

Cherish Your Doubt

SSAA, vocal soloist(s) and piano



Elizabeth Alexander

By doubting we come at truth.

Marcus Tullius Cicero (106 BC - 43 BC)

The beginning of wisdom is found in doubting; by doubting we come to the question, and by seeking we may come upon the truth.

Pierre Abelard (1079-1142)

If a man will begin with certainties, he shall end in doubts; but if he will be content to begin with doubts, he shall end in certainties.

Sir Francis Bacon (1561-1626)

To deny, to believe, and to doubt absolutely — this is for man what running is for a horse.

Blaise Pascal (1623-1662)

Doubt is the vestibule through which all must pass before they can enter into the temple of wisdom.

Charles Caleb Colton (1780-1832)

...Have patience with everything unresolved in your heart and...try to love the questions themselves as if they were locked rooms or books written in a very foreign language. Don't search for the answers, which could not be given to you now, because you would not be able to live them. And the point is to live everything. Live the questions now. Perhaps then, someday far in the future, you will gradually, without even noticing it, live your way into the answer.

Rainer Maria Rilke (1875-1926)

The important thing is not to stop questioning. Curiosity has its own reason for existing. One cannot help but be in awe when he contemplates the mysteries of eternity, of life, of the marvelous structure of reality. It is enough if one tries merely to comprehend a little of this mystery every day. Never lose a holy curiosity.

Albert Einstein (1879-1955)

If a man does not keep pace with his companions, perhaps it is because he hears a different drummer. Let him step to the music which he hears, however measured or far away.

Henry David Thoreau (1817-1862)

Two roads diverged in a wood, and I —
I took the one less traveled by,
And that has made all the difference.

Robert Frost (1874-1963)

Doubt isn't the opposite of faith; it is an element of faith.

Paul Tillich (1886-1965)

Cherish your doubts, for doubt is the handmaiden of truth.

Doubt is the key to the door of knowledge; it is the servant of discovery.

A belief which may not be questioned binds us to error,

for there is incompleteness and imperfection in every belief.

Doubt is the touchstone of truth; it is an acid which eats away the false.

Let no man fear for the truth, that doubt may consume it; for doubt is a testing of belief.

The truth stands boldly and unafraid; it is not shaken by the testing:

For truth, if it be truth, arises from each testing stronger, more secure.

He that would silence doubt is filled with fear; the house of his spirit is built on shifting sands.

But he that fears not doubt, and knows its use, is founded on a rock.

He shall walk in the light of growing knowledge; the work of his hands shall endure.

Therefore let us not fear doubt, but let us rejoice in its help:

It is to the wise as a staff to the blind; doubt is the handmaiden of truth.

Robert T. Weston (1898-1988)

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Doubt is part of all religion. All the religious thinkers were doubters.

Isaac Bashevis Singer (1904-1991)



SSAA arrangement commissioned by
Vox Femina of Los Angeles, Iris Levine, Artistic Director

Cherish Your Doubt

for SSAA choir and piano, with vocal soloist(s)

Elizabeth Alexander

(♩ = 80-84) *Soulful and sincere*

Pno

(Where no pedal markings appear, use only very light pedal for occasional color)

5

9 *P*

Solo *

Spring - time with - out win - ter would en - ter with a yawn and

13

Solo

dawn with - out the night would be a te - di - um of light. Re -

17

Solo

u - nion fol - lows part - ing, re - new - al fol - lows death, And our

generously

* Soloist(s) may *ad lib* freely, taking liberties with rhythm, pitch, dynamics and vocal inflection.

21 *mp*

Solo

songs of love have grown from the ver - y

mp

Ped. Ped.

25

Solo

seeds our doubt has sown

Ped. Ped.

30

Solo

Our hearts and minds would ne - ver grow.

mp

S I

With - out (t) a doubt, With -

mp

S II

With - out (t) a doubt, With -

mp

A I

With - out (t) a doubt, With -

mp

A II

With - out (t) a doubt, With -

mp

* Ped. Ped. Ped.

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44

Solo

out a doubt we'd be hang - in' on to no - tions that are bet - ter gone.

p

S I

Ooo

S II

Ooo

A I

Ooo

A II

Ooo

mp

Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped.

48

Solo

(mf) Try to love the ques - tions, *passionately* Those

mf

Ped. Ped.

52

Solo

thorn - y, thorn - ny ques - tions,

Ped. Ped.

56

Solo

p *warmly, intimately* Trust your in - tu - i - tion, and

p

Ped. Ped.

60

Solo

cher - - ish, Cher - ish your

Ped. Ped.

