

SSAATTBB

The Swan

\$2.50

Christopher Alexander

The Swan

SSAATTBB, unaccompanied

cantareworks

THE MUSIC OF CHRISTOPHER ALEXANDER

About the Work

Set in a whimsical contemporary setting of the beloved poem, this choral setting of *The Swan* invokes the vivid imagery of its text by utilizing various textures and voice groupings as well as word painting. Each voice gets the chance (even if for a short while) to sing the melody and propel the song forward before returning to the supportive background. The chorus should perform the seamless harmonies and gentle nature of this work with the same gracefulness as a swan gliding on top of the water.

*Under the lily shadow
and the gold
and the blue and mauve
that the whin and the lilac
pour down on the water,
the fishes glisten;*

*Over the green cold leaves
and the rippled silver
and the tarnished copper
of its neck and beak,
toward the deep black water
beneath the arches,
the swan floats slowly.*

*Into the dark of the arch the swan floats
and into the black depth of my sorrow
it bears a white rose of flame.*

— F. S. Flint (1885-1960)

About the Composer



Mr. Christopher Alexander is an award-winning composer and arranger from St. Joseph, Missouri. He received his Bachelor of Science in Vocal Music Education degree from Missouri Western State University in 2009. A self-taught pianist, his compositions and arrangements ranging from instrumental works to vocal solo and choral literature. Mr. Alexander has been commissioned numerous times by singing groups and church choirs within the northwest Missouri and northeast Kansas regions. He is also active in musical theatre productions as a music director and pianist. His works have been published with GIA Music Publications and Hal Leonard.

In 2016, he was awarded the St. Joseph Allied Arts Council Mayor's Award for Artist of the Year. In 2022, he was inducted into the New Generation Singers Hall of Fame.

Mr. Alexander currently serves as the pianist and primary arranger for The New Generation Singers, a Christian singing youth group based in St. Joseph, Missouri. He is a member of NAFME, ACDA, MCDA, and Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia Fraternity.

He is available for commissions and conducting events on request.

The Swan

For SSAATTBB, unaccompanied

Words by
F. S. FLINT (1885-1960)

Music by
CHRISTOPHER ALEXANDER

Adagietto con grazia (♩ = 68)

mp

SOPRANO I

Musical staff for Soprano I, 4/4 time signature, treble clef. The melody begins with a quarter note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, Bb4, and C5, then a half note D5. The lyrics "Un - der the li - ly sha - dow" are written below the staff.

Un - der the li - ly sha - dow

SOPRANO II

Musical staff for Soprano II, 4/4 time signature, treble clef. The melody begins with a quarter note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, Bb4, and C5, then a half note D5. The lyrics "Un - der the li - ly sha - dow" are written below the staff.

Un - der the li - ly sha - dow and

ALTO

Musical staff for Alto, 4/4 time signature, treble clef. The melody begins with a quarter note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, Bb4, and C5, then a half note D5. The lyrics "Un - der the li - ly sha - dow" are written below the staff.

Un - der the li - ly sha - dow

ALTO II

Musical staff for Alto II, 4/4 time signature, treble clef. The melody begins with a quarter note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, Bb4, and C5, then a half note D5. The lyrics "Un - der the li - ly sha - dow" are written below the staff.

Un - der the li - ly sha - dow and the blue

TENOR I

Musical staff for Tenor I, 4/4 time signature, treble clef. The melody begins with a quarter note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, Bb4, and C5, then a half note D5. The lyrics "Un - der the li - ly sha - dow" are written below the staff.

Un - der the li - ly sha - dow

TENOR II

Musical staff for Tenor II, 4/4 time signature, treble clef. The melody begins with a quarter note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, Bb4, and C5, then a half note D5. The lyrics "Un - der the li - ly sha - dow" are written below the staff.

Un - der the li - ly sha - dow and the gold

BARITONE

Musical staff for Baritone, 4/4 time signature, bass clef. The melody begins with a quarter note G3, followed by quarter notes A3, Bb3, and C4, then a half note D4. The lyrics "Un - der the li - ly sha - dow" are written below the staff.

Un - der the li - ly sha - dow

BASS

Musical staff for Bass, 4/4 time signature, bass clef. The melody begins with a quarter note G3, followed by quarter notes A3, Bb3, and C4, then a half note D4. The lyrics "Un - der the li - ly sha - dow" are written below the staff.

Un - der the li - ly sha - dow

Adagietto con grazia (♩ = 68)

mp

Piano
(for rehearsal only)

Piano accompaniment staves, 4/4 time signature, treble and bass clefs. The music consists of chords and arpeggiated figures. The lyrics "Un - der the li - ly sha - dow" are written below the staves.

The Swan

4

5

SOP. I

that the whin and the li - lac pour down on the wa - ter,

SOP. II

mauve that the whin and the li - lac pour down on the wa - ter,

ALTO I

that the whin and the li - lac pour down on the wa - ter,

ALTO II

that the whin and the li - lac pour down on the wa - ter,

TEN. I

TEN. II

BAR.

BASS

9

SOP. I *poco rit.* qui - ver.

SOP. II *poco rit.* qui - ver.

ALTO I *poco rit.* qui - ver.

ALTO II *poco rit.* qui - ver.

TEN. I *poco rit.* the fish - es qui - ver, qui - ver.

TEN. II *poco rit.* the fish - es qui - ver, qui - ver.

BAR. *poco rit.* the fish - es qui - ver, qui - ver.

BASS *poco rit.* (opt.) the fish - es qui - ver, qui - ver.

14

Piu mosso (♩ = 70)

mp

SOP. I

Musical staff for Soprano I, showing a melodic line with a long note at the end. The lyrics "Ooh..." are written below the staff.

SOP. II

Musical staff for Soprano II, showing a melodic line. The lyrics "Ooh..." and "and the rip - pled" are written below the staff.

ALTO I

Musical staff for Alto I, featuring a triplet of eighth notes. The lyrics "Ooh...", "over the green cold leaves", and "and the rip - pled su - ver" are written below the staff.

ALTO II

Musical staff for Alto II, showing a melodic line. The lyrics "Ooh..." and "and the rip - pled" are written below the staff.

TEN. I

Musical staff for Tenor I, showing a melodic line. The lyrics "Ooh..." are written below the staff.

TEN. II

Musical staff for Tenor II, showing a melodic line. The lyrics "Ooh..." are written below the staff.

BAR.

Musical staff for Baritone, showing a melodic line. The lyrics "Ooh..." are written below the staff.

BASS

Musical staff for Bass, showing a melodic line. The lyrics "Ooh..." are written below the staff.

15

Piu mosso (♩ = 70)

mp

Musical staff for piano accompaniment, showing a complex chordal texture with triplets. The lyrics "Ooh..." are written below the staff.