

SATB

Voices of the Air

\$2.50

Christopher Alexander

Voices  
of the Air

*SATB, a cappella*

**cantareworks**

THE MUSIC OF CHRISTOPHER ALEXANDER

## About the Work

Katherine Mansfield's poetry always creates a rich illustration that brings her readers into its ambience. This musical setting for unaccompanied choir brings her poem to life using advanced performance embellishments and techniques that will astound your singers in rehearsal and your audience in performance. After the prelude the work stays mostly polyphonic until the bridge when all voices come together in homophony, then finally evolves into cacophony with each section performing their own ambient "voice" with individual lyrical and rhythmic patterns. Four soloists are featured during this cacophonous section as the music fades away to its haunting conclusion.

*But then there comes that moment rare  
When, for no cause that I can find,  
The little voices of the air  
Sound above all the sea and wind.*

*The sea and wind do then obey  
And seahing, sailing double notes  
Of double basses, content to play  
A drooping chord for the little throats—*

*The little throats that sing and rise  
Up into the light with lovely ease  
And a kind of magical, sweet surprise  
To hear and know themselves for these—*

*For these little voices: the bee, the fly,  
The leaf that taps, the pod that breaks,  
The breeze on the grass-tops bending by,  
The shrill quick sound that the insect makes.*

—Katherine Mansfield  
(1888-1923)

## 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.

# VOICES OF THE AIR

Words by  
KATHERINE MANSFIELD

SATB, a cappella

Music by  
CHRISTOPHER ALEXANDER

Like a haunting presence (♩ = c. 72)

*mf* legato stagger breathe *cresc.*

SOPRANO

Ah

ALTO

Ah

TENOR

Ah

BASS

PIANO (for rehearsal only)

*mf* legato stagger breathe *cresc.*

Like a haunting presence (♩ = c. 72)

Slightly faster (♩ = c. 75-78)

5 *rit.*

5 *rit.*

5 *rit.*

5 *rit.*

5 *rit.*

Slightly faster (♩ = c. 75-78)

Optional: use shaker (egg) to play continuous 16th notes

Voices of the Air

9

*mp*

*mp*

*mf scherz.*

Lit - tle, lit - tle, lit - tle voi - ces, lit - tle, lit - tle, lit - tle voi - ces,

*mp*

9

*mf scherz.*

11

*mf espress.*

But

*mf espress.*

But

lit - tle, lit - tle, lit - tle voi - ces, lit - tle, lit - tle, lit - tle voi - ces,

*mf scherz.*

Lit tle, lit - tle, lit - tle voi - ces, lit - tle, lit tle, lit - tle voi - ces,

11

*mf espress.*

13

close to "n" *mp*

then (n) \*n - n - n - n - n - n -

close to "n" *mp*

then (n)

*mp*

lit - tle, lit - tle, lit - tle voi - ces, lit - tle, lit - tle, lit - tle voi - ces,

*mp*

lit - tle, lit - tle, lit - tle voi - ces, lit - tle, lit - tle, lit - tle voi - ces,

13

*mp*

15

n - n - n - n - n - n - n - n - n - n - n - n - n - n -

\*n - n - n - n - n - n - n - n - n -

*mp*

lit - tle, lit - tle, lit - tle voi - ces, lit - tle, lit - tle, lit - tle voi - ces,

lit - tle, lit - tle, lit - tle voi - ces, lit - tle, lit - tle, lit - tle voi - ces,

15

\*Give a slight accent to each *n*, closely sounding like "ni", and return immediately to closed *n*. Emphasize more the notes with tenuto markings.

Voices of the Air

17 *mf* *espress.*  
n - n - n - n - n there comes that mo - ment rare \_\_\_\_\_  
*mf* *espress.*  
n - n there comes that mo - ment rare \_\_\_\_\_  
8 lit - tle, lit - tle, lit - tle voi - ces, lit - tle, lit - tle, lit - tle voi - ces,  
lit tle, lit - tle, lit tle voi - ces, lit - tle, lit tle, lit - tle voi - ces,

17 *mf* *espress.*  
lit - tle, lit - tle, lit - tle voi - ces, lit - tle, lit - tle, lit - tle voi - ces,  
lit tle, lit - tle, lit tle voi - ces, lit - tle, lit tle, lit - tle voi - ces,

19 When, for no cause that I can find \_\_\_\_\_  
When, for no cause that I can... \_\_\_\_\_  
8 lit - tle, lit - tle, lit - tle voi - ces, lit - tle, lit - tle,  
lit tle, lit - tle, lit tle voi - ces, lit - tle, lit tle,

19 lit - tle, lit - tle, lit - tle voi - ces, lit - tle, lit - tle,  
lit tle, lit - tle, lit tle voi - ces, lit - tle, lit tle,

21

*legato*

The

*schert.*

lit - tle, lit - tle, lit - tle voi - ces, lit - tle, lit - tle, lit - tle voi - ces,

*mf*

lit - tle, lit - tle, lit - tle, lit - tle voi - ces, lit - tle, lit - tle, lit - tle, lit - tle voi - ces,

*mf* *espress.*

lit - tle voi - ces,

21

23

lit - tle voi - ces of the air

*legato*

lit - tle voi - ces, lit - tle voi - ces, lit - tle voi - ces, lit - tle voi - ces, lit - tle voi - ces, lit - tle voi - ces,

*legato*

lit - tle voi - ces, lit - tle voi - ces, lit - tle voi - ces, lit - tle voi - ces, lit - tle voi - ces, lit - tle voi - ces,

*legato*

voi - ces, lit tle voi - ces, lit - tle voi - ces,

23

*legato*

Voices of the Air

25

Sound a - bove all the sea and wind.  
lit - tle voi - ces, lit - tle voi - ces, lit - tle voi - ces, lit - tle voi - ces, lit - tle voi - ces, lit - tle voi - ces,  
lit - tle voi - ces, lit - tle voi - ces, lit - tle voi - ces, lit - tle voi - ces, lit - tle voi - ces, lit - tle voi - ces,  
lit - tle voi - ces, lit - tle voi - ces, lit - tle voi - ces, lit - tle voi - ces,

25

lit - tle voi - ces, lit - tle voi - ces, lit - tle voi - ces, lit - tle voi - ces,

27

*mf* *espress.*  
The  
*mf* *espress.*  
The  
*sub. mf* *scherz.*  
Lit - tle, lit - tle, lit - tle voi - ces, lit - tle, lit - tle, lit - tle voi - ces,  
*sub. mf* *scherz.*  
Lit - tle, lit - tle, lit - tle voi - ces, lit - tle, lit - tle, lit - tle voi - ces,

27

*sub. mf* *scherz.* *espress.*