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CHRISTOPHER ALEXANDER

SATB US \$2.95

SATB CHOIR, WITH PIANO

CHRISTOPHER ALEXANDER

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CHRISTMAS IN THE HEART



ENDEAVOR
MUSIC PUBLISHING

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. In 2016, he was awarded the St. Joseph Allied Arts Council Mayor's Award for Artist of the Year. In 2022, 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.

About The Piece

Paul Laurence Dunbar (1872-1906) was among the first African American poets to achieve national literary acclaim. Born in Dayton, Ohio, Dunbar published extensively in both dialect and standard English, and was widely praised for the depth and musicality of his work. He died at just thirty-three, leaving behind a body of writing that is tender, lyrical, and deeply human.

This setting is adapted from Dunbar's poem, Christmas in the Heart. At its core, Dunbar's message is simple and enduring: Christmas lives not in outward trappings but in the generosity and joy we carry within us.

Text

The snow lies deep upon the ground,
And winter's brightness all around
Adorns the woods now bright and clear,
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 achime.
Ring out the joy 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.
And not for naught the chime of bells
From holy temple rolls and swells.
No lonely soul can stand apart,
Who carries Christmas in the heart!

The dusk descends on field and town,
And casts a quiet mantle down;
Through frosted air and falling snow
The candles cast a gentler glow.
The fading day grows soft and still,
As tender lights the windows fill;
And all the earth, both far and near,
Lies still and kind this time of year.

For Christmas is no passing guest,
Nor dwells in halls, not richly dressed;
It lingers where the heart is true,
And makes the old world fair and new.
And not for naught the chime of bells
From holy temple rolls and swells.
No lonely soul can stand apart,
Who carries Christmas in the heart!

CHRISTMAS IN THE HEART

text adapted from "Christmas in the Heart" by
PAUL LAURENCE DUNBAR

music by
CHRISTOPHER ALEXANDER

Adagio ma non troppo, ethereal ♩ = 68
p

SOPRANO
ALTO

Oo

p stagger breathe

TENOR
BASS

Oo

Adagio ma non troppo, ethereal ♩ = 68
p

PIANO

a cappella though m. 6 (play if needed)

A steady, like a pop ballad ♩ = 68
mp

7

mp

unis. p

The snow lies deep up - on the ground, And win - ter's bright-ness

A steady, like a pop ballad ♩ = 68

(play)

With pedal

12

all a - round A - dorns the woods now bright and clear, With jew - els of the brave old year. The

17 **B**

coast - ing crowd up - on the hill With some new spir - it seems to thrill; And all the tem - ple bells a -

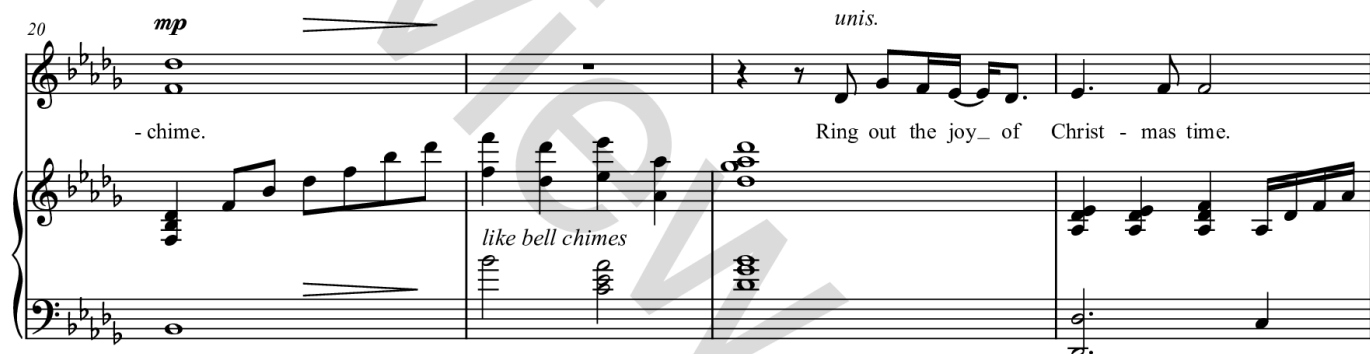
B



20 *mp* *unis.*

- chime. Ring out the joy_ of Christ - mas time.

