



Kolibri

WORDS BY

Charles Anthony Silvestri

MUSIC BY

Christopher Alexander

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SSA (15/4205H)

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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 range from instrumental works to vocal solo and choral literature. In 2016, he was awarded the St. Joseph Allied Arts Council Mayor's Award for Artist of the Year.

About the Poet

Described as “the preeminent choral lyricist of our time,” poet, author, composer, and speaker Charles Anthony Silvestri has worked with other artists from all over the world to create texts tailor-made for their commissions and specific artistic needs. Having retired from the classroom after 38 years, now as a clinician Silvestri speaks to choirs, classes, and concert audiences about his works, the creative process, the marriage of words and music, and about his collaborative relationships with composers. He is the author of three books, several published essays, and scores of choral octavos. He currently lives, writes, and makes music in Lawrence, KS.

From the Composer

Lyrical voice-leading and close-knit harmonies are supported by an illustrative piano accompaniment, leading easily through its wide vocal and emotional ranges. A wind chimes effect is achieved with tapered rubato applied to each pair of measures. The choir dramatizes the text with its note suspensions and fluid volume markings, creating a simple yet evocative result.

From the Poet

Kolibri means “hummingbird” in German. Hummingbirds are such wondrous creatures—so fast, so rare, so ephemeral. While this poem explores that rarity, I wrote it also for a friend who had found love again after a lonely time. Relationships are such risks, but worth it. This friend and his new partner could only be together for brief periods, as they lived so far apart; so their meetings were wonderful times of joy, like the fleeting visit of a hummingbird.

Kolibri

SATB and Piano

3

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Andante espressivo ♩ = ca. 72

SA *p legato*

Rare and won - der - ful,

TB *p legato*

Andante espressivo ♩ = ca. 72

a cappella through measure 5 (play only if needed)

p legato

3

rit.

rare and won - der - ful...

8

rit.

8

Duration: 3:40

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4 **Andantino con mosso e poco rubato** ♩ = 84-92
light and delicate, like wind chimes

6 *mp* (play)

pedal harmonically throughout

8

10 *mp*

Rare and won - der - ful,

mp

12 Small wings a blur,

14

22

rit.

a tempo

still.

rit.

mp a tempo

The image shows a musical score for a piano piece. It consists of three systems of staves. The first system has a treble and bass staff with a whole note chord in the treble and a whole note chord in the bass, both marked with a fermata and a 'rit.' (ritardando) marking. The second system has a treble staff with a whole note chord in the treble and a whole note chord in the bass, both marked with a fermata and a 'still.' marking. The third system has a treble staff with a whole note chord in the treble and a whole note chord in the bass, both marked with a fermata and a 'rit.' marking. The fourth system has a treble staff with a whole note chord in the treble and a whole note chord in the bass, both marked with a fermata and a 'mp a tempo' marking. A large red 'X' is drawn over the bottom right of the page.

25

The musical score for measures 25-28 of 'Her' is written in D major (two sharps) and 4/4 time. The vocal line (soprano) begins in measure 25 with a whole rest, followed by another whole rest in measure 26. In measure 27, it starts with a half rest, then a quarter rest, and finally a half note 'Her' in measure 28, marked with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. The piano accompaniment (right hand) features a complex, flowing melody with many beamed eighth and sixteenth notes, starting in measure 25 and continuing through measure 28. The cello/bass line (left hand) provides a harmonic foundation with a mix of quarter and half notes, also spanning measures 25 to 28.

28

mf

Her au - di - ence is fleet - ing.

au - di - ence is fleet - ing. She

mf

30

She brings a wel - come bless - ing, A

brings a wel - come bless - ing.

32

heal - ing for the heart, A re - mind - er to the spir - it That the

34

p cresc. world is good, That love is

p cresc.

37 *mf* *rit.*

real, And all will be whole a -

mf *rit.*

a tempo
opt. Sop. div.

40 *f*

gain, a - gain.

f

marc.

f a tempo

43

appassionato

46

sub. *mp* cresc.

49

rit.

rit.

sim.

rit.

f

52

Tempo I ♩ = ca. 72

mp espress.

How can such a crea - ture So small, so

mp

Tempo I ♩ = ca. 72

mp espress.

64 *f* *rit.* *a tempo*

"Come! Here is sweet food!"

67 *rit.*

Here is sweet food!"

70 *p a tempo*

Rare and won - der - ful,

8va *leggiere*

p a tempo



72

rare and won - der - ful...

(8^{va})

74

(8^{va})

76

molto rit.

pp