

SSA

As Long As There's a Christmas

\$2.50

As Long As There's a Christmas

Music by
Christopher Alexander

SSA and Piano

Also available in SATB, SAB, Unison/Two-Part, and Vocal Solo

cantareworks

THE MUSIC OF CHRISTOPHER ALEXANDER

About the Work

A reminder for us all to celebrate and give thanks for the reason of the Christmas season – the birth of Jesus Christ. With an enchanting pop-like melody and lyrical accompaniment patterns, this comforting message in song will be a highlight at your next performance.

*The first few lights glow brightly,
as you watch the season start.
You know you should be happy,
but don't feel it in your heart.*

*Instead you think about a time
when someone laughed with you,
and the love you shared then filled your soul.
But too soon it was through.*

*So Christmas comes with sadness,
and a yearning deep inside,
a thirst for love and peace and hope
that will not be denied.*

*Late one night you hear a voice,
so soft and without blame,
and then, surprised, you realize,
He's calling you by name.*

*"I know your hurt and loneliness,
the heartache that you bear.
I listen and I cry with you
through every single prayer.*

*I promised in the manger
and fulfilled it from the cross.
I built a home that's filled with love
for all those who are lost.*

*So let Him come and heal your heart
and give you rest within.
For my way is kind and gentle
and will bring you joy again."*

*His words still echo through the year
a vow that He made true
"As long as there's a Christ in us,
I will be in love with you."*

— Jack Zavada

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.

AS LONG AS THERE'S A CHRISTMAS

SSA and Piano

Words by
JACK ZAVADA, alt.

Music by
CHRISTOPHER ALEXANDER

Slowly in reminiscence, with rubato

p *leggiero*

Musical notation for the piano introduction, featuring a treble and bass clef with a 4/4 time signature. The melody is in the treble clef, and the accompaniment is in the bass clef. The key signature has three flats (B-flat major or D-flat minor).

4 ALL VOICES 5 *unis. p* *freely*

The first few lights glow bright - ly as you watch the sea - son start. You

Musical notation for the vocal entry, starting at measure 4. The lyrics are: "The first few lights glow bright - ly as you watch the sea - son start. You".

4 5 *8va* *colla voce*

Musical notation for the piano accompaniment during the vocal entry, starting at measure 4. It includes an 8va marking and the instruction *colla voce*.

7 know you should be hap - py, but don't feel in your heart. So Christ - mas comes with sad - ness, a

Musical notation for the vocal line, starting at measure 7. The lyrics are: "know you should be hap - py, but don't feel in your heart. So Christ - mas comes with sad - ness, a".

7 *8va*

Musical notation for the piano accompaniment during the second vocal line, starting at measure 7. It includes an 8va marking.

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10 *poco rit.*

yearn-ing deep in-side, A thirst for love and peace and hope that will not be de-

(8^{va})

poco rit.

13 *Andante espressivo* (♩ = 72)
CORRANO I & II *mp*

nied. As long as there a Christ-mas, I will

ALTO *mp*

nied. As long as there's a Christ-mas, I will

13 *Andante espressivo* (♩ = 72)
loco mp

16

give my love to you. His words still e-cho through the years, — a vow that He made true. And

16

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19 *unis.*

as we come to-ge-ther to re-mem-ber this ho-ly night, As long as there's a Christ-mas, His

as we come to-ge-ther to re-mem-ber this ho-ly night, As long as there's a Christ-mas, His

19

22

hope shall be light. In -

hope shall be my light. In -

22

25

stead you think a - bout a time — when some - one laughed at you, And the

stead you think a - bout a time — when some - one laughed at you, And the

25

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27

love you shared then filled your soul, — but too soon it was through.

love you shared then filled your soul, — but too soon it was through.

Two vocal staves in treble clef, 3/4 time, key of B-flat major. The melody is simple and lyrical, with a slight dip on the word 'soon'.

Piano accompaniment for measures 27-28, featuring a simple harmonic accompaniment in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand.

29

Late one night you hear a voice — so soft and with - out blame, And

Late one night you hear a voice — so soft and with - out blame, And

Two vocal staves in treble clef, 3/4 time, key of B-flat major. The melody continues with a slight rise on the word 'And'.

Piano accompaniment for measures 29-30, featuring a simple harmonic accompaniment in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand.

31

then sur- prised — you re - a - lize — He's call - ing you by

then sur- prised — you re - a - lize — He's call ing you by

Two vocal staves in treble clef, 3/4 time, key of B-flat major. The melody features a slight rise on the word 'by'.

Piano accompaniment for measures 31-32, featuring a simple harmonic accompaniment in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand.

As Long As There's a Christmas

33

With quiet reverence

name.
name.

33

With quiet reverence

p (hymn-like)

37

"So let me come and heal your heart and give you rest with -
"So let me come and heal your heart and give you rest with -

37

opt. a cappella through m. 43

40

in For my way is kind and gen - tle and will
in For my way is kind and gen - tle and will

40

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44 Tempo II

mp

bring you joy a - gain." As
bring you joy a - gain." As

Two vocal staves in treble clef, key of B-flat major, 4/4 time. The melody is simple and homophonic. The lyrics are "bring you joy a - gain." The first staff ends with a fermata over the final note, and the second staff continues with the same melody.

44 Tempo II

(play)

Piano accompaniment for measures 43-44. The right hand features a melodic line with a fermata over the final note, while the left hand provides a simple harmonic accompaniment.

long give my love to you. His words still e-cho through the years, — a
long as there's a Christ-mas, I will give my love to you. His words still e-cho through the years, — a

Two vocal staves in treble clef, key of B-flat major, 4/4 time. The melody is more complex, with a fermata over the final note. The lyrics are "long give my love to you. His words still e-cho through the years, — a" and "long as there's a Christ-mas, I will give my love to you. His words still e-cho through the years, — a".

mp

Piano accompaniment for measures 45-46. The right hand features a complex, rhythmic accompaniment with many chords, while the left hand provides a simple harmonic accompaniment.

vow that He made true. And as we come to-ge-ther to re-mem-ber this ho-ly night, As
vow that He made true. And as we come to-ge-ther to re-mem-ber this ho-ly night, As

Two vocal staves in treble clef, key of B-flat major, 4/4 time. The melody is more complex, with a fermata over the final note. The lyrics are "vow that He made true. And as we come to-ge-ther to re-mem-ber this ho-ly night, As" and "vow that He made true. And as we come to-ge-ther to re-mem-ber this ho-ly night, As".

Piano accompaniment for measures 47-48. The right hand features a complex, rhythmic accompaniment with many chords, while the left hand provides a simple harmonic accompaniment.