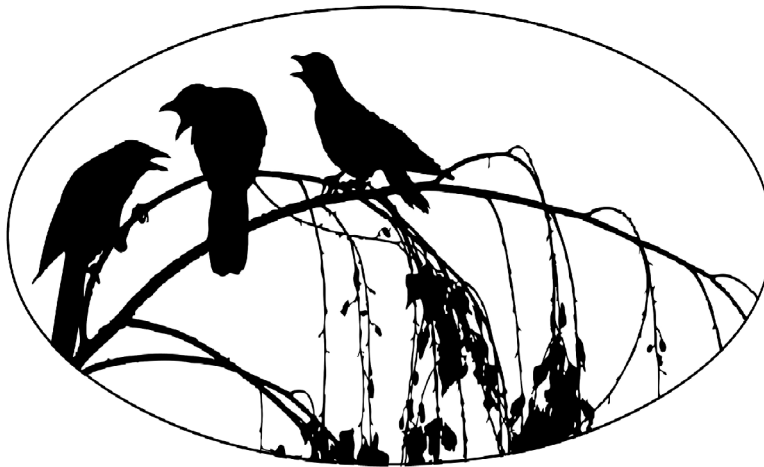


# Same Birds

(David Allan Evans)

SATB a cappella



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Elizabeth Alexander

*Seafarer Press*

## Waking Up

*for Jan*

We wake up again to the sound  
of those same birds just

outside our window. I can't  
name them, wouldn't need to

if I could, but only guess  
what they seem to be

saying over and over.  
Listen: *We are here,*

*we are here,*  
*we are here.*

David Allan Evans

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**David Allan Evans** (b. 1940) was greatly influenced by his father, a newspaper pressman at The Sioux City Journal and a self-educated writer and scholar. Entering college on a football scholarship, Evans was writing poems and stories by the time he graduated. His passion for poetry eventually led to his becoming professor of English and writing at South Dakota State University for nearly four decades.

Evans' writings have appeared in over 80 anthologies, and he has authored or edited seven other books. His nine collections of poetry include his most recent book, *The Carnival, The Life*. The poet laureate of South Dakota for a dozen years, his many awards include a National Endowment for the Arts Grant and two Fulbright Scholarships to China. Now retired from university work, he makes his home where Nebraska, Iowa and South Dakota meet at a bend in the Missouri River.

**Elizabeth Alexander** grew up in the Carolinas and Appalachian Ohio, inheriting her love of music, language and challenging questions from her parents, a piano teacher and a minister/prison warden. These passions are reflected in her catalogue of over 100 songs and choral works, and a style which moves with ease between concert stage, choir loft and jam session.

Her frequent commissions include works for orchestra, chamber ensembles, solo instruments and voice, but she is best known for her choral pieces, which have received many awards and been performed by thousands of choruses worldwide.

A recent McKnight Composition Fellow, she lives in Saint Paul, where she reads voraciously, makes pretty good biscuits, gardens during the three month period in Minnesota which is not winter, and is constantly looking for reasons to visit her two fabulous grown sons.



**Cover image:** "Three Birds Arguing on a Branch" Nikuz / Shutterstock

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*Elizabeth Alexander*

# Same Birds

David Allan Evans

for SATB chorus a cappella

Elizabeth Alexander

With spunk

S

A

T

B

*mp*

Snap fingers: *mp*

Wake up

Wake up to the sound of those same birds,

We wake up a -gain\_ to the sound of those same birds, to the sound of those same birds,

*for rehearsal only*



6

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Snap: *mp*

Wake up to the sound of those same birds.

Snap:

just out-side our win-dow, those same birds, Wake up to the sound of those same birds.

T

you betcha!

Snap:

just out-side, just out-side our win-dow, those same birds, Wake up to the sound of those same birds.

B

10

S

A

T

B

15

*Seafarer Press*  
just out-side, just out-side our win-dow, those same birds, those

A same *For perusal only* just out-side our win-dow, those same birds, those

T same birds, those same birds, those

B same birds, those

*you betcha!*

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19

**S** *mf*  
same\_\_ birds, those same\_\_ same\_\_ same\_\_ birds, those same birds.

**A** *mf*  
same birds, those same same same birds, those same birds.

**T** *mf*  
same birds, those same same same birds, those same birds.

**B** *mf*  
same birds, those same same same birds, those same\_\_ birds.

24

*Whisper to your neighbor:*  
*p* (same birds) (same birds) *mp* Oh,\_\_\_ we're

*Whisper to your neighbor:*  
*p* (same birds) (same birds) *mp* Oh,\_\_\_ we

*For perusal only, you betcha!*

**T** *p* Just out-side, Just out-side, Just out-side, Just out-side, Just out-side our win - dow, *mp*

**B** *p* Just out-side, Just out-side, Just out-side, Just out-side, Just out-side our win - dow, *mp*

**A**

28 *mf*

S wak-ing up a - gain to the sound \_\_\_\_\_ the sound of those same\_ birds

A *mf*


wake to the sound \_\_\_\_\_ the sound of those same birds,

T *mf*

Wak-ing up a - gain to the sound \_\_\_\_\_ a - gain, \_\_\_\_\_

B *mf*

Oh, \_\_\_\_\_ the sound a - gain, \_\_\_\_\_



32 *p subito*

S *Seafarer Press*

wak-ing up a-gain to the sound of those same birds. \_\_\_\_\_

A *p subito*

wak-ing up a-gain to the sound of those same birds. \_\_\_\_\_

T *p subito*

*For perusal only,*

wak-ing up a-gain to the sound of those same birds, \_\_\_\_\_ those same birds. \_\_\_\_\_

B *p subito*

wak-ing up a-gain to the sound of those same birds. just out-side our win - dow, \_\_\_\_\_

*gliss.*





36

S same birds, same birds, Oh, those same birds, same birds, same birds, oh those

A same birds, same birds, same birds, oh those same birds, same birds, same birds, oh those

T — same birds, oh those same birds, those same birds, oh those

B — same birds, oh those same birds, same birds, same birds, oh those

40

*mf* same birds, those same birds, those same birds, just out-side our win - dow,

*mf* same birds, those same birds, those same birds, just out-side our win - dow,

*mf* For perusal only, you betcha?

