

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*

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

*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.*

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 (♩ = 80)

Soprano Solo

Soprano

Alto

Tenor

Bass

Piano (for rehearsal only)

Ro-ra-te cae-li, ro-ra-te cae-li, ro-ra-te cae-li, \_\_\_\_\_

Ro-ra-te cae-li, ro-ra-te cae-li, ro-ra-te cae-li \_\_\_\_\_

cae-li cae-li, \_\_\_\_\_

Ro-

Freely (♩ = 80)

7

*p*

et nu-bes plu-ant ju - stum

*mf* *f*

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

*mf* *f*

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

*f*

cae - li Vi - de,

*f*

ra - te cae - li Vi - de,

*p* *mf* *f*

15

*mp* chant-like, free

af - flic - ti - o - nem po -

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*

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*

*p*

22

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

*mf*

Do - mi - ne e -

*mf*

Do - mi - ne e -

Do - mi - ne

Do - mi - ne

*mf*

29

*f*

de Pe - tra

*f*

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

*f*

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*

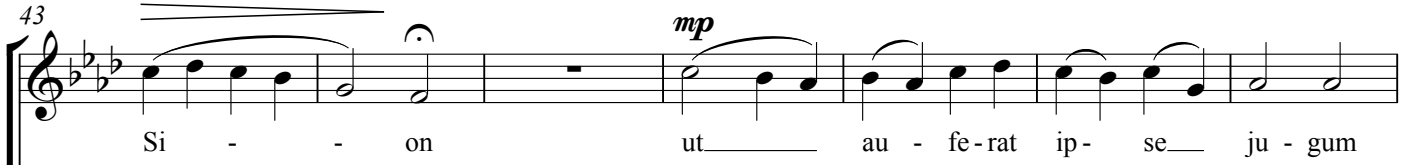
36

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

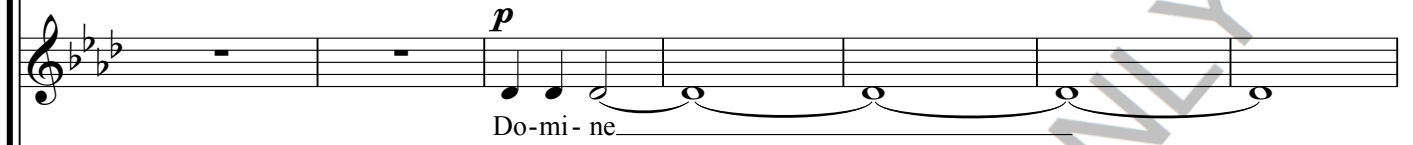
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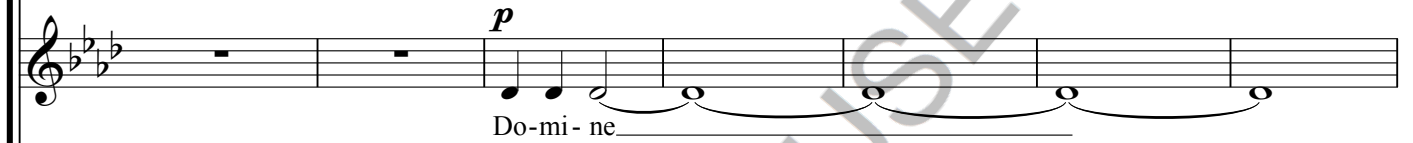
43



Si - - on ut au - fe-rat ip- se ju - gum



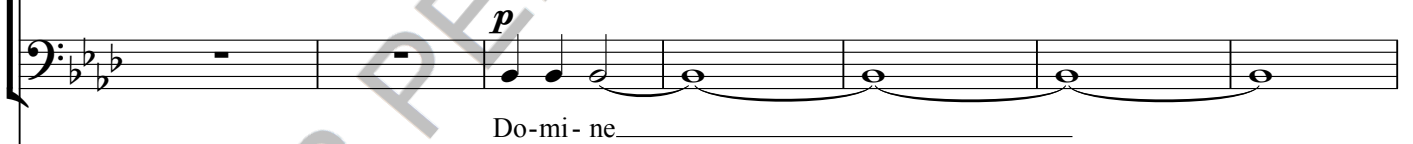
*p*  
Do-mi- ne



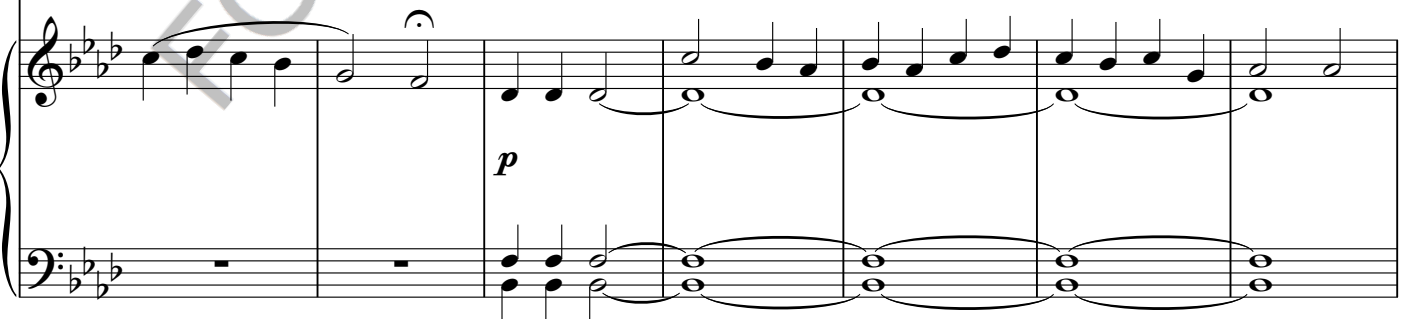
*p*  
Do-mi- ne



*p*  
Do-mi- ne



*p*  
Do-mi- ne



*p*

50

*p* *mp*

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

*mp* *p*

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

*mp* *p*

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

*mp*

Do - mi - ne no - strae

*mp*

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)