

SAB

The Joy of Giving

\$2.25

The Joy of Giving

Music by
Christopher Alexander

SAB and opt. Piano

Also available in: SATB, SSAA, TTBB, and Unison/Two-Part

cantareworks

THE MUSIC OF CHRISTOPHER ALEXANDER

About the Work

This deceptively simple Christmas tune is rich with its nontraditional key signature, homophonic texture, and harmonic suspensions. It can be performed with or without piano accompaniment, making it accessible for singers to perform anywhere. Set like a benediction, this work would be perfect as a concert closer for your entire choir department to sing together at the end of your holiday concert. The text by John Whittier reminds us to be thankful for the Christmas season and share that same sentiment with others “all the year through”.

*Somehow, not only for Christmas,
But all the long year through,
The joy that you give to others
Is the joy that comes back to you.*

*And the more you spend on blessing
The poor and lonely and sad,
The more of your heart's possessing
Returns to make you glad.*

— John Greenleaf Whittier (1807–1892)

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.

THE JOY OF GIVING

(Benediction)

Words by
JOHN GREENLEAF WHITTIER (1807-1892)

SAB and opt. Piano

Music by
CHRISTOPHER ALEXANDER

Lento dolce e espressivo (♩ = c. 56-58)

PIANO

mf

Musical notation for the piano introduction, consisting of two staves (treble and bass clef) in a 3/4 time signature. The key signature has three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). The music begins with a piano (*mf*) dynamic and features a mix of chords and moving lines.

5

SOPRANO, ALTO

BARITONE

mf

Some -

Musical notation for the vocal entry, showing three staves for Soprano/Alto, Baritone, and Piano accompaniment. The vocal parts enter in measure 5. The Soprano/Alto part has a *mf* dynamic. The lyrics "Some -" are written below the Soprano/Alto staff.

Musical notation for the piano accompaniment, showing two staves (treble and bass clef) continuing from the previous system. It includes chords and a melodic line in the bass.

9

(*p* 2nd time)

how, not on - ly for Christ - mas, But

Musical notation for the vocal and piano parts, showing three staves. The vocal parts enter in measure 9 with the lyrics "how, not on - ly for Christ - mas, But". The piano part provides accompaniment. The dynamic is marked (*p* 2nd time).

9

(*p* 2nd time)

Musical notation for the piano accompaniment, showing two staves (treble and bass clef) continuing from the previous system. It includes chords and a melodic line in the bass. The dynamic is marked (*p* 2nd time).

If performing a cappella, start in measure 8.
Also available in: SATB, SSAA, TTBB, and Unison/Two-Part.

The Joy of Giving - SAB

13

all the long year through, The

This block contains the vocal line for measures 13 and 14. The melody is in a minor key and features a long note on 'through,' that spans across the bar line. The lyrics are 'all the long year through, The'.

13

This block contains the piano accompaniment for measures 13 and 14. The left hand plays a steady bass line, while the right hand provides harmonic support with chords and moving lines.

7

joy that you give to oth Is the

This block contains the vocal line for measures 15 and 16. The melody continues with the lyrics 'joy that you give to oth Is the'.

17

This block contains the piano accompaniment for measures 15 and 16. The accompaniment features a mix of chords and moving lines in both hands.

21

that comes back to you. And the

This block contains the vocal line for measures 17 and 18. The melody concludes with the lyrics 'that comes back to you. And the'.

21

This block contains the piano accompaniment for measures 17 and 18. The accompaniment provides a harmonic foundation for the vocal line.