

SSA

Christmas Carol

\$2.50

Christmas Carol

Music by
Christopher Alexander

SSA and Piano

Also available in: SATB, SAB, 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)

SSA and Piano

Music by
CHRISTOPHER ALEXANDER

Celebratory (♩. = c. 92)

PIANO

f

4 SOPRANO I & II *f unis.* 5

Ring out, ye bells! All Na - ture

ALTO *f*

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

Also available in: SATB, SAB, and TTB.

Christmas Carol - SSA

12

ry, The world _____ was lorn, But Christ _____ is

12

16

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

16

21

20

ry. Sing, earth - lins, sing! To - night _____ a

20

24

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

This system contains the first two staves of music. The top staff is a vocal line in treble clef with lyrics. The bottom staff is a piano accompaniment in treble clef. The music begins with a key signature of one flat and a 7/8 time signature. The lyrics are: King Hath come from heav - en's throne to bless.

This system shows the piano accompaniment for the first system, consisting of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The music is in 7/8 time and features a mix of eighth and sixteenth notes.

28

us. The but stretched hand O'er all the

This system contains the second two staves of music. The top staff is a vocal line in treble clef with lyrics. The bottom staff is a piano accompaniment in treble clef. The lyrics are: us. The but stretched hand O'er all the.

This system shows the piano accompaniment for the second system, consisting of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The music continues with a similar rhythmic pattern.

32

land is raised in pit - to ca - ress

unis.

This system contains the third two staves of music. The top staff is a vocal line in treble clef with lyrics. The bottom staff is a piano accompaniment in treble clef. The lyrics are: land is raised in pit - to ca - ress. The word *unis.* is written above the final measure of the vocal line.

This system shows the piano accompaniment for the third system, consisting of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The music concludes with a final chord.

Christmas Carol - SSA

36

us.

36

40

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

mp
Come at His call; Be joy -

40

41
mf

44

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

ful all.

44