

SATB

Christmas Carol

\$2.50

Christmas Carol

Music by
Christopher Alexander

SATB and Piano

Also available in: SAB, SSA, and TTB

cantareworks

THE MUSIC OF CHRISTOPHER ALEXANDER

About the Work

The bells are ringing out with this boisterous Christmas anthem! Not to be confused with the Charles Dickens classic, this musical setting of Dunbar's poem gives a vivid illustration of the yuletide while the piano incorporates bell-like clusters and occasional lyrical arpeggiations. The work segues to a tranquil parallel minor before returning to the original for the celebratory finale.

*Ring out, ye bells!
All Nature swells
With gladness at the wondrous story,—
The world was lorn,
But Christ is born
To change our sadness into glory.*

*Sing, earthlings, sing!
Tonight a King
Hath come from heaven's high throne to bless us.
The outstretched hand
O'er all the land
Is raised in pity to caress us.*

*Come, at his call;
Be joyful all,
Away with mourning and with sadness!
The heavenly choir
With holy fire
Their voices raise in songs of gladness.*

*The darkness breaks
And Dawn awakes,
Her cheeks suffused with youthful blushes.
The rocks and stones
In holy tones
Are singing sweeter than the thrushes.*

*Then why should we
In silence be,
When Nature lends her voice to praises;
When heaven and earth
Proclaim the truth
Of Him for whom that lone star blazes?*

*No, be not still,
But with a will
Strike all your harps and let them ring;
On hill and heath
Let every breath
Throw all its power in singing!*

— Paul Laurence Dunbar (1872-1906)

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.

CHRISTMAS CAROL

Words by
PAUL LAURENCE DUNBAR
(1872-1906)

SATB and Piano

Music by
CHRISTOPHER ALEXANDER

Celebratory (♩ = c. 92)

PIANO

f

The piano introduction consists of two staves in 6/8 time. The right hand plays a series of chords in the treble clef, while the left hand plays a simple bass line in the bass clef. The dynamic marking is *f* (forte).

4 SOPRANO, ALTO *f unis.* 5

Ring out, ye bells! All Na - ture

TENOR, BASS *f unis.*

The vocal entry for Soprano/Alto and Tenor/Bass begins at measure 4. Both parts start with a half rest followed by a quarter note on the same pitch, then continue with a melodic line. The dynamic marking is *f unis.* (forte unison). A circled number '5' is placed above the Soprano/Alto staff at the end of the first phrase.

4 5

The piano accompaniment continues from measure 4. It features a steady bass line in the left hand and chords in the right hand. A circled number '5' is placed above the right-hand staff at the end of the first phrase.

8

swells With glad - ness at the won - drous sto -

The vocal parts continue from measure 8. The lyrics are "swells With glad - ness at the won - drous sto -". The notation shows a melodic line with a slight rise and then a fall.

8

The piano accompaniment continues from measure 8, providing harmonic support for the vocal line with chords and a bass line.

Also available in: SAB, SSA and TTB.

Christmas Carol (SATB)

12

ry, The world was lorn, But Christ is

12

16

born To change our sad - ness in - to glo -

16

20

21

ry. Sing, earth - lings, sing! To - night a

20

21

24

King Hath come from heav - en's throne to bless

Piano accompaniment for measures 24-27, featuring a treble and bass clef with various musical notations including chords and melodic lines.

28

us. The out - stretched hand O'er all the

Piano accompaniment for measures 28-31, featuring a treble and bass clef with various musical notations including chords and melodic lines.

32

land is raised in pit - ty to ca - ress

Piano accompaniment for measures 32-35, featuring a treble and bass clef with various musical notations including chords and melodic lines.

Christmas Carol (SATB)

36

us.

36

40

mf unis. **41**
Come His call; Be joy - ful
mp mis.
Come at His call; Be joy -

40

mf

44

all; A - way with mourn - ing and with sad -
ful all.

44