

Unison/Two-Part

December

\$2.25

# December

Music by  
Christopher Alexander

*Unison/Two-Part and Piano*

*Also available in: SATB, SAB, SSA, and TTB*

**cantareworks**

THE MUSIC OF CHRISTOPHER ALEXANDER



## About the Work

This gentle and lyrical setting of Harriett Blodgett's poem evokes a whimsical remembrance and thankfulness in the yuletide season. The folk-like melody is supported by the legato arpeggiations of the piano and the blossoming texture of the vocal harmonies that enliven the poetic text. Suitable for school choirs and community choruses of any size, let this song be a reminder of the many gifts the Christmas season continues to give for all of us.

*Oh! holly branch and mistletoe,  
And Christmas chimes where'er we go,  
And stockings pinned up in a row!  
These are thy gifts, December!*

*And if the year has made thee old,  
And silvered all thy locks of gold,  
Thy heart has never been a-cold  
Or known a fading ember.*

— Harriet F. Blodgett

## 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.

# DECEMBER

Words by  
HARRIET F. BLODGETT

Unison/Two-Part and Piano

Music by  
CHRISTOPHER ALEXANDER

Adagio espressivo (♩ = 64)

PIANO

*mp legato*

Musical notation for the piano introduction, consisting of two staves in G major with two flats. The right hand features a flowing eighth-note melody, while the left hand provides a simple harmonic accompaniment. The tempo is Adagio espressivo at 64 beats per minute.

5 ALL PARTS

*unis. mp* 8

5

On! hol - ly branch and

Musical notation for the first vocal line and piano accompaniment. The vocal line begins with a fermata and then enters with the lyrics "On! hol - ly branch and". The piano accompaniment continues with the same eighth-note melody as the introduction. A rehearsal mark "8" is placed above the vocal line.

9

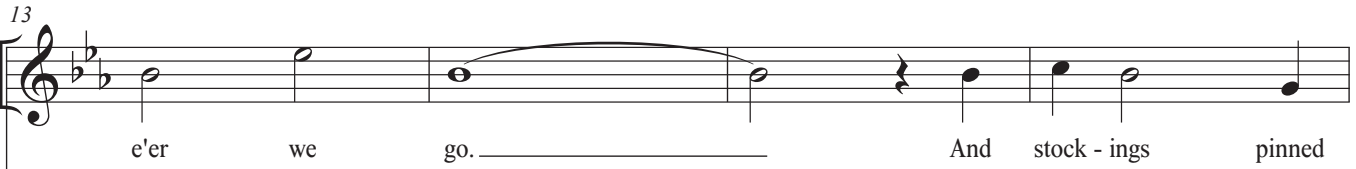
mis - tle - toe. And Christ - mas chimes where -

Musical notation for the second vocal line and piano accompaniment. The vocal line continues with the lyrics "mis - tle - toe. And Christ - mas chimes where -". The piano accompaniment continues with the eighth-note melody. A rehearsal mark "9" is placed above the vocal line.

Also available in: SATB, SAB, SSA, and TTB.

