

Choral

SERIES

There's Within My Heart a Melody

MUSIC BY

Christopher Alexander

For SATB Voices
and Piano

PREVIEW



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Sacred Music

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Notes

This beautiful hymn captures the love and devotion we feel from following Jesus Christ through all our triumphs and tragedies in life. A new melody and intimate setting for Luther Bridgers' timeless text brings a more earnest approach to the poetry. The contemporary harmonic chording is supported by a rich, distinctive accompaniment (appropriate for the intermediate-advanced pianist). As the song embellishes its lyricism, the texture dramatically expands toward the heightened recapitulation. The powerful reiteration of the refrain ("Jesus, sweetest name I know...") robustly proclaims the everlasting love that Jesus Christ gives to all, before gently cascading to a calm and serene repetition of the song's opening. The piece concludes as a renewed, more personal devotion to Jesus with the repetition of his name.

—Christopher Alexander

About the Author

Luther Bridgers (1884–1948) was an American songwriter and minister. Possessing a lovely singing voice, he often assisted his father who conducted revival meetings from 1904 to 1913. His wife and three sons perished in a house fire while he was conducting a revival in 1911. He attended (and was later awarded an honorary DD Degree from) Asbury College in Wilmore, Kentucky, and was ordained in the Methodist Episcopal Church, South. In addition to his evangelization efforts across the southern United States, he participated in missionary outreaches in Belgium and eastern Europe following World War I. Bridgers' most famous hymn is "He Keeps Me Singing," with a tune derived from a popular song of the day "Melody of Love."

About the Composer

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. A self-taught pianist, his compositions and arrangements range from instrumental works to vocal solo and choral literature. He has been commissioned by several vocal groups and church choirs in the northwest Missouri and northeast Kansas regions. He is also active in musical theater productions as a music director and pianist. Christopher currently serves as the pianist and primary arranger for The New Generation Singers, a Christian singing youth group based in St. Joseph.

THERE'S WITHIN MY HEART

A MELODY

Luther B. Bridgers, 1884–1948, adapt.

Christopher Alexander

Adagio espressivo semplice ♩ = 64

p *leggiero*

pedal harmonically

The piano introduction consists of two staves. The right hand plays a continuous eighth-note accompaniment in a 4/4 time signature, with a tempo of ♩ = 64. The left hand is silent, with the instruction 'pedal harmonically' written below the staff.

S P
There's with-in my heart a mel - o - dy Je - sus

A P
There's with-in my heart a mel - o - dy Je - sus

T P *div.*
There's with-in my heart a mel - o - dy Je - sus

B P
There's with-in my heart a mel - o - dy Je - sus

The vocal and piano accompaniment section begins with a piano introduction of three measures. It features four vocal staves (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and a piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: "There's with-in my heart a mel - o - dy Je - sus". The piano accompaniment includes a right-hand part with eighth-note accompaniment and a left-hand part with chords. A large 'PREVIEW' watermark is overlaid on the page.

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5

whis - pers sweet and low.

7

There's with-in my heart a mel - o - dy Je - sus

There's with-in my heart a mel - o - dy Je - sus

With - in my heart Je - sus

With - in my heart Je - sus

9

whis - pers sweet and low:

whis - pers sweet and low:

unis.
whis - pers sweet and low:

whis - pers sweet and low:

Detailed description: This block contains the vocal staves for measures 9 and 10. It features four staves: Soprano (S), Alto (A), Tenor (T), and Bass (B). The lyrics are "whis - pers sweet and low:". The Soprano and Alto parts are marked with a slur and a fermata. The Tenor and Bass parts are also marked with a slur and a fermata. The music is in a minor key with a 3/4 time signature.

Detailed description: This block shows the piano accompaniment for measures 9 and 10. The right hand features a continuous eighth-note pattern in the left hand, while the right hand plays chords and moving lines. The music is in a minor key with a 3/4 time signature.

11

mp con moto
S, A
Fear not, I am with thee,

mp con moto
T, B

mp con moto

Detailed description: This block contains the vocal staves and piano accompaniment for measures 11 and 12. The vocal parts are for Soprano and Alto (S, A) and Tenor and Bass (T, B). The lyrics are "Fear not, I am with thee,". The vocal parts are marked with a slur and a fermata. The piano accompaniment is marked with *mp con moto*. The music is in a minor key with a 3/4 time signature.

13

peace, — be still, — in

15

all of life's ebb and flow.

con affetto

17

rit. *a tempo*

rit. *mp a tempo*

19 *S mp tranquillo*

Oo.

A mp tranquillo

Oo.

div.

T mp tranquillo

Oo.

