

SATB

Music on Christmas Morning

\$2.50

Music on Christmas Morning

Music by
Christopher Alexander

SATB and Piano

cantareworks

THE MUSIC OF CHRISTOPHER ALEXANDER

About the Work

This poem by the young nineteenth-century poet Anne Bronte gives a vivid stance on the power of music, specifically during the Christmas season, that glorifies the light of the Holy Spirit and dashes away the darkness of evil. An easy, jazzy approach is given to the musical setting of the text with variations in texture to feature each voice section. Contrasting sections in the parallel keys as well as an unaccompanied verse complete this work. Your church choir will enjoy performing this warm song for your audience during the yuletide celebrations and worship services.

Poetic text listed on next page.

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.

Music I love—but never strain
 Could kindle raptures so divine,
 So grief assuage, so conquer pain,
 And rouse this pensive heart of mine--
 As the sweet war of Christmas morn,
 Upon the wintry breezes borne.

Though Darkness still her empire keep,
 And hours must pass, ere morning break,
 From troubled dreams, or slumbers deep,
 That music kindly bids us wake:
 It calls us, with an angel's voice,
 To wake, and worship, and rejoice.

To greet with joy the glorious morn,
 Which angels welcomed long ago,
 When our redeeming Lord was born,
 To bring the light of Heaven below;
 The Powers of Darkness to dispel,
 And rescue Earth from Death and Hell.

While listening to that sacred strain,
 My raptured spirit soars on high;
 I seem to hear those songs again
 Resounding through the open sky,
 That kindled such divine delight,
 In those who watched their flocks by night.

With them, I celebrate His birth--
 Glory to God, in highest Heaven,
 Good-will to men, and peace on Earth,
 To us a Saviour-king is given;
 Our God is come to claim His own,
 And Satan's power is overthrown!

A sinless God, for sinful men,
 Descends to suffer and to bleed;
 Hell must renounce its empire then;
 The price is paid, the world is freed,
 And Satan's self must now confess,
 That Christ has earned a Right to bless:

Now holy Peace may smile from heaven,
 And heavenly Truth from earth shall spring:
 The captive's galling bonds are riven,
 For our Redeemer is our king;
 And He that gave his blood for men
 Will lead us home to God again.

— Anne Bronte (1820–1849)

MUSIC ON CHRISTMAS MORNING

SATB and Piano

Words by
ANNE BRONTE (1820-1849)

Music by
CHRISTOPHER ALEXANDER

Andante sostenuto (♩ = c. 76-80)

PIANO

The piano introduction consists of two staves. The right hand plays a series of chords in the treble clef, while the left hand plays a rhythmic accompaniment of eighth notes in the bass clef. The tempo is marked 'Andante sostenuto' with a quarter note equal to approximately 76-80 beats per minute. The dynamics are marked 'mp'.

The soprano vocal line begins with a square box containing the number '5'. The lyrics are: "Mu - sic I love, but nev - er strain, could kin - dle rap - tures". The dynamics are marked 'mp'.

The alto vocal line begins with a square box containing the number '5'. The lyrics are: "Mu - sic I love, but nev - er strain, could kin - dle rap - tures". The dynamics are marked 'mp (stagger breathe)'.

The tenor vocal line begins with a square box containing the number '5'. The lyrics are: "Mu - sic I love, but nev - er strain, could kin - dle rap - tures". The dynamics are marked 'mp (stagger breathe)'.

The bass vocal line begins with a square box containing the number '5'. The lyrics are: "Mu - sic I love, but nev - er strain, could kin - dle rap - tures". The dynamics are marked 'mp (stagger breathe)'.

The piano accompaniment for the first vocal line consists of two staves. The right hand plays chords, and the left hand plays a rhythmic accompaniment. The dynamics are marked 'mp'.

The piano accompaniment for the second vocal line consists of two staves. The right hand plays chords, and the left hand plays a rhythmic accompaniment. The dynamics are marked 'mp'.

8

so di - vine, So grief as-suage, so con - quer pain, And

8

11

rouse this pen - sive heart of mine - As that we hear on Christ - mas

11

Music on Christmas Morning

14

morn, Up - on the win - try bree - zes borne.

