

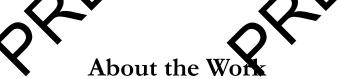
Christopher Alexander

\$2.50

(The Gift to Sing)

SATB and Piano





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, Shadoned by Sorrow's somber wing, With glad defence in my throat, I pierce we darkness with a note, And sing, and sing.

Norood not over the broken past, Nor dread whatever time may bring, No nights are dark, no days are long While in my heart there scalls son And I can sing

— James Welcon 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 And Gouncil Mayor's Award for Artist of the Year. In 2022, he was inducted into the New Generation Singers Hall of Fame.

Mit Alexander currently serves as the panet and primary arranger for The New Generation Singers, a Christian singing you bgroup based in St. Joseph, Missourie He is a member of NAfME, ACDA, MCDA, and thi Mu Alpha Sinfonia Braternity.

He is available for commissions and conducting events on request.







