

TTBB

Elegy of a Man in Missouri

\$2.50

Christopher Alexander

Elegy of a
Man in
Missouri

TTBB, a cappella

cantareworks

THE MUSIC OF CHRISTOPHER ALEXANDER

About the Work

Reminiscent of the well-known folk song *Wayfaring Stranger*, this new choral song portrays another nomadic individual remaining optimistic and content while others see him seemingly empty around and within himself. The melody switches between voices as the piece escalates in intensity and lyric dramaticism, illustrated by the harmonizing voices creating a supportive accompaniment pattern in the background. The ending recapitulates the opening and resolves to an open resolution for the audience to ponder about its message. Ideal for high school and collegiate ensembles.

*I am a man of misery,
My knowledge housed in mystery,
A view from many that I hide,
Treasure I'm willing to provide.*

*For those who speak to me at all
Hear I will listen to them all
And lift their souls to share one thought,
But find with many we are not.*

*I am a man of misery
Finding his place in history.
I seek to make myself be known
A journey I take all alone.*

*But what, for me, shall I now gain
If love will ever come again?
Shall I be happy with my life
If God does bless me with a wife?*

*I am a man of misery,
My hope and spirit now all flee,
My head hangs down in lowly shame,
No more I proudly live my name.*

*Mankind and God, they stand before me
And lift me from my misery.
I lift my glad and grateful eyes
To rise and stand toward the skies.*

— 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.

ELEGY OF A MAN IN MISSOURI

TTBB, a cappella

Words and Music by
CHRISTOPHER ALEXANDER

Andante con dolore (♩ = c. 80-84)

mp

TENOR I

TENOR II

BARITONE

BASS

PIANO
(for rehearsal only)

Andante con dolore (♩ = c. 80-84)

mp

5

sim.

Oo Oo Oo Oo Oo Oo

man of mis-er - y, My know-ledge housed in mys-te - ry, A view from

sim.

Oo Oo Oo Oo Oo

5

sim.

*It is optional to add a soft "l" before each "Oo".

Elegy of a Man in Missouri

9

Oo Oo Oo Oo Oo For those who
man - y that I hide, Trea - sure I'm will - ing to pro - vide. Oo

This block contains the first system of the musical score, measures 9 through 12. It features a vocal line with lyrics and a piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: "Oo Oo Oo Oo Oo For those who man - y that I hide, Trea - sure I'm will - ing to pro - vide. Oo". The piano part consists of chords and moving lines in both hands. A large diagonal watermark "PREVIEW" is overlaid across the score.

13

speak _____ to me at all Hear I will lis - ten to their call
Oo Oo Oo Oo Oo And lift their

13

This block contains the second system of the musical score, measures 13 through 20. It features a vocal line with lyrics and a piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: "speak _____ to me at all Hear I will lis - ten to their call Oo Oo Oo Oo Oo And lift their". The piano part continues with chords and moving lines. A large diagonal watermark "PREVIEW" is overlaid across the score.

17

Oo soul to share one thought, But find with man - y we are not.

21 *mp* *leggiero*

Dot dah dot dot dah dot Dot dah dot dot dah dot Dot dah dot dot dah dot Dot dah dot dot dah dot

mp *leggiero*

Dot dah dot dot dah dot Dot dah dot dot dah dot Dot dah dot dot dah dot Dot dah dot dot dah dot

mp *leggiero*

Dot dah dot dot dah dot Dot dah dot dot dah dot Dot dah dot dot dah dot Dot dah dot dot dah dot

mp *mel. espress.*

I am a man of mis-er - y Find-ing my

22 *mp* *leggiero*

espress.

Elegy of a Man in Missouri

25

mp

Dot dah dot dot dah dot Dot dot Ah _____ Dot dah dot dot dah dot Dot dah dot dot dah dot

Dot dah dot dot dah dot Dot dot Ah _____ Dot dah dot dot dah dot Dot dah dot dot dah dot

Dot dah dot dot dah dot Dot dot Ah _____ Dot dah dot dot dah dot Dot dah dot dot dah dot

pla _____ in his-to - ry, I seek to make _____ my-self known A jour-ney

25

mp

29

31 *mf legato*

Dot dah dot dot dah dot Dot dah dot dot But what, for me, _____ shall I now gain

Dot dah dot dot dah dot Dot dah dot dot But what, for me, _____ shall I now gain

Dot dah dot dot dah dot Dot dah dot dot But what, for me, _____ shall I now gain If love will

take all a - lone. But what for me, _____ shall I now gain If love will

29

31 *mf legato*