

SATB

Ubuntu

\$2.50

Christopher Alexander

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*Solo, SATB and Djembe, a cappella*

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**cantareworks**

THE MUSIC OF CHRISTOPHER ALEXANDER

## About the Work

The African-origin philosophy and practice of members from an entire village surrounding a miscreant of the town and reminding them of their worth in the community and how much they are loved is known as *ubuntu* (I am because you are). This choral work brings the practice to the concert stage with the inclusion of staging directions and simple choreography that will bring an appropriate visual to the song's message. This positive and inspiring choral work is appropriate for high school, collegiate, and community choirs.

*Umuntu ngumuntu ngabantu.*

(A person is a person through other persons.)

— Traditional Bantu

*I have made my share of mistakes,  
I have let so many others down.  
Please forgive me,  
I give up.  
Am I worthy to be loved?*

*Yes, I am!  
I thank you all.  
I will never let you down again.  
I'm forgiven, I am free.  
I am worthy to be loved!*

*You are loved by one and everyone.  
You belong here with all of us.  
You are worthy of all good things.  
I am who I am,  
Because you are who you are.*

English words by C. A.

## 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.

# UBUNTU

Solo, SATB and Djembe, a cappella

Traditional Bantu  
English words by C.A.

Music by  
CHRISTOPHER ALEXANDER

*SOLO stands in the middle of the stage, CHOIR starts on the risers.*

**Freely, remorseful**

**SOLO** *mp* *3*

I have made \_\_\_\_\_ my share of mis - takes, I have let so man - y oth - ers

*mf* *4*

loved? Please for - give me, I give up. Am I worth - y to be

*CHOIR walks off risers and forms half-circle surrounding SOLO.*

**Steady, with purpose** (♩ = c. 80)

**SOLO** *mp* *8*

loved? \_\_\_\_\_

**DJEMBE** *mp*

**SOPIANO** *mp* *espress.*

**ALTO** *mp* *espress.*

**TENOR** *mp* *espress.*

**BASS** *mp* *espress.*

**PIANO** *mp* *espress.*

*(for reh. only)*

\*Can be changed to Ooh throughout song

Ubuntu: I am because you are

Umuntu ngumuntu ngabantu: A person is a person through other persons.

Djembe part score on page 14.

Ubuntu

12

Musical staff with notes and rests.

12

SOPRANO (I) DESCANT *mp* *espress.*

Musical staff for Soprano (I) Descant.

*Hmm*

Musical staff with notes and rests.

*Hmm*

Musical staff with notes and rests.

12

Musical staff with notes and rests.

Musical staff with notes and rests.

16

17 *CHOIR directs singing toward SOLO.*

Musical staff with notes and rests.

*mp* 1st time, *mf* 2nd time

16

17 Sing on repeat *mf*

Musical staff with notes and rests.

You are loved \_\_\_\_\_ by one \_\_\_\_\_

17 *mp* 1st time, *mf* 2nd time

Musical staff with notes and rests.

You are loved, \_\_\_\_\_ you are loved by one and

*mp* 1st time, *mf* 2nd time

Musical staff with notes and rests.

*Bassists*

16

17

Musical staff with notes and rests.

*mp* 1st time, *mf* 2nd time

Musical staff with notes and rests.

20

20

— and ev-'ry - one. You be - long, — you be-long with

ev - 'ry - one. You be - long, — you be-long here with

20

24

24

all of us. You are worth - y. —

of us. You are worth y, — worth - y of a good

24

28

Musical staff with rhythmic notation and rests.

28

Musical staff with treble clef, key signature of three sharps, and notes.

I am who I am, Be - cause  
*Sop. div.* *Sop. unis.*

Musical staff with treble clef, key signature of three sharps, and chords.

things. I am who I am, Be - cause

Musical staff with bass clef, key signature of three sharps, and notes.

28

Musical staff with treble clef, key signature of three sharps, and notes.

Musical staff with bass clef, key signature of three sharps, and notes.

31

Musical staff with rhythmic notation and first/second endings.

*accel.*

31

Musical staff with treble clef, key signature of three sharps, and notes.

you are who you are.

Musical staff with treble clef, key signature of three sharps, and notes.

you are who you are. you are who you are.

*accel.*

Musical staff with bass clef, key signature of three sharps, and notes.

31

Musical staff with treble clef, key signature of three sharps, and notes.

*accel.*

Musical staff with bass clef, key signature of three sharps, and notes.

CHOIR moves L then R, in step-touch pattern. Repeat movement as necessary.  
During 2nd time, random members of CHOIR shout short phrases of kindness toward SOLO.  
Perform these actions through m. 43.

35

A little faster, with more rhythmic vitality (♩ = c. 92-96)

*poco misterioso*

35

A little faster, with more rhythmic vitality (♩ = c. 92-96)

*poco misterioso*

U - mun - tu, u - mun - tu ngu - mun - tu nga - ban - tu.

Bass div.

35

A little faster, with more rhythmic vitality (♩ = c. 92-96)

*poco misterioso*

39

U - mun - tu, u - mun - tu ngu - mun - tu nga - ban - tu.

39

PREVIEW PREVIEW PREVIEW PREVIEW PREVIEW PREVIEW PREVIEW PREVIEW PREVIEW PREVIEW

43 2. *condolore mp* 44 Ubuntu  
 I have made \_\_\_\_\_ my share of mis - takes, I have

2. *mp*

44 *mp unis.* CHOIR does step-touch pattern again thru m. 74.  
 nga - ban - tu. 'mun - tu, u - mun - tu ngu - mun - tu nga - ban - tu. U -

43 2. *sub. mp* 44 3

46 *mf*  
 let so man - y oth - ers down. Please for - give me, I give

46 SOPRANO (I) DESCANT *mp*  
 Hmm \_\_\_\_\_ *mf*

*mf*  
 mun - tu, u - mun - tu ngu - mun - tu nga - ban - tu. U - mun - tu, u - mun - tu ngu -

46 *mf*