B mp tranquillo

Though some-times he leads me through wa - ters deep, and

19 *triquillo*

21

unis. mf bravura

Though some -

tri - als fall a - cross the way,

21

23 *mf bravura* *legato*

Though he leads me through wa - ters deep, and

mf bravura *legato*

Though he leads me through wa - ters deep, and

legato

times he leads me through wa - ters deep, and—

mf bravura *legato*

Though he leads me through wa - ters deep, and

23 *mf bravura e legato*

25

tri - als fall a - cross the way,

tri - als fall a - cross the way,

tri - als fall a - cross the way,

tri - als fall a - cross the way,

25

27 *S, A con moto*

though some - times the path seems rough and steep, I see his

T, B con moto

28 all the way,

foot - prints all the way.

mp

31 *mp* I see his foot - prints all the

see his foot - prints

mp

33 way. *rit.*

T div. all the way.

rit.

35 *a tempo*
unis. p sotto voce

Je - sus, — Je - sus, — Je - sus, sweet-est name I

a tempo
unis. p sotto voce

p a tempo

38 *mp*
div. espress.

know, fills my ev - 'ry long - ing,

mp
div. espress.

mp
espress.

41 *rit.* *mf a tempo*

keeps me sing - ing as I go.

rit. *mf a tempo*

44

rit. *mf a tempo*

Tempo I

47 *S, A p sotto voce*

Soon he's com - ing back to wel - come me

T, B p sotto voce

49

far be - yond the star - ry sky.

49

delicato

51

S espress.

Soon he's com-ing back to wel - come me far be - yond the

A espress.

Soon he's com-ing back to wel - come me far be - yond the

T espress. *div*

Soon he's com-ing back to wel - come me far be - yond the

B espress.

Soon he's com-ing back to wel - come me far be - yond the

51

54 *mf*
 star - ry sky; I shall wing my flight — to
mf
 star - ry sky; ah,
unis. mf
 star - ry sky; ah,
mf
 star - ry sky; ah,

54
mf *espress.*

57
 worlds un known;

57

59

cresc.

I shall reign with him on

59

cresc.

cresc.

molto rall.

61

div.

high.

molto rall.

high,

on

high.

molto rall.

high,

on

high.

molto rall.

high.

on

high.

61

furioso

molto rall.

furioso

molto rall.

63 *f a tempo*

Je - sus, — Je - sus, — Je - sus, sweet-est name I

f a tempo

Je - sus, — Je - sus, — Je - sus, sweet-est name I

div. f a tempo

Je - sus, sweet-est name I

f a tempo

Je - sus, sweet-est name I

63 *f a tempo sostenuto*

66 *unis.*

know, fills my ev - 'ry

know, fills my ev - 'ry

know, fills my ev - 'ry *unis.*

know, fills my ev - 'ry

66 *8va*

68

long - ing, keeps me sing - ing as I

long - ing, keeps me sing - ing as I

long - ing, keeps me sing - ing as I *div.*

long - ing, keeps me sing - ing as I

68

71

go. He keeps me sing - ing *mp*

go. He keeps me sing - ing *mp*

go. He keeps me sing - ing *mp*

go. Je - sus. He keeps me sing - ing *mp*

71

74

as I go. *p*

as I go. *p*

as I go. *p unis.*

as I go. *p*

74

77

sotto voce

Je - sus, *p*

sotto voce

Je - sus, *p*

77

p leggiero

79 *sotto voce*

Je - sus, Je

sotto voce

Je - sus, Je

div.

Je

Je

Detailed description: This block contains the vocal staves for measures 79 and 80. It features four staves: two soprano staves and two bass staves. The music is in a minor key with a 3/4 time signature. The lyrics are 'Je - sus, Je' for the first two staves and 'Je - sus, Je' for the next two. The first two staves are marked 'sotto voce'. The third staff has a 'div.' marking above it. The fourth staff has a 'Je' below it. The notes are mostly quarter and half notes with some rests.

79

Detailed description: This block contains the piano accompaniment for measures 79 and 80. It features two staves: a right-hand treble staff and a left-hand bass staff. The right-hand part consists of a continuous sixteenth-note pattern, with a '6' (finger number) indicated below each measure. The left-hand part consists of a simple harmonic accompaniment with quarter notes and chords.

81 *div.* *rit.*

sus.

sus.

sus.

sus.

Detailed description: This block contains the vocal staves for measure 81. It features four staves: two soprano staves and two bass staves. The music is in a minor key with a 3/4 time signature. The lyrics are 'sus.' for all four staves. The first two staves are marked 'div.' and 'rit.'. The notes are mostly half notes with some rests.

81 *rit.*

Detailed description: This block contains the piano accompaniment for measure 81. It features two staves: a right-hand treble staff and a left-hand bass staff. The right-hand part consists of a continuous sixteenth-note pattern, with a '6' (finger number) indicated below each measure. The left-hand part consists of a simple harmonic accompaniment with quarter notes and chords. The measure is marked 'rit.'.

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