

SATB

The Character of a Happy Life

\$2.50

Christopher Alexander

The  
Character of  
a Happy Life

*SATB and Piano*

**cantareworks**

THE MUSIC OF CHRISTOPHER ALEXANDER

## About the Work

This text of perseverance by Sir Henry Wotton is brought to life with this vibrant choral work. The shifting meter changes bring a dancing spirit with the optimism of the poetry. As the work progresses, the harmonic range reaches an expansion for each voice part to create their own melodic expressions. The piano accompaniment is accessible yet with its own challenges that continuously add to the song's liveliness. An a cappella section is soon reached for the choir to bring a new dynamic, recapitulating with a renewed and heightened energy of the song's opening stanza. The work concludes with a soaring freedom and emphatic declaration that will definitively be heard and felt by singers in the choir as well as your audience. Appropriate for general concerts and contests/festivals for high school and community choirs. Enjoy!

*How happy is he born and taught  
That serveth not another's will;  
Whose armour is his honest thought,  
And simple truth his utmost skill!*

*Whose passions none his masters are;  
Whose soul is still prepared for death,  
Unfear'd unto the world by care  
Of public fame or private breath;*

*Who envies none that chance doth raise,  
Nor vice; who never understood  
How deepest wounds are given by praise,  
Nor rules of state, but rules of good;*

*Who bath his life from rumours freed;  
Whose conscience is his strong retreat;  
Whose state can neither flatterers feed,  
Nor ruin make oppressors great;*

*Who God doth late and early pray  
More of His grace than gifts to lend;  
And entertains the harmless day  
With a religious book or friend;*

*—This man is freed from servile bands  
Of hope to rise or fear to fall:  
Lord of himself, though not of lands,  
And having nothing, yet hath all.*

— Sir Henry Wotton (1568-1639)

## 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.

# THE CHARACTER OF A HAPPY LIFE

SATB and Piano

Words by  
SIR HENRY WOTTON (1568-1639)

Music by  
CHRISTOPHER ALEXANDER

*Allegro moderato con brio* (♩ = 88, ♩ = 132) (♩ = ♩ throughout)

SOPRANO

ALTO

TENOR

BASS

PIANO

*f*

*Allegro moderato con brio* (♩ = 88, ♩ = 132) (♩ = ♩ throughout)

*Pedal harmonically throughout*

5

*mf*

How

*mf*

How

5

*sub. mp*

*sf*

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9

*espress.*

hap-py is he born and taught That ser - veth not a - no - ther's will; Whose

*espress.*

hap-py is he born and taught That ser - veth not a - no - ther's will; Whose

9

*mf*

ar - mour is his hon - est thought, And sim - ple truth his ut - most skill! How

ar - mour is his hon - est thought, And sim - ple truth his ut - most skill! How

*mf*

How  
*mf*

How

13

17

hap-py is he born and taught That ser - veth not a - no - ther's will; Whose  
hap-py is he born and taught That ser - veth not a - no - ther's will; Whose  
*espress.*  
hap-py he born and taught That ser - veth not a - no - ther's will; Whose  
*espress.*

17

hap-py is he born and taught That ser - veth not a - no - ther's will; Whose

21

ar - mour is his hon - est thought, And sim - ple truth his ut - most  
ar - mour is his hon - est thought, And sim - ple truth his ut - most  
ar - mour is his hon - est thought, And sim - ple truth his ut - most

21

ar - mour is his hon - est thought, and sim - ple truth his ut - most

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25

skill! skill! skill! skill!

Whose Whose Whose Whose

*rit.* *mp* *rit.* *mp* *rit.* *mp* *rit.* *mp*

25

29

**Poco tranquillo sostenuto** (♩ = c. 118)  
*legato*

pass - ions not his mas - ters are;

pass - ions not his mas - ters are;

pass - ions not his mas - ters are;

pass - ions not his mas - ters are;

29

**Poco tranquillo sostenuto** (♩ = c. 118)  
*mp* *legato*



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38

world by care Of pub - lic

world by care Of pub - lic

8 world by care Of pub - lic

world by care Of pub - lic

38

41 *mp* *accel.* **43** *mf* **Tempo I** (♩ = 88, ♩ = 132)

fame or pri - vate breath;

fame or *mp* pri *accel.* - vate breath; *mf*

8 fame or *mp* pri *accel.* - vate breath; *mf*

fame or *mp* pri *accel.* - vate breath; *mf*

41 *mp* *accel.* **43** *mf* **Tempo I** (♩ = 88, ♩ = 132)