

SATB

Help Me Make It Through the Night

\$2.25

Recorded by Ray Stevens

Help Me Make  
It Through  
the Night

Arranged by  
Christopher Alexander

*SATB, Solos, and Piano*

cantareworks

THE MUSIC OF CHRISTOPHER ALEXANDER

## About the Work

Originally written by the prolific singer-songwriter Kris Kristofferson, this tune has been covered by many artists since its 1970 release. Famed country music and comedian Ray Stevens brought his stylings to a new interpretation of the song, complete with contrasting musical styles and different meanings to each of the lyrics within the song. Your chorus will have the time of their lives performing this song at your next pops concert. It is highly recommended to watch the Ray Stevens music video of this song (available on YouTube) to get a firm grasp of how to perform the many comedic moments without losing momentum of the song. Some solos parts have been revised to become more suitable for today's audiences, but nonetheless will still be entertaining for you and your audience.

## About the Arranger



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 2007. 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.

Recorded by Ray Stevens

# HELP ME MAKE IT THROUGH THE NIGHT

SATB, Solos and Piano

Arranged by  
CHRISTOPHER ALEXANDER

Words and Music by  
KRIS KRISTOFFERSON

### Dramatic intro

PIANO

*f*

Hold pedal

This section shows the piano introduction in 4/4 time. The right hand features a melodic line with eighth notes and quarter notes, while the left hand provides a steady accompaniment with quarter notes. A dynamic marking of *f* (forte) is present. A 'Hold pedal' instruction is written above the staff.

Light 12/8 jazz feel (♩ = 60)

3 SOLO ALTO *mf unis.* 4

Take the moon from your hand

TEN., BASS *mf unis.*

Light 12/8 jazz feel (♩ = 60)

3 4 *mp*

This section contains the vocal and piano accompaniment for the first line of the song. The tempo is 'Light 12/8 jazz feel' with a quarter note equal to 60 beats per minute. The vocal parts for Solo Alto and Tenor/Bass are marked *mf unis.* (mezzo-forte, unison). The piano accompaniment is marked *mp* (mezzo-piano). The piano part includes triplets and a dynamic marking of *mp*. A 'Hold pedal' instruction from the previous section continues.

5

Shake it loose and let it fall,

*un.* 3

5 *loco* 8va 3

This section contains the vocal and piano accompaniment for the second line of the song. The vocal parts are marked *un.* (unison). The piano accompaniment includes a *loco* section and an *8va* (octave) section. The piano part features triplets and a dynamic marking of *mp*.

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7

7

Lie it soft a- gainst your skin

unis. 3 3 3

3

Detailed description: This system contains the vocal and piano parts for measures 7 and 8. The vocal line (treble clef) features a melody with three triplet markings. The piano accompaniment (bass clef) has a bass line with a triplet marking. The lyrics are "Lie it soft a- gainst your skin".

7

7

(8<sup>va</sup>) loco 8<sup>va</sup>

3 3

Detailed description: This system shows the piano accompaniment for measures 7 and 8. The right hand (treble clef) is marked with an 8va and loco. The left hand (bass clef) has a simple bass line. Triplet markings are present in both hands.

9

9

Like the sha - dows on the wall.

unis. 3 3 3

3

Detailed description: This system contains the vocal and piano parts for measures 9 and 10. The vocal line (treble clef) continues the melody with triplet markings. The piano accompaniment (bass clef) has a bass line with a triplet marking. The lyrics are "Like the sha - dows on the wall."

9

9

(8<sup>va</sup>) loco

Detailed description: This system shows the piano accompaniment for measures 9 and 10. The right hand (treble clef) is marked with an 8va and loco. The left hand (bass clef) has a simple bass line.

11

11

\*SOLO #1 (with a Foghorn Leghorn caricature, interrupting the choir):  
Now I say, I say, I say, now hold it everybody! That ain't movin' me! Let's put a little FIRE in it!  
(count off in tempo of m. 12) ONE, TWO, THREE, FOUR!!!

11

11

Detailed description: This system contains the vocal and piano parts for measure 11. The vocal line (treble clef) has a whole note rest. The piano accompaniment (bass clef) has a whole note chord. The lyrics describe a solo interruption.

\*Start anytime during last 2 beats of m. 10. Director, accompanist, and choir should react accordingly.



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12 Fast hoedown, in 2 (♩ = c. 100)

*f*

SOLO #2 (hillbilly):  
"Yeeee-haaaaww!"

Take the rib - bon from your hair,

*f*

Musical score for SOLO #2 (hillbilly) in 2/4 time, marked *f*. The score consists of two staves: a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The vocal line begins with a rest, followed by the lyrics "Take the rib - bon from your hair,". The piano accompaniment features a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes and chords.

12 Fast hoedown, in 2 (♩ = c. 100)

*f*

*sfz*

Musical score for piano accompaniment of SOLO #2. It shows the piano part in two staves, with a dynamic marking of *f* and a crescendo leading to *sfz*.

16 SOLO #3 (man) & (woman):

[He rips her hair wig off her head, she screams.]

State loose and let it fall *unis.*

Musical score for SOLO #3 (man) & (woman) in 2/4 time. The vocal line includes the lyrics "[He rips her hair wig off her head, she screams.]" and "State loose and let it fall *unis.*". The piano accompaniment provides harmonic support.

16

*f*

Musical score for piano accompaniment of SOLO #3, marked *f*. It shows the piano part in two staves with a rhythmic accompaniment.

20

SOLO #5 (waiter):  
[Waiter fumbles tray of champagne glasses.]

Lie it soft a-gainst your

Musical score for SOLO #5 (waiter) in 2/4 time. The vocal line includes the lyrics "Lie it soft a-gainst your". The piano accompaniment features a rhythmic pattern.

20

Musical score for piano accompaniment of SOLO #5, marked *f*. It shows the piano part in two staves with a rhythmic accompaniment.

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24

skin \_\_\_\_\_ SOLOS #3 & 4: Like the sha-dows on the wall.  
 [She slaps him, she agonizes in pain.]

24

28

SOLO #6 (dressed in Havana garb): Tom and lay here by my side, *unis.*  
 [Plays marimba, fumbling mallets]

28

(a la marimba)

32

SOLOS #7 (lumberjack): 'Till the ear - ly morn - in'  
 Yells "Timmmmberrrr!" *unis.*

32