

Unison/Two-Part

The Joy of Giving

\$2.25

The Joy of Giving

Music by
Christopher Alexander

Unison/Two-Part and opt. Piano

Also available in: SATB, SAB, SSAA, and TTBB

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)

Unison/Two-Part 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 tempo is marked 'Lento dolce e espressivo' with a quarter note equal to approximately 56-58 beats per minute. The dynamic is marked 'mf'.

5 PART I (if Unison, sing PART I only) *mf*

Musical notation for the first vocal part, starting at measure 5. It is marked 'PART I (if Unison, sing PART I only)' and has a dynamic of 'mf'.

PART II (optional) Some -

Musical notation for the second vocal part, starting at measure 5. It is marked 'PART II (optional)' and includes the lyrics 'Some -'.

Musical notation for the piano accompaniment, continuing from measure 5. It consists of two staves (treble and bass clef).

9 (*p* 2nd time)

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

Musical notation for the vocal line, starting at measure 9. It includes the lyrics 'how, not on - ly for Christ - mas, _____ But'. The dynamic is marked '(p 2nd time)'.

9 (*p* 2nd time)

Musical notation for the piano accompaniment, starting at measure 9. It includes the dynamic marking '(p 2nd time)'.

If performing a cappella, start in measure 8.
Also available in: SATB, SAB, SSAA, and TTBB.

The Joy of Giving - Urson Two-Part

13

all the long year through, _____ The

13

15

joy that you give to others _____ Is the

17

21

joy that comes back to you. _____ And the

21