

SATB

Up in the Tree

\$2.25

Christopher Alexander

Up in the Tree

SATB, a cappella

cantareworks

THE MUSIC OF CHRISTOPHER ALEXANDER

About the Work

Set as an illustrative lullaby, this poem by George MacDonald will reach the hearts of parents and children alike. Lyrical, calm voice leading creates a serenity upon which the folk melody paints the textual picture. Your singers will love to perform this song, and your audience will love hearing the warm harmonies.

*What would you see, if I took you up
My little aerie-stair?
You would see the sky like a clear blue cup
Turned upside down in the air.*

*What would you do, up my aerie-stair
In my little nest on the tree?
With cry and cry you would ripple the air
To get at what you would see.*

*And what would you reach in the top of the tree
To still your grasping grief?
Not a star would you clutch of all you would see,
You would gather just one green leaf.*

*But when you had lost your greedy grief,
Content to see from afar,
Your hand it would hold a withering leaf
But your heart a shining star.*

George MacDonald
(1824-1905)

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, Hal Leonard, and Excelcia Music Publishing.

In 2016, he was awarded the St. Joseph Allied Arts Council Mayor's Award for Artist of the Year. In 2023, 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.

UP IN THE TREE

Words by
GEORGE MacDONALD (1824-1905)

SATB, a cappella

Music by
CHRISTOPHER ALEXANDER

Larghetto espressivo, poco rubato (♩ = c. 58-60)

SOPRANO

What would you see, _____ if I took you up My

ALTO

What would you see, _____ if I took you up, _____

TENOR

What would you see, _____ if I took you up, _____

BASS

What would you see, _____ if I took you up, _____

PIANO
(for rehearsal only)

Larghetto espressivo, poco rubato (♩ = c. 58-60)

lit - tle ae - - - rie - stair?

ae - - - rie - stair?

ae - - - rie - stair?

ae - - - rie - stair?

Up in the Tree

7

First system of the musical score. It consists of four staves: three vocal staves (Soprano, Alto, Tenor) and one piano accompaniment staff. The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and the time signature is 2/4. The lyrics are: "You would see the sky like a clear blue cup Turned". The piano part has a treble clef and a key signature of three sharps. The lyrics are aligned under the vocal staves.

You would see the sky like a clear blue cup Turned

You would see the sky like a clear blue cup Turned

You would see the sky like a clear blue cup Turned

You would see the sky like a clear blue cup Turned

7

Second system of the musical score, continuing from the first. It consists of four staves: three vocal staves and one piano accompaniment staff. The key signature is three sharps and the time signature is 2/4. The lyrics are: "You would see the sky like a clear blue cup Turned". The piano part has a treble clef and a key signature of three sharps. The lyrics are aligned under the vocal staves.

You would see the sky like a clear blue cup Turned

You would see the sky like a clear blue cup Turned

You would see the sky like a clear blue cup Turned

You would see the sky like a clear blue cup Turned

10

Third system of the musical score. It consists of four staves: three vocal staves and one piano accompaniment staff. The key signature is three sharps and the time signature is 2/4. The lyrics are: "up - side down in the air." The piano part has a treble clef and a key signature of three sharps. The lyrics are aligned under the vocal staves. There are slurs and a triplet of eighth notes in the piano part.

up - side down in the air.

up - side down in the air.

up - side down in the air.

up - side down in the air.

10

Fourth system of the musical score. It consists of four staves: three vocal staves and one piano accompaniment staff. The key signature is three sharps and the time signature is 2/4. The lyrics are: "up - side down in the air." The piano part has a treble clef and a key signature of three sharps. The lyrics are aligned under the vocal staves. There are slurs and a triplet of eighth notes in the piano part.

up - side down in the air.

up - side down in the air.

up - side down in the air.

up - side down in the air.

13 *a tempo* *mp*

What would you do, up my ae - rie - stair

What would you do, up my ae - rie - stair

8 What would you do, up my ae - rie - stair

13 *mp* *a tempo*

What would you do, up my ae - rie - stair

16 *mf*

In my lit - tle nest on the tree? With

mf

In my lit - tle nest on the tree? With

8 *mf*

In my lit - tle nest on the tree? With

mf

In my lit - tle nest on the tree? With

16 *mf*

[illegible]