

SATB

A Spotless Rose

\$2.50

A Spotless Rose

Music by
Christopher Alexander

SATB, a cappella

cantareworks

THE MUSIC OF CHRISTOPHER ALEXANDER

About the Work

Based on Isaiah 11:1, this 15th century German carol poem was translated to English by Catherine Winkworth around the turn of the 20th century. The illustration of the rosebud blossoming from the tender root is metaphoric to the birth of Jesus from the Virgin Mary. This tranquil a cappella setting features an echo-like repetition of the first stanza, and divisi for all parts in the second.

*A spotless Rose is blowing
Sprung from a tender root,
Of ancient seers' foreshowing,
Of Jesse promised fruit;
Its fairest bud unfolds to light
Amid the cold, cold winter
And in the dark midnight.*

*The Rose which I am singing,
Whereof Isaiah said,
Is from its sweet root springing
In Mary, purest Maid;
For through our God's great love and might
The blessed babe she bare us
In a cold, cold winter's night.*

— 15th Century German carol
Translated by Catherine Winkworth

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.

A SPOTLESS ROSE

SATB, a cappella

15th CENTURY GERMAN CAROL
Translated by CATHERINE WINKWORTH

Music by
CHRISTOPHER ALEXANDER

*A spotless Rose is blowing
Sprung from a tender root,
Of ancient seers' foreshowing,
Of Jesse promised fruit;
Its fairest bud unfolds to light
Amid the cold, cold winter
Star in the dark midnight.*

*The Rose which I am singing,
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For through our God's great love and might
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On a cold, cold winter's night.*

A Lento tranquillo con poco rubato (♩ = c. 56)

mp - p legato

SOPRANO

A spot - less Rose is blow - ing Sprung from a

mp - p legato

ALTO

A spot - less Rose is blow - ing Sprung from a

mp - p legato

TENOR

A spot - less Rose is blow - ing Sprung from a

mp - p legato

BASS

A spot - less Rose is blow - ing Sprung from a

A Lento tranquillo con poco rubato (♩ = c. 56)

mp - p legato

PIANO

(for rehearsal only)

A Spotless Rose

5

ten - der root, Of an - cient seers' fore - show - ing, Of

ten - der root, Of an - cient seers' fore - show - ing, Of

ten - der root, Of an - cient seers' fore - show - ing, Of

ten - der root, Of an - cient seers' fore - show - ing, Of

5

10

Jes - se prom - ised fruit; Its fair - est bud un - folds to

Jes - se prom - ised fruit; Its fair - est bud un - folds to

Jes - se prom - ised fruit; Its fair - est bud un - folds to

Jes - se prom - ised fruit; Its fair - est bud un - folds to

10

A Spotless Rose

14

light _____ A - mid the cold, cold win - ter

light _____ A - mid the cold, cold win - ter

light _____ A - mid the cold, cold win - ter

light _____ A - mid the cold, cold win - ter

This block contains the musical notation for measures 14 through 18. It features four staves: three for vocal parts (Soprano, Alto, and Tenor) and one for piano accompaniment. The vocal parts are in treble clef, and the piano part is in bass clef. The key signature has three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "light _____ A - mid the cold, cold win - ter".

14

This block shows the piano accompaniment for measures 14 through 18, corresponding to the vocal parts above. It consists of two staves: a right-hand treble clef staff and a left-hand bass clef staff. The music features chords and moving lines in both hands.

19

And in the dark mid - night.

And in the dark mid - night.

And in the dark mid - night.

And in the dark mid - night.

This block contains the musical notation for measures 19 through 23. It features four staves: three for vocal parts (Soprano, Alto, and Tenor) and one for piano accompaniment. The vocal parts are in treble clef, and the piano part is in bass clef. The lyrics are: "And in the dark mid - night.". The music concludes with double bar lines and repeat dots.

19

This block shows the piano accompaniment for measures 19 through 23, corresponding to the vocal parts above. It consists of two staves: a right-hand treble clef staff and a left-hand bass clef staff. The music features chords and moving lines in both hands, ending with a final cadence.

A Spotless Rose

B

pp *f*

The Rose which I am sing - ing,

pp *f*

Rose which I am sing - ing,

pp *f*

which I am sing - ing,

pp *f*

I am sing - ing,

B

pp *f*

29

Where - of I - sai - ah said, Is

Where - of I - sai - ah said, Is

Where - of I - sai - ah said, Is

Where - of I - sai - ah said, Is

29