

Those Who Wish To Sing  
Always Find a Song

(Swedish proverb)

for treble choir, piano, and oboe

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Elizabeth Alexander

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# Those Who Wish To Sing Always Find a Song

When I began searching for singing syllables from around the world, I had no idea the task would prove to be so fascinating. For several months I carried on a correspondence with choral directors and linguists from around the world, who offered me singing syllables (*vocables*), guidance on pronunciation and usage, relevant books and articles, and their enthusiasm and encouragement. Some of these syllables are from very localized dialects, while others are from much wider regions. To my helpers everywhere, thank you so much! - E.A.

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## The pronunciations below are given in the International Phonetic Alphabet:

Y as in “lot” / e as in “let” / I as in “lid” / i as in “leaf” / o as in “loaf” / u as in “loot”

- 1) su-de-rut-tan-tei [su-dc-ru-tcn-tei] (Sweden)  
“tei” is pronounced as if it rhymes with the English word “day,” but with the vowel set slightly lower in the mouth, as in Australia’s “G’day mate.”
- 2) tyr-a-li, tyr-a-lo [tI-rc-li, tI-rc-lo] (Ireland)
- 3) ay dam tar-ra-dam [Yi dYm tY-rY-dYm] (Russian Gypsy)  
“ay” is pronounced like the English word “I”
- 4) ho-la-li, ho-la-ho [ho-lY-hi, ho-lY-ho] (Germany / Scandinavia)
- 5) fad-de-rul-lan-dei [fY-dc-ru-lcn-dei] (Norway)  
“dei” is pronounced like the English word “day,” but with the vowel set slightly lower in the mouth. (See “su-de-rut-tan-tei”)
- 6) yang-a nang-a hey-o naa [yYõ-c nYõ-c he- o nY] (Southwestern Native American)  
“yang-a” and “nang-a” contain an “unpronounced g,” as in the English word “singer” (as opposed to the “pronounced g” in the English word “finger”)  
“heyo” is pronounced as if it rhymes with the Latin word “Deo.”
- 7) la dé-ri don la [lY de-ri dõ lY] (France)
- 8) ten-nen-ni, ten-nen-nen-ni [te-ne-ni, te-ne-ne-ne-ni] (Turkey)  
“ten” is pronounced like the English word “ten.”  
“ni” is pronounced like the English word “knee.”
- 9) tra-la-la-le-ru-la [trY-lY-lY-le-ru-lY] (Italy)

Commissioned in honor of Scott Campbell,  
Teacher of the Year in Farmington, CT

# Those Who Wish To Sing Always Find a Song

Swedish proverb

Elizabeth Alexander

(♩=152)

Oboe *mf*

Piano *marcato* *mf*

Ped. \*

5 *mp*

Tutti

1. Su - de -  
2. Ay dam  
3. Fad - de -

Ob.

Pno *mp*

Ped. \* Ped.

9

Tutti

1. - rut - tan - tei, — Su - de - rut - tan - tei, — Su - de - rut - - - tan -  
2. ta - ra - dam, — Ay dam ta - ra - dam, — Ay dam ta - - - ra -  
3. - rul - lan - dei, — Fad - de - rul - lan - dei, — Fad - de - rul - - - lan -

Pno

Ped. \*

13

1.

Tutti

- tei, — tyr - a - li, tyr-a- lo, — tyr - a - li, tyr-a- lo, — tyr - a -

Pno

17

Tutti

- li, tyr-a- lo, — tyr - a - li, — a - li, — Those who

Pno

Ped.

22

(no breath)

Tutti

wish to sing — al - ways find a song. —

Ob.

*mf*

Pno

*mf*

\* Ped. \*

26 2.

Tutti

- dam, — ho-la - hi, ho-la- ho, — ho - la - hi, ho-la- ho, — ho - la -

Pno

*Ped.* \*

30

Tutti

- hi, ho-la-ho, — ho - la - hi, — la - hi, — Those who

Pno

35 (no breath)

Tutti

wish to sing — al - ways find a song. —

Ob.

*mf*

Pno

*mf*

*Ped.* \*

39 3.

Tutti

- dei, — yang-a nang-a hey-o, — yang-a nang-a hey-o, — yang-a

Pno

Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped.

(pedal with right hand)

43

Tutti

nang - a hey - o, hey - o naa, — — — — Those who

Pno

Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped.

46

Tutti

wish — — — — to sing, — — — — who wish to sing, — — — — la

Pno

Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped.

*mf* *warmly* *p*

*warmly*

50

Tutti

dJ - ri don, la dJ - ri, dJ - ri don, dJ - ri,

*p*

Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped.

55

Tutti

dJ - ri don, la, la, dJ - ri don, la

Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped.

60

Tutti

dJ - ri, dJ - ri don, dJ - ri, dJ - ri don la,

*mp*

Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. 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 ◦ Peshla 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

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**...AND SOME OF IT WAS EVEN MINE.**



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**(YOU KNOW WHY.)**

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78

*mf*

I wish \_\_\_\_\_ to

*mf*

II wish to sing, — those who wish to sing, — those who

*mf*

Ob. \*

*mf*

Pno *mf*

Ped. Ped.

80

I sing, to \_\_\_\_\_ sing, — tra - la -

II wish \_\_\_\_\_ to sing, — tra - la -

(no breath)

*mf*

Ob.

Pno *mf*

Ped. Ped. Ped.

\* The oboe passage on these two pages did not appear in the original version of the song.

84

Tutti

Ob.

Pno

*bell-like f*

*Ped.* *p* *Ped.*

86

Tutti

Pno

*Ped.* *Ped.*

90 *lightly mp*

I

II

III

Pno

*lightly mp* *lightly mp* *lightly mp*

*mp*

*Ped.* (keep pedal depressed through the end of the piece)

I  
wish to sing\_ al - ways find a song.\_\_\_\_\_ Those who

II  
\_\_\_\_\_ Those who wish to sing\_ al - ways find a song.\_\_\_\_\_

III  
find a song.\_\_\_\_\_ Those who wish to sing\_ al - ways

Pno

I  
wish to sing\_ al - ways find a song.\_\_\_\_\_

II  
\_\_\_\_\_

III  
find a song.\_\_\_\_\_

Pno

*bell-like, marcato*

100

I  
II  
III

*p*

Those who wish to sing al - ways

Ob.

(...since *mp* love is

*mf*

Pno

*mp*

103

I  
II  
III

*p*

Those who

find a song,

Ob.

*p*

Those who

lord of heav'n and earth how

Pno

106

I  
wish to sing — al - ways find a song.

II

III  
wish to sing — al - ways find a song.

Ob.  
can I keep from sing - ing...)

Pno  
*(mf)*  
*pp*

109

I

II  
*pp*  
find a song.

III

Ob.  
*pp*

Pno  
*(nondim.)*

*Those Who Wish To Sing Always Find a Song* was commissioned in 2001 by the Farmington High School Friends of Music, in honor of **Scott Campbell**, Teacher of the Year in the school district of Farmington, CT.

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**Elizabeth Alexander** spent her childhood in the Carolinas and the Appalachian region of Ohio. She studied composition with Steven Stucky, Karel Husa, Jack Gallagher and Yehudi Wyner, receiving her bachelors degree from The College of Wooster and her doctoral degree from Cornell University. Currently a free-lance composer in St. Paul, MN, she has served as a composer-in-residence at nine public schools and arts programs, and has written over twenty-five commissioned works for choirs, orchestras, chamber ensembles and solo musicians.

Her choral music, which includes over 50 pieces for singers of all ages and abilities, has won numerous awards, including the Swan Composers Prize, Ithaca College Choral Composition Competition, Brookline Chorus Composition Contest, Euphonia Vocal Composition Competition, KidSing 2000 Composers Competition, and Highest Honors in the Waging Peace for Singing Project. In addition, she has received grants, awards and fellowships from the Jerome Foundation, New York Council on the Arts, Wisconsin Arts Board, National Orchestral Association, International League of Women Composers, National Federation of Music Clubs, Meet the Composer, and ASCAP.

*For more information about Alexander's music and current projects,  
or to let her know about your performance of this song, visit  
[www.elizabethalexander.com](http://www.elizabethalexander.com)*