T same birds, those same birds, those same birds, wake

B same birds, those same birds, those same birds, we're wak-ing

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44

**S** *f* Wake up to the sound of tho - oo - oh-oo-oh - oose same birds.

**A** *f* wake up to the sound of tho - oo - oh-oo-oh - oose same birds. *mp* I can't

**T** *f* up. *mf* Oh - oo-oh - oo-oh-oo - oh. I can't

**B** *f* up. *mf* Oh - oo-oh - oo-oh-oo - oh.

49

**S** *p* same birds, same birds, same birds, same birds, same

**A** same birds, same birds, same birds, same birds, same

**T** name them, *p* same birds, same birds, same

**B** name them, *p* same birds, same birds, same

could-n't \* need to if I could

\* Horror of horrors. The composer suggests that basses omit the final "t" on "wouldn't." Not only is it more consistent with the style, but it makes this more fun to sing.

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*Elizabeth*



53 *mf*

S birds, Oh, oh! o-ver a-gain, We are here,

A birds, Oh, oh! o-ver a-gain, We are here,

T But on-ly guess what they seem to be say - ing o - ver and o - ver a- gain, We are here,

B But on-ly guess what they seem to be say - ing oh! We are here,

57 **C** *mf*

S we are here, we are here, we are here, we are here, We are here,

A we are here, we are here, we are here, we are here, We are here,

T *For perusal only,*  
*you betcha!* we are here, we are here, we are here, we are here, We are here,

B we are here, we are here, we are here, we are here, Those birds, those same same birds, Here

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61

S — we are here, — we are here, — we are here, — we are here, — those birds, those same

A — we are here, — we are here, — we are here, — we are here, —

T — we are here, — we are here, — we are here, — we are here, —

B — we are here, — we are here, — we are here, — we are here, —

64

S those birds, those same birds, — Lis - ten,

A — those birds, those same birds, — Lis - ten,

T We are here, — We are here, —

B — We are here, — We are here, —

Seafarer Press

*For perusal only,  
you betcha!*

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68

S *mp*  
lis - ten: we are here, those birds. I can't

A *mp*  
lis - ten: we are here, those birds. I can't

T  
— Lis - ten to the sound of those birds.

B  
— Lis - ten to the sound of those birds.

71 **D**

S name \_\_\_\_\_ them, would - n't \* need to if I could,

A name \_\_\_\_\_ them, would - n't \* need to if I could,

T name \_\_\_\_\_ them, would - n't \* need to if I could,

B name \_\_\_\_\_ them, would - n't \* need to if I could,

*For perusal only, you betcha!*

same birds, same \_\_\_\_\_ birds,

same birds, same \_\_\_\_\_ birds,

\* Sopranos and altos, go ahead and omit the final "t" on "wouldn't." If anyone objects, tell them that that basses did it, too..

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*Elizabeth*

74

S But on - ly guess what they seem to be say - ing o -

A But on - ly guess what they seem to be say - ing,

T Oh no, oh no - - - (woh) - - - (woh) - - - (woh) - - -

B Oh no, oh no - - - (woh) - - - (woh) - - - (woh) - - -

77

S Solo or Tutti: *mf* *Seafarer Press* - ver and o - ver and o - ver and o - ver and o - ver and o - ver a - gain,

A *mf* oh! *For perusal only,*

T *mf* you betcha!

B *mf* - woh!)

**a tempo subito**

\* If desired, some members of the AI section may sing the cue-sized notes, reinforcing the SII part.

84

S We are here, — we are here, we are here, — we are here, — we are here,

A We are here, — we are here, we are here, — we are here, — we are here,

T We are here, — we are here, we are here, — we are here, — we are here,

B — Those birds, those same — same — birds, Here — we are here, we are here, — we are here, — we are here,

88

S *Seafarer Press* those birds, those same birds, — *mp* those birds, those same birds, —

A — — — — — *mp* those birds, those same birds, —

T *For perusal only, you betcha!* *mp* We are here, — *p* We are

B — — — — — *mp* — — — — — *p* We are here, — We are

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**Repeat ad lib.**

Here is where a some of you get to caw like a crow. (You know you want to.) Or yodel like a loon, or hoot like an owl, or whistle like a robin.

The trick is to think of these birdsongs not as corny, but as *profound*. Sure, we've been hearing these birds every morning for umpteen years, but now we're listening to what they are *really* saying. (Which is the same thing that we're saying.) Anyone can detect a noisy bird, but it takes a special kind of listening to hear the cry of its very existence. If you can hear it that way, the audience will hear it that way.

92 *pp* sparse birdcalls from a few individuals, *lontano* (i.e. as if coming from far away)

Bird Track: (caw caw) (caw caw caw) (caw caw)

S *p* Lis - ten: Lis - ten:

A *p* Lis - ten: Lis - ten:

T here, We are here, We are

B here, We are here, We are

96 *poco rit.* *pp*

Lis - ten: *pp*

A *pp*

T here, We are here, We are here.

B here, We are here, We are here.

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