

SATB

And I Can Sing (The Gift to Sing)

\$2.50

Christopher Alexander

And I  
Can Sing  
(The Gift to Sing)

*SATB and Piano*

**cantareworks**

THE MUSIC OF CHRISTOPHER ALEXANDER

## About the Work

Using the poem *The Gift to Sing* by James Weldon Johnson, this dramatic composition takes the singers and audience alike on an adventure discovering their own unique voice. Beginning as a lyrical melody in minor, the piece builds to its parallel major with a declaration from the poem's text and evolves even further to an epic and dramatic statement universal to everybody. This will be a great addition to your concert or festival repertoire celebrating the art of singing.

*Sometimes the mist overhands my path,  
And blackening clouds about me cling;  
But, oh, I have a magic way  
To turn the gloom to cheerful day—  
I softly sing.*

*And if the way grows darker still,  
Shadowed by Sorrow's somber wing,  
With glad defiance in my throat,  
I pierce the darkness with a note,  
And sing, and sing.*

*I brood not over the broken past,  
Nor dread whatever time may bring,  
No nights are dark, no days are long,  
While in my heart there swells a song,  
And I can sing.*

— James Weldon Johnson (1871-1938)

## 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.

# And I Can Sing (The Gift to Sing) For SATB Choir and Piano

Words by  
JAMES WELDON JOHNSON  
(1871-1938)

Music by  
CHRISTOPHER ALEXANDER

Lento misterioso (♩ = 58)

PIANO

*p* tranquillo

Pedal harmonically

Detailed description: This block shows the piano introduction. It consists of two staves in 4/4 time. The right hand features a melodic line with eighth notes and triplets. The left hand provides harmonic support with chords and triplets. The tempo is marked 'Lento misterioso' with a quarter note equal to 58 beats per minute. The dynamics are 'p' (piano) and the mood is 'tranquillo'. A 'Pedal harmonically' instruction is present.

4 SOPRANO, ALTO *um.* *p dolce* 5

Some - times the mist

Detailed description: This block contains the first line of the vocal melody and piano accompaniment. The vocal line is for Soprano and Alto, starting on a whole note 'Some' and moving to a half note 'times'. The piano accompaniment features a bass line with eighth notes and triplets. The tempo is 'Lento misterioso'. The dynamics are 'um.' (unmeasured rest) and 'p dolce' (piano dolce). A rehearsal mark '5' is placed at the beginning of the vocal line.

7 o - ver hang my path And black-'ning clouds

Detailed description: This block contains the second line of the vocal melody and piano accompaniment. The vocal line continues with 'o - ver hang my path And black-'ning clouds'. The piano accompaniment continues with similar rhythmic patterns. The tempo is 'Lento misterioso'. A rehearsal mark '7' is placed at the beginning of the vocal line.

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10 (SOPRANO, ALTO)

a - bout me cling; But,

This system contains the vocal line and piano accompaniment for measures 10 through 12. The vocal line is in treble clef with a key signature of one flat. The piano accompaniment is in grand staff (treble and bass clefs). Measure 10 features a triplet of eighth notes in the piano part. Measure 11 has a triplet of eighth notes in the bass clef. Measure 12 has a triplet of eighth notes in the bass clef. Dynamics include a hairpin crescendo over measures 10-11 and a hairpin decrescendo over measures 11-12.

13

oh, I have a ma - gic wand To

*mf* *p*

This system contains the vocal line and piano accompaniment for measures 13 through 15. The vocal line is in treble clef. The piano accompaniment is in grand staff. Measure 13 has a triplet of eighth notes in the bass clef. Measure 14 has a triplet of eighth notes in the bass clef. Measure 15 has a triplet of eighth notes in the bass clef. Dynamics include *mf* and *p* markings.

13

16

turn the gloom to cheer - ful day - I

This system contains the vocal line and piano accompaniment for measures 16 through 18. The vocal line is in treble clef. The piano accompaniment is in grand staff. Measure 16 has a triplet of eighth notes in the bass clef. Measure 17 has a triplet of eighth notes in the bass clef. Measure 18 has a triplet of eighth notes in the bass clef.

19

soft - ly sing.

This system contains the vocal line and piano accompaniment for measures 19 through 21. The vocal line is in treble clef. The piano accompaniment is in grand staff. Measure 19 has a triplet of eighth notes in the bass clef. Measure 20 has a triplet of eighth notes in the bass clef. Measure 21 has a triplet of eighth notes in the bass clef.

19

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22 SOPRANO, ALTO 23 *mp espress.* *unis.*

TENOR, BASS *unis. mp dolce* Some - times the mist

22 23 *mp espress.*

Some - times the mist

25 *unis.*

o - ver - hangs my path, And black - 'ning clouds

o - ver - hangs my path, And black - 'ning clouds

25

28

a - bout me, a - bout me

a - bout me

28

But,

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31

clinging; I have a

*mf*

This system shows the vocal line starting with a fermata on the word 'clinging;'. The piano accompaniment features a melodic line with a fermata and a bass line with a dotted half note. Dynamics include *mf* and *mf*.

31

oh, I have a magic way To

*marc.* *mf*

This system continues the vocal line with 'oh, I have a magic way To'. The piano accompaniment features a melodic line with a fermata and a bass line with a dotted half note. Dynamics include *marc.* and *mf*. There are triplets in the piano accompaniment.

33

way to cheer - in day- I

*unis. p* *p*

This system continues the vocal line with 'way to cheer - in day- I'. The piano accompaniment features a melodic line with a fermata and a bass line with a dotted half note. Dynamics include *unis. p* and *p*.

33

turn the gloom to cheer - in day- I

*p*

This system continues the vocal line with 'turn the gloom to cheer - in day- I'. The piano accompaniment features a melodic line with a fermata and a bass line with a dotted half note. Dynamics include *p*. There are triplets in the piano accompaniment.

36

soft - ly sing. And

*mf* *mf*

This system continues the vocal line with 'soft - ly sing. And'. The piano accompaniment features a melodic line with a fermata and a bass line with a dotted half note. Dynamics include *mf* and *mf*.

36

soft ly sing. And

*mf*

This system continues the vocal line with 'soft ly sing. And'. The piano accompaniment features a melodic line with a fermata and a bass line with a dotted half note. Dynamics include *mf*. There are triplets in the piano accompaniment.