65 (♩=126) with rhythmic energy

Solo

doubt.

p

69 *mf*

S I

1. Cher-ish your doubt, Don't throw it out, That's what true be -
2. Cher-ish your doubt, Don't throw it out, Might - y oaks can

S II

1. Cher-ish your doubt, Don't throw it out, That's what true be -
2. Cher-ish your doubt, Don't throw it out, Might - y oaks can

A I

mf

1. [Sing Alto II part for first 2 measures of 1st verse] That's what true be -
2. Cher-ish your doubt, Don't you know that might - y oaks can

A II

mf

1. Cher-ish your doubt, Don't throw it out, That's what true be -
2. Cher-ish your doubt, Don't throw it out, Might - y oaks can

mf

Ped. Ped.

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77 (♩ = ♩) *p lyrical*

S I *And*

S II *gently pulsing*
eyes and ears and hands and heart and mind, *And*

A I eyes, ears, hands, heart and mind, and mind, *And*

A II eyes, ears, hands, heart and mind, and mind, *And*

Ped. *Ped.* *Ped.*

80 *mf*

S I what you learn may change the world, *mf* So

S II what you learn may change the world, *mf* So

A I what you learn may change the world, *mf* So

A II what you learn may change the world, *mf* So

Ped. *Ped.* *Ped.* *Ped.* *Ped.* *Ped.* *Ped.* *Ped.* *Ped.* *Ped.* *Ped.* *mf*

83 (♩ = ♩)

S I don't throw it out! don't throw it out!

S II don't throw it out! don't throw it out!

A I don't throw it out! don't throw it out!

A II don't throw it out! don't throw it out!

85 1. SOLO: *mp*

Solo Cher - ish your

S I *p* Cher - ish,

S II *p* Cher - ish,

A I *p* Cher - ish,

A II *p* Cher - ish,

p

Ped. Ped. * Ped.

89

Solo doubt.

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101 *mp*

S I Leave your dark - est fears and

S II Leave your dark - est fears be - hind and

A I Leave your fears and

A II Leave your fears and

mp

Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped.

103 *f*

S I Cher - ish your doubt, Don't throw it out, That's one thing you

S II Cher - ish your doubt, Don't throw it out, That's one thing you

A I Cher - ish your doubt, Don't throw it out, That's one thing you

A II Cher - ish your doubt, Don't throw it out, That's one thing you

f

* Ped. Ped.

106

S I can't do with - out, When you walk ____ (k) that ____ (t) less trav - eled route, ____

S II can't do with - out, When you walk ____ (k) that ____ (t) less trav - eled route, ____

A I can't do with - out, When you walk ____ (k) that ____ (t) less trav - eled route, ____

A II can't do with - out, When you walk ____ (k) that ____ (t) less trav - eled route, ____

Ped. * Ped. * Ped. Ped. *

109

S I sud - den - ly new ____ i - de - as may sprout, ____

S II sud - den - ly new ____ i - de - as may sprout, ____ Use your *p lyrical*

A I sud - den - ly new ____ i - de - as may sprout, ____ Use your *p lyrical*

A II sud - den - ly new ____ i - de - as may sprout, ____ Use your *p lyrical*

cantabile
Piano part with *p* marking and Ped. markings.

Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped.

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SING FOUR TIMES, WITH A DIFFERENT SOLOIST ON EACH REPEAT
 (Solos may be sung by small groups if desired)

117 (♩ = ♩) *mf*

1st Solo
 Call on your rea - son and com - pas - sion,

2nd Solo
mf
 Al - though it may not be in fash - ion.

3rd Solo
mf
 Don't be a - fraid of what you'll find.

4th Solo
mf
 Just leave your fears be - hind and

SING FOUR TIMES

S I
 don't throw it out!

S II
 don't throw it out!

A I
 don't throw it out!

A II
 don't throw it out!

Red. *

119 *f*

S I Cher - ish your doubt, don't you e - ver re - fuse it,

S II Cher - ish your doubt, don't you e - ver re - fuse it,

A I Cher - ish your doubt, don't you e - ver re - fuse it,

A II Cher - ish your doubt, don't you e - ver re - fuse it,

f

Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped.

121

S I You can move a whole moun - tain if you use it.

S II You can move a whole moun - tain (n).

A I You can move a whole moun - tain (n).

A II You can move a whole moun - tain (n).

f

Ped. Ped. Ped.

123 *mp*

S I Cher - ish,

S II ooh

A I ooh

A II ooh

magical

mp

p

Ped. Ped.

127 SOLO: *mp*

S I Cher - ish your doubt,

S II

A I *pp*
Cher-ish your doubt, cher-ish your doubt,

A II

Ped. * Ped.

