

Vocal Solo

As Long As There's a Christmas

\$4.95

# As Long As There's a Christmas

Vocal Solo

Music by

**CHRISTOPHER ALEXANDER**

Words by

**JACK ZAVADA**

**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

Vocal Solo

Words by  
JACK ZAVADA, alt.

Music by  
CHRISTOPHER ALEXANDER

Slowly in reminiscence, with rubato

Musical score for piano introduction in 4/4 time, key of B-flat major. The score consists of two systems. The first system shows the piano introduction with a treble and bass clef. The second system continues the piano introduction, marked *p leggiero*. The piano part features a melody in the right hand and a harmonic accompaniment in the left hand.

Slowly in reminiscence, with rubato

Musical score for vocal entry in 4/4 time, key of B-flat major. The score consists of two systems. The first system shows the vocal line with a treble clef. The second system continues the vocal line, marked *sempre*. The vocal line features a melody in the right hand and a harmonic accompaniment in the left hand.

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

Musical score for piano accompaniment in 4/4 time, key of B-flat major. The score consists of two systems. The first system shows the piano accompaniment with a treble and bass clef. The second system continues the piano accompaniment, marked *colla voce*. The piano part features a melody in the right hand and a harmonic accompaniment in the left hand.

Musical score for vocal line in 4/4 time, key of B-flat major. The score consists of two systems. The first system shows the vocal line with a treble clef. The second system continues the vocal line. The vocal line features a melody in the right hand and a harmonic accompaniment in the left hand.

Now you should be hap-py, but don't put it in your heart. So Christ-mas comes with sad-ness, a

Musical score for piano accompaniment in 4/4 time, key of B-flat major. The score consists of two systems. The first system shows the piano accompaniment with a treble and bass clef. The second system continues the piano accompaniment. The piano part features a melody in the right hand and a harmonic accompaniment in the left hand.

Also available in SATB, SAB, SSA, and Unison/Two-Part voicings.

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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-

10 *poco rit.*

Detailed description: This block contains the first system of music, measures 10 through 12. It features a vocal line on a treble clef staff and a piano accompaniment on a grand staff (treble and bass clefs). The key signature has three flats (B-flat major or D-flat minor). The tempo marking is 'poco rit.'. The lyrics are: 'yearn-ing deep in-side, A thirst for love and peace and hope that will not be de-'. A dashed line labeled '(8va)' indicates an octave shift for the vocal line.

13 **Andante espressivo** (♩ = c. 68) *mp*

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

13 **Andante espressivo** (♩ = c. 68) *mp*

Detailed description: This block contains the second system of music, measures 13 through 15. It features a vocal line on a treble clef staff and a piano accompaniment on a grand staff. The tempo marking is 'Andante espressivo' with a metronome marking of quarter note = c. 68. The dynamic marking is 'mp'. The lyrics are: 'nied. As long as there's Christ-mas, I will'. A 'toco' marking is present above the piano accompaniment in measure 13.

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

Detailed description: This block contains the third system of music, measures 16 through 18. It features a vocal line on a treble clef staff and a piano accompaniment on a grand staff. The piano accompaniment consists of dense chordal textures in the right hand and a simple bass line in the left hand.

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

19

Detailed description: This block contains the fourth system of music, measures 19 through 21. It features a vocal line on a treble clef staff and a piano accompaniment on a grand staff. The piano accompaniment continues with dense chordal textures.

22

hope shall be my light. In -

22

25

25

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

27

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

27

29

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

29

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31

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

Musical notation for measures 31-32, including vocal line and piano accompaniment. The key signature has three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). The vocal line starts on a whole note 'then' and continues with 'sur- prised — you re - a - lize — He's call - ing you by'. The piano accompaniment features a steady eighth-note bass line and chords in the right hand.

33 With quiet reverence

name

33 With quiet reverence

*p* (hymn-like)

Musical notation for measures 33-36, including piano accompaniment. The key signature remains three flats. The piano part consists of chords in the right hand and a simple bass line in the left hand. The tempo and dynamics are marked 'With quiet reverence' and '*p* (hymn-like)'. The word 'name' is written above the first measure.

37 *p*

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

Musical notation for measures 37-39, including vocal line and piano accompaniment. The key signature remains three flats. The vocal line begins with a piano dynamic '*p*' and the lyrics '"So let me come and heal your heart and give you rest with -'. The piano accompaniment continues with chords and a bass line.

40

in For my way is kind and gen tle and will

40

Musical notation for measures 40-41, including vocal line and piano accompaniment. The key signature remains three flats. The vocal line continues with the lyrics 'in For my way is kind and gen tle and will'. The piano accompaniment features chords and a bass line.