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13

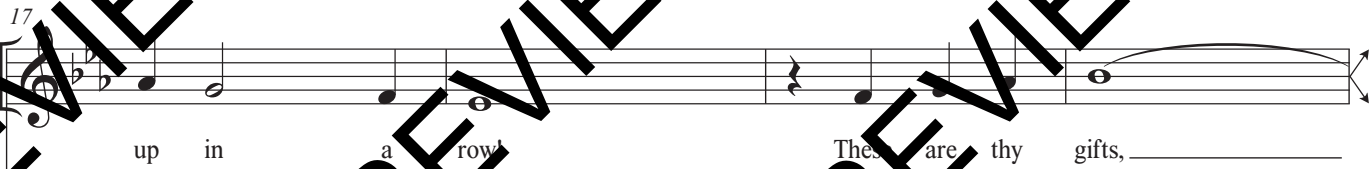


e'er we go. And stock - ings pinned

13

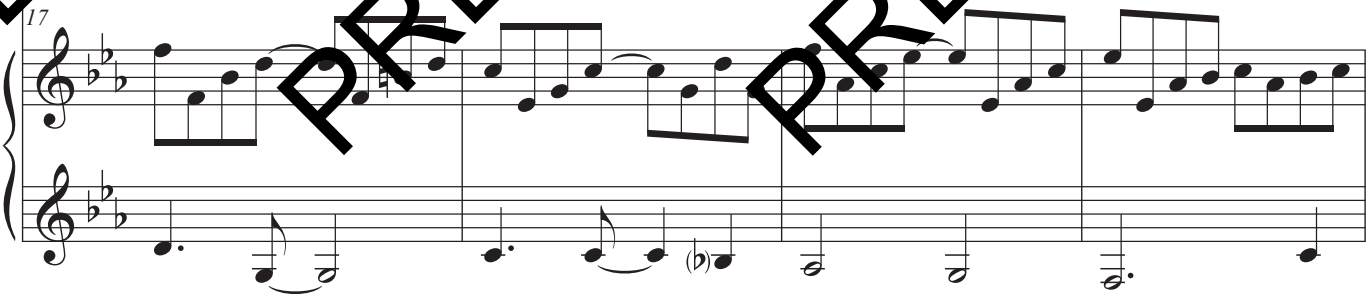


17



up in a row. These are thy gifts,

17



21 PART I *mf* 24




De - cem - ber! Oh! hol - ly branch and

PART II (optional) *mf*



De - cem - ber! Oh! hol - ly branch and

21 24 *mf*



25

mis - tle - toe. And Christ - mas chimes where -

This system contains two vocal staves and a piano accompaniment. The vocal staves are in treble clef with a key signature of two flats. The piano accompaniment is in treble and bass clefs. The lyrics are 'mis - tle - toe. And Christ - mas chimes where -'.

25

This block shows the piano accompaniment for the first system, consisting of two staves (treble and bass clef) with a key signature of two flats. The music features a steady eighth-note accompaniment in the right hand and a more active bass line in the left hand.

29

e'er we And stock - ings pinned

This system contains two vocal staves and a piano accompaniment. The vocal staves are in treble clef with a key signature of two flats. The piano accompaniment is in treble and bass clefs. The lyrics are 'e'er we And stock - ings pinned'.

29

This block shows the piano accompaniment for the second system, consisting of two staves (treble and bass clef) with a key signature of two flats. The music continues with eighth-note accompaniment and a bass line.

33

up in a row! These are thy gifts.

This system contains two vocal staves and a piano accompaniment. The vocal staves are in treble clef with a key signature of two flats. The piano accompaniment is in treble and bass clefs. The lyrics are 'up in a row! These are thy gifts.'

33

This block shows the piano accompaniment for the third system, consisting of two staves (treble and bass clef) with a key signature of two flats. The music concludes with a final chord in the right hand and a sustained bass note in the left hand.

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37

40

De - cem - ber! And if the

This system contains two vocal staves. The top staff begins at measure 37 with a whole note 'De' and a half note 'cem'. The bottom staff begins at measure 37 with a half note 'ber!' and a whole note 'And'. Both staves continue with notes for 'if' and 'the' in measures 38 and 39. Measure 40 shows the continuation of the vocal lines.

37

40

This system contains two piano accompaniment staves. The right hand starts at measure 37 with a series of eighth notes. The left hand provides a simple harmonic accompaniment with quarter notes. Measure 40 shows a change in the piano accompaniment.

41

year has made the gold. And sil - vered

This system contains two vocal staves. The top staff begins at measure 41 with a whole note 'year' and a half note 'has'. The bottom staff begins at measure 41 with a whole note 'made' and a half note 'the'. Both staves continue with notes for 'gold.' and 'And sil - vered' in measures 42, 43, and 44.

41

This system contains two piano accompaniment staves. The right hand continues with eighth notes. The left hand continues with quarter notes. Measure 44 shows the end of the piano accompaniment for this system.

45

all thy locks of gold, Thy heart has

This system contains two vocal staves. The top staff begins at measure 45 with a whole note 'all' and a half note 'thy'. The bottom staff begins at measure 45 with a whole note 'locks' and a half note 'of'. Both staves continue with notes for 'gold,' and 'Thy heart has' in measures 46, 47, and 48.

45

This system contains two piano accompaniment staves. The right hand continues with eighth notes. The left hand continues with quarter notes. Measure 48 shows the end of the piano accompaniment for this system.