

SATB

Christmas in the Heart

\$2.50

Christmas in the Heart

Music by
Christopher Alexander

SATB and Piano

cantareworks

THE MUSIC OF CHRISTOPHER ALEXANDER

About the Work

Paul Laurence Dunbar's expressive poetry has become increasingly popular over recent years, particularly of choral composers setting his words to music. With a pop ballad setting, the message of the text takes the spotlight with a supportive piano accompaniment that propels the story. Lyrical voice writing lead to heightened dramatic points throughout the song, making this work an enjoyable musical experience for the singers and audience alike.

*The snow lies deep upon the ground,
And winter's brightness all around
Decks bravely out the forest sere,
With jewels of the brave old year.
The coasting crowd upon the hill
With some new spirit seems to thrill;
And all the temple bells chime.
Ring out the glad of Christmas time.*

*In happy homes the brown oak-bough
Vies with the red-gemmed holly now;
And here and there, like pearls, there show
The berries of the mistletoe.
A sprig upon the chandelier
Says to the maidens, "Come not here!"
Even the pauper of the earth
Some kindly gift has cheered to mirth!*

*Within his chamber, dim and cold,
There sits a grasping miser old.
He has no thought save one of gain,—
To grind and gather and grasp and drain.
A peal of bells, a merry shout
Assail his ear: he gazes out
Upon a world to him all gray,
And murmurs, "Why, this is Christmas Day!"*

*No, man of ice,—for shame, for shame!
For "Christmas Day" is no mere name.
No, not for you this ringing cheer,
This festal season of the year.
And not for you the chiming of bells
From holy temple rolls and swells.
In day and deed he has no share—
Who holds not Christmas in his heart!*

— Paul Laurence Dunbar
(1872-1906)

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.

CHRISTMAS IN THE HEART

SATB and Piano

Words by
PAUL LAURENCE DUNBAR (1872-1906)

Music by
CHRISTOPHER ALEXANDER

Adagio ma non troppo, ethereal (♩ = c. 68)

p stagger breathe

SOPRANO
ALTO

TENOR
BASS

PIANO

Adagio ma non troppo, ethereal (♩ = c. 68)

p A cappella though m. 6 (play if needed)

Steady, like a pop ballad (♩ = c. 68)

mp

unis. p

The snow lies deep up -

Steady, like a pop ballad (♩ = c. 68)

(play) *mp* *p*

Pedal harmonic only

Christmas in the Heart

10

on the ground, And win-ter's bright - ness all a-round —

13

Decks brave - ly out — the for - es - sere,

15

With jew - els of — the brave old year. The

17

coast - ing crowd up - on the hill — With some new spir - it seems to thrill; — And

19 *mp*

all the tem - ple bells a - chime.

19 *mp*

21 *unis.*

like bell chimes Ring out the glee of

21 *p*

L. H.

23

Christ - mas time.

23

25

Christmas in the Heart

27

SOPRANO, ALTO *unis. mp*

TENOR, BASS *unis. mp*

In hap - py homes — the brown oak - bough

27

mp

29

— with the red - gemmed ho - ly now;

29

31

And here and there, — like pearls, there show

31

33

The ber - ries of the mis - tle - toe. A

33

35

sprig up - on the ches - de - lier Says to the man - ens, "Come not here!"

35

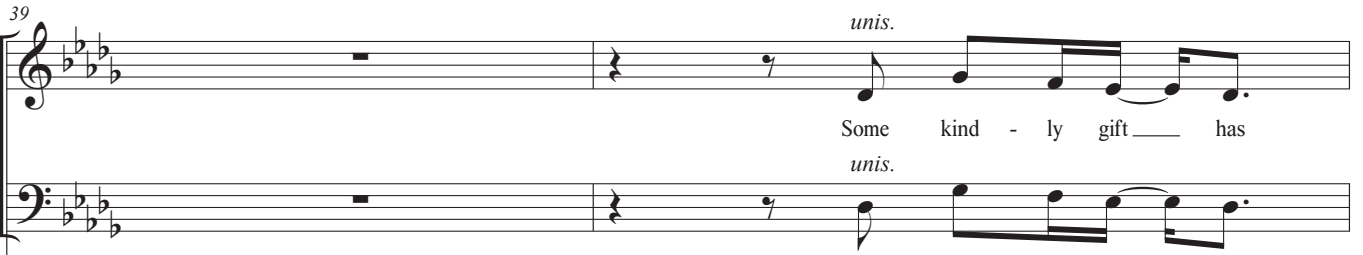
37

E - ven the pau - per of the earth

37

Christmas in the Heart

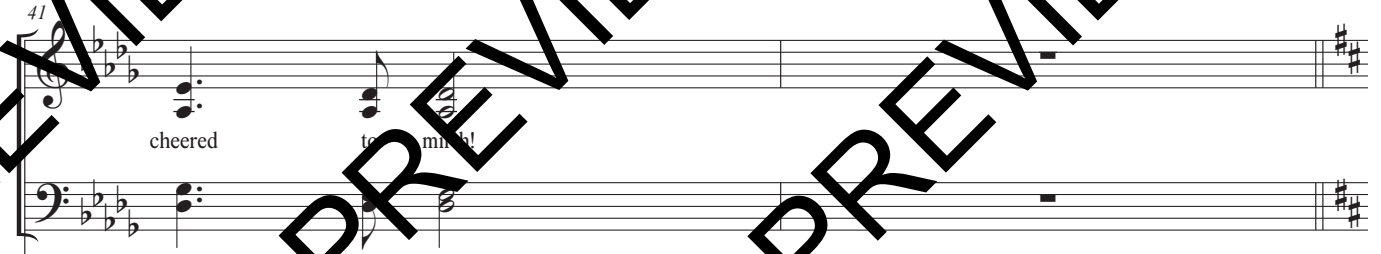
39 *unis.*
Some kind - ly gift — has



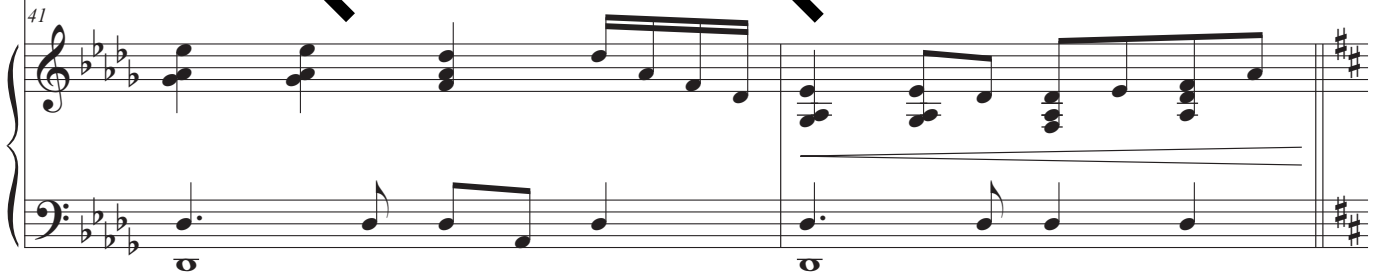
39



41
cheered to merrily!



41



43 *mf*
Ah *mf*



43 *mf*

