Y Comienzo a Bailar

Pensamientos sobre El Día de Los Muertos



SATB, soprano, and piano

Elizabeth Alexander

Seafarer Press

Y Comienzo a Bailar

Pensamientos sobre El Día de los Muertos

Al preparar la habitación para los invitados, sacudo la mesa, el trapo en mis manos, un sepulcro suave para lo que ahora es polvo. Todo a mi alrededor, cada repisa y cada rincón albergan un pequeño cementerio.

Más tarde, cuando llegan las sombras de nuestras madres y nuestros padres, las palabras se atropellan impotentes en nuestra boca: los amamos, los extrañamos, los recordamos.

Extendemos nuestras manos ofreciendo pan, chocolate, los regalos más preciados de nuestro jardín.

Las sombras no nos responden, ni comen, pero sonríen de forma imperceptible, como siempre sonríe la muerte —

así que de repente los tomates brillan en la cazuela azul. la sal húmeda crepita en nuestros labios la caricia del viento dentro de nosotros es más fresca y más dulce, y (segura de que los músicos han llegado por fin) me levanto de mi silla y comienzo a bailar.

Elizabeth Alexander, translation by Agustin Cadena Translation © 2011 by Elizabeth Alexander

And I Begin To Dance

Thoughts on the Day of the Dead

Preparing the room for guests, I wipe the table clean, the cloth in my hands a soft grave for what is now dust. All around me, every ledge and corner harbors a small cemetery.

Later, when the shadows of our mothers and fathers arrive, words tumble helplessly from our mouths: we love you, we miss you, we remember you.

We hold out our hands, offering bread, chocolate, our garden's tenderest gifts.

The shadows neither answer us nor eat, but smile in the imperceptible way the dead always smile —

so that suddenly the tomatos gleam bright in the blue bowl, the wet salt on our lips crackles, the wind's caress within us is cooler and sweeter, and (certain that the musicians have finally arrived) I rise from my chair and begin to dance.

Elizabeth Alexander © 2011 by Elizabeth Alexander



Cover Image: "Perched Bird with Girl" by Madeline Stamer www.littlecircusdesign.com

Y Comienzo a Bailar

("And I Begin to Dance")

