-rus es:

Do-mi-ne

Do-mi-ne

Do-mi-ne

Do-mi-ne

*mf*

*mf*

*mf*

*mf*

29

A musical score for orchestra and choir. The score consists of five staves. The top staff is soprano, followed by three staves for orchestra (two violins, cello/bass), and a basso continuo staff at the bottom. The vocal parts sing in Latin. Measure 29 starts with a rest, followed by a forte dynamic. The soprano sings "de\_\_\_\_\_ Pe - tra". The orchestra and basso continuo provide harmonic support. Measure 30 begins with a forte dynamic. The soprano sings "mit-te Ag - num do - mi-na - to - rem - ter-rae". The orchestra and basso continuo continue their harmonic function. The vocal parts repeat the same line in measure 31: "mit-te Ag - num do mi-na - to - rem ter-rae". Measures 32 and 33 show the soprano singing "do - mi-na - to - rem ter-rae" again, while the orchestra and basso continuo provide harmonic support. The score concludes with a final section where the soprano and orchestra play eighth-note patterns, followed by a basso continuo section.

f

de\_\_\_\_\_ Pe - tra

mit-te Ag - num do - mi-na - to - rem - ter-rae

mit-te Ag - num do mi-na - to - rem ter-rae

f

do - mi-na - to - rem ter-rae

f

do - mi-na - to - rem ter-rae

f

36

de - ser - ti ad mon - tem ad mon-tem fi - li - ae

8

FOR PERUSAL USE ONLY

43

Si - - on      *mp* ut\_\_\_\_\_, au - fe - rat, ip - se\_\_\_, ju - gum

*p*

*p*

*p*

Do-mi - ne

Do-mi - ne

Do-mi - ne

Do-mi - ne

*p*

Do-mi - ne

Do-mi - ne

Do-mi - ne

Do-mi - ne

50

A musical score for soprano and basso continuo. The soprano part is in treble clef, and the basso continuo part is in bass clef. The score consists of six systems of music. The first system starts with a rest for the soprano, followed by a dynamic **p**. The lyrics "cap - ti - vi - ta - tis" are sung over a sustained note. The second system begins with a dynamic **mp**, followed by a melodic line with a fermata. The lyrics "no - strae" are sung. The third system continues with a dynamic **mp**, followed by a melodic line with a fermata. The lyrics "Ro - ra - te cae - li," are sung. The fourth system begins with a dynamic **mp**, followed by a melodic line with a fermata. The lyrics "Ro - ra - te cae - li," are sung again. The fifth system begins with a dynamic **mp**, followed by a melodic line with a fermata. The lyrics "Do - mi - ne" are sung. The sixth system begins with a dynamic **mp**, followed by a melodic line with a fermata. The lyrics "no - strae" are sung. The basso continuo part features sustained notes and chords throughout the score.

cap - ti - vi - ta - tis      no - strae

Do - mi - ne      no - strae      Ro - ra - te cae - li,

Do - mi - ne      no - strae      Ro - ra - te cae - li,

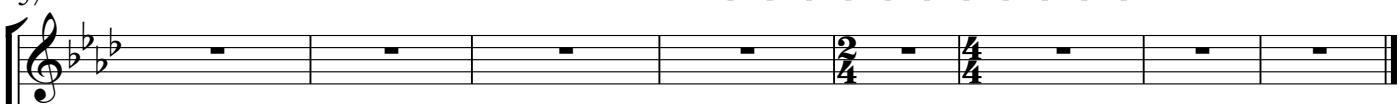
Do - mi - ne      no - strae

Do - mi - ne      no - strae

Do - mi - ne      no - strae      **mp**      **p**

57

rit.

*mp**pp*

ro - ra - te cae - li,

ro - ra - te cae - li,

cae - li A - men

*mp**pp*

ro - ra - te cae - li,

ro - ra - te cae - li,

cae - li A - men

*mp**pp*

cae - li

cae - li,

cae - li A - men

*mp* ————— *pp*

Ro - ra - te cae - li A - men

rit.

*mp**pp*

## More choral works by Alexis Renee Ford

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

For more information, recordings, and sample scores

of these and other compositions, visit

[www.alexisreneeford.com](http://www.alexisreneeford.com)