like bell chimes



24 **C** *mp*

SOPRANO, ALTO

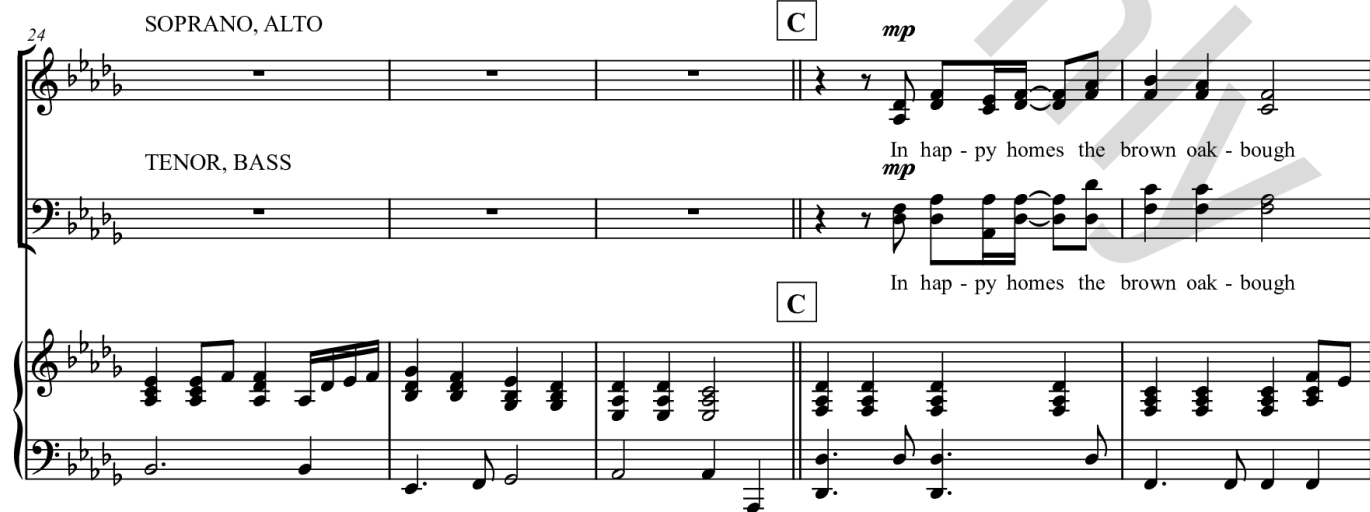
TENOR, BASS

In hap - py homes the brown oak - bough

mp

In hap - py homes the brown oak - bough

C



29

Vies with the red-gemmed hol - ly now; And here and there, like pearls, there show

Vies with the red-gemmed hol - ly now; And here and there, like pearls, there show

33

The ber - ries of the mis - tle - toe. And not for naught the chime of bells From

The ber - ries of the mis - tle - toe. And not for naught the chime of bells From

D

36

ho - ly tem - ple rolls and swells. No lon - ley soul can stand a - part

ho - ly tem - ple rolls and swells. No lon - ley soul can stand a - part

40 *unis.*

Who car - ries Christ - mas in the heart!

unis.

Who car - ries Christ - mas in the heart!

43 *mf*

Ah

mf

Ah

Oo

Oo

49 **E** *p*

The dusk de - scends on field and town, And casts a qui - et man - tle down; Through frost - ed air and

p

F

mp

54

fall - ing snow the can - dles cast a gent - ler glow. The fad - ing day grows soft and still_ As

fall ing snow the can - dles cast_ a gent - ler glow. The fad - ing day grows soft and still_____ As

62

F

mp

58

ten - der lights the wind - dows fill_ And all the earth, both far and near Lies still and kind this

ten - der lights the wind - dows fill_ And all the earth, both far and near Lies still and kind this

G

62

time of year._____ For Christ - mas is no pass - ing guest, Nor dwells in halls, not rich - ly dressed

time of year._____ It

H

66

And not for naught the chime of bells From

ling - ers where the heart is true, and makes the old world fair and new. And not for naught the chime of bells From

H

69

ho - ly tem - ple rolls and swells. No lon - ley soul can stand a - part,

ho - ly tem - ple rolls and swells. No lon - ley soul can stand a - part, like bell chimes

73

p rit..... a tempo rit.....

Who car - ries Christ - mas in the heart! Oo

p Who car - ries Christ - mas in the heart! Oo

rit..... a tempo rit.....