This system contains measures 14, 15, and 16. It features a vocal line with lyrics and three piano accompaniment staves. The key signature has two sharps (F# and C#), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "morn, Up - on the win - try bree - zes borne."

14

This system shows the piano accompaniment for measures 14, 15, and 16. It consists of two staves: a right-hand staff with treble clef and a left-hand staff with bass clef. The music is in 4/4 time with a key signature of two sharps.

17

Though Dark-ness still her em - pire keep, And hours must pass, ere

This system contains measures 17, 18, and 19. It features a vocal line with lyrics and three piano accompaniment staves. The lyrics are: "Though Dark-ness still her em - pire keep, And hours must pass, ere".

17

This system shows the piano accompaniment for measures 17, 18, and 19. It consists of two staves: a right-hand staff with treble clef and a left-hand staff with bass clef. The music is in 4/4 time with a key signature of two sharps.

20

morn - ing break; From trou - bled dreams, or slum - bers deep, That

20

morn - ing break; From trou - bled dreams, or slum - bers deep, That

23

mu - sic kind - ly bids us wake: It calls us with an an - gel's

It calls us with an an - gel's

It calls us with an an - gel's

mu - sic kind - ly bids us wake: It calls us with an an - gel's

23

mu - sic kind - ly bids us wake: It calls us with an an - gel's

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26

voice, To wake, and wor - ship, and re - joi - ce; While *mf*

voice, To wake, and wor - ship, and re - joi - ce; While *mf*

voice, To wake, and wor - ship, and re - joi - ce;

voice To wake and wor - ship, and re - joi - ce;

This block contains the first three staves of music for measures 26-28. It features three vocal parts: Soprano, Alto, and Tenor. The lyrics are: "voice, To wake, and wor - ship, and re - joi - ce; While". The dynamic marking is *mf*. The music is in a major key with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#).

26

voice To wake and wor - ship, and re - joi - ce;

This block contains the piano accompaniment for measures 26-28. It consists of two staves: Treble and Bass. The lyrics are: "voice To wake and wor - ship, and re - joi - ce;".

29

Con moto

list - 'ning to that sa - cred strain, My rap - tured spi - rit soars on

list - 'ning to that sa - cred strain, My rap - tured spi - rit soars on

This block contains the first three staves of music for measures 29-31. It features three vocal parts: Soprano, Alto, and Tenor. The lyrics are: "list - 'ning to that sa - cred strain, My rap - tured spi - rit soars on". The tempo marking is *Con moto*. The music is in a major key with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#).

29

Con moto

This block contains the piano accompaniment for measures 29-31. It consists of two staves: Treble and Bass. The music is in a major key with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#).

32

high; *opt. div.* That

high; *mf* That

mf I seem to hear those songs a - gain Re - sound - ing through the o - pen sky, That

mf I seem to hear those songs a - gain Re - sound - ing through the o - pen sky, That

Detailed description: This block contains the first system of the musical score, measures 32-34. It features four staves: two vocal staves (Soprano and Alto) and two piano staves (Right and Left Hand). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The vocal parts have lyrics: 'That I seem to hear those songs a - gain Re - sound - ing through the o - pen sky, That'. The piano part includes dynamic markings like *mf* and *opt. div.*

32

Detailed description: This block shows the piano accompaniment for measures 32-34. It consists of two staves (Right and Left Hand) with chords and melodic lines. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4.

35

kin - dled such di - vine de - light, In those who watched their flocks by

kin - dled such di - vine de - light, In those who watched their flocks by

kin - dled such di - vine de - light, In those who watched their flocks by

kin - dled such di - vine de - light, In those who watched their flocks by

Detailed description: This block contains the second system of the musical score, measures 35-36. It features four staves: two vocal staves (Soprano and Alto) and two piano staves (Right and Left Hand). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The vocal parts have lyrics: 'kin - dled such di - vine de - light, In those who watched their flocks by'. The piano part continues the accompaniment.

35

kin - dled such di - vine de - light, In those who watched their flocks by

Detailed description: This block shows the piano accompaniment for measures 35-36. It consists of two staves (Right and Left Hand) with chords and melodic lines. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4.