Opal Palmer Adisa, poet ◦ Margaret & George Alexander, parents ◦ Yehuda Amichai, poet ◦ Bjorn Arneson, generous web designer ◦ Scott Bates, poet ◦ Abbie Betinis, composer/colleague ◦ Dennis Blubaugh, music dealer ◦ Michael deVernon Boblett, poet ◦ Ray Bradbury, writer ◦ Norbert Capek, visionary ◦ e. e. cummings, poet ◦ Philip Dacey, poet ◦ Emily Dickinson, poet ◦ Evelyn Dudley, poet ◦ Rob Eller-Isaacs, minister/writer ◦ Sophia Lyon Fahs, writer ◦ Richard M. Fewkes, writer ◦ Peshia Gertler, poet ◦ Richard S. Gilbert, minister/writer ◦ Jack Gallagher, composer/teacher ◦ Paul Gerike, proofreader ◦ Steve Harper, technical advisor ◦ Steve Hawkins, generous web designer ◦ Edie Hill, composer/colleague ◦ Langston Hughes, poet ◦ Mark Humphrey, piano technician ◦ Karel Husa, composer/teacher ◦ Kalidasa, poet ◦ Garrison Keillor, storyteller ◦ Denise Levertov, poet ◦ George Ella Lyon, poet ◦ Jonathan Machen, artist ◦ Edna St. Vincent Millay, poet ◦ J. David Moore, composer/colleague ◦ Joan Wolf Prefontaine, poet ◦ Gerald Rich, poet ◦ Carl Sandburg, poet ◦ King Sigismund III, religious reformer ◦ Steven Stucky, composer/teacher ◦ Rabindranath Tagore, poet ◦ Howard Thurman, civil rights leader/writer ◦ John Greenleaf Whittier, poet ◦ Theodore S. Lockering Williams, poet ◦ Daniel Winter, pianist/teacher ◦ Nancy Wood, poet ◦ Yehudi Wyner, composer/teacher ◦ Paul Adams, technical advisor ◦ Opal Palmer Adisa, poet ◦ Margaret & George Alexander, parents ◦ Yehuda Amichai, poet ◦ Bjorn Arneson, generous web designer ◦ Scott Bates, poet ◦ Abbie Betinis, composer/colleague ◦ Dennis Blubaugh, music dealer ◦ Michael deVernon Boblett, poet ◦ Ray Bradbury, writer ◦ Norbert Capek, visionary ◦ e. e. cummings, poet ◦ Philip Dacey, poet ◦ Emily Dickinson, poet ◦ Evelyn Dudley, poet ◦ Rob Eller-Isaacs, minister/writer ◦ Sophia Lyon Fahs, writer ◦ Richard M. Fewkes, writer ◦ Peshia Gertler, poet ◦ Richard S. Gilbert, minister/writer ◦ Jack Gallagher, composer/teacher ◦ Paul Gerike, proofreader ◦ Steve Harper, technical advisor ◦ Steve Hawkins, generous web designer ◦ Edie Hill, composer/colleague ◦ Langston Hughes, poet ◦ Mark Humphrey, piano technician ◦ Karel Husa, composer/teacher ◦ Kalidasa, poet ◦ Garrison Keillor, storyteller ◦ Denise Levertov, poet ◦ George Ella Lyon, poet ◦ Jonathan Machen, artist ◦ Edna St. Vincent Millay, poet ◦ J. David Moore, composer/colleague ◦ Joan Wolf Prefontaine, poet ◦ Gerald Rich, poet ◦ Carl Sandburg, poet ◦ King

A LOT OF HARD WORK & CREATIVITY WENT INTO BRINGING THIS MUSIC TO YOU...



...AND SOME OF IT WAS EVEN MINE.

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(YOU KNOW WHY.)

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S I *p* *mp* *mf*
cher-ish your doubt, cher-ish your doubt, cher-ish your doubt, cher-ish your doubt,

S II *p* *mp* *mf*
cher-ish your doubt, cher-ish your doubt, cher-ish your doubt, cher-ish your doubt,

A I *p* *mp* *mf*
cher-ish your doubt, cher-ish your doubt, cher-ish your doubt, cher-ish your doubt,

A II *p* *mp* *mf*
cher-ish your doubt, cher-ish your doubt, cher-ish your doubt, cher-ish your doubt,

143 *f*

S I *f*
That's what true be - lief is a - bout, don't throw it out!

S II *f*
That's what true be - lief is a - bout, don't throw it out!

A I *f*
That's what true be - lief is a - bout, don't throw it out!

A II *f*
That's what true be - lief is a - bout, don't throw it out!