

Where There Is Light In the Soul

Chinese proverb

SSA a cappella



Elizabeth Alexander

*Where there is light in the soul there will be beauty in the person.
Where there is beauty in the person there will be harmony in the home.
Where there is harmony in the home there will be honor in the nation.
Where there is honor in the nation there will be peace in the world.*

Chinese proverb

“When I decided to set this Chinese proverb to music, I offered myself a delightful musical challenge. Each of the five central concepts — light, beauty, harmony, honor and peace — is given a distinct character, using rhythm, harmony, melody and articulation. Each time these words make an appearance in the music, no matter how briefly, these musical “signatures” are present, woven into the fabric of the composition.” - E.A.

Elizabeth Alexander spent her childhood in the Carolinas and Appalachian Ohio, the daughter of a minister and a piano teacher. Her passion for language and music is reflected in her catalogue of over 100 songs and choral works, which have received nearly 20 national and international awards.



Reviews of her music have referred to “the close personal resonance between the composer and the words,” as well as her music’s “delicacy and sincerity,” “elegance,” and “freshness within a well-known language.”

Performers of her music have included instrumental ensembles such as Charleston Symphony Orchestra, Minnesota Philharmonic Orchestra, Wisconsin Chamber Orchestra, North/South Consonance, Society for New Music, and Sounds New; solo singers such as Ruth MacKenzie, Bradley Greenwald and Janet Youngdahl; and over 1000 choirs, including VocalEssence, Elmer Iseler Singers, Gregg Smith Singers, New York Virtuoso Singers, MUSE, San Francisco Gay Mens Chorus, and the entire student body of Waunakee Elementary School.

Among her composition teachers were Jack Gallagher at The College of Wooster, and Steven Stucky, Yehudi Wyner and Karel Husa at Cornell University, from which she received her doctorate in music composition. She has received awards, grants and fellowships from the McKnight Foundation, Jerome Foundation, New York Council on the Arts, Wisconsin Arts Board, National Orchestral Association, International League of Women Composers, and American Composers Forum.

Alexander lives in St. Paul, MN, where her frequent commissions include works for orchestra, chorus, chamber ensembles and solo musicians. She reads voraciously, shamelessly encourages her teenagers’ jokes, and tends her garden during the three month period in Minnesota that is not winter. She believes she has the best job in the world.

For more information about Elizabeth’s music, visit:

www.elizabethalexander.com

Where There Is Light in the Soul

SSA choir a cappella

Chinese Proverb

Elizabeth Alexander

(♩ = 76-80) *with lightness and grace*

mp

S I
Where there is light in the soul there will be beau - ty in the

mp

S II
Where there is light in the soul there will be beau - ty in the

mp

A
Where there is light in the soul there will be beau - ty in the

4

S I
per - - son. Where there is

S II
per - - son, where there is light in the soul. Where there is

A
per - - son, where there is light in the soul. Where there is

6

S I
beau - ty in the per - son there will be

S II
beau - ty in the per - son there will be

A
beau - ty in the per - - son there will be

2

8

S I har - mo - ny, there will be har - mo - ny, there will be

S II har - mo - ny, there will be har - mo - ny, there will be

A har - mo - ny, there will be har - mo - ny, there will be

10

S I har - mo - ny in the home, Where there is

S II har - mo - ny in the home, in the home, Where there is

A har - mo - ny in the home, the home, Where there is

13

S I har - mo - ny in the home there will be hon - or in the

S II har - mo - ny in the home there will be hon - or in the

A har - mo - ny in the home there will be hon - or in the

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 ◦ Peshha 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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4

23 *f* *...and warmth* *p*

S I light in the soul, where there is light in the soul,

S II light in the soul, where there is light in the soul,

A light in the soul, where there is light in the soul,

26

S I There will be peace in the world, there will be peace in the

S II There will be peace in the world, there will be peace in the

A There will be peace in the world, there will be peace in the

30 *mf*

S I world, where there is light in the soul

S II world, where there is light in the soul

A world, where there is light in the soul

34

S I *p* there will be peace, there will be peace,

S II *p* there will be peace, will be peace, will be peace, will be

A *p* there will be peace, will be peace, will be peace, where there is *mp*

38

S I will be peace,

S II peace, will be peace, where there is

A *p* light in the soul there will be peace, where there is

40

S I *mp* there will be peace, *p* there will be peace,

S II *mp* light, there will be peace, *p* there will be peace,

A *mp* light, there will be peace, there will be peace, *p*

6

44

pp **poco rit.**

S I there will be peace. there will be peace.

pp **poco rit.**

S II there will be peace in the world, there will be peace.

pp **poco rit.**

A there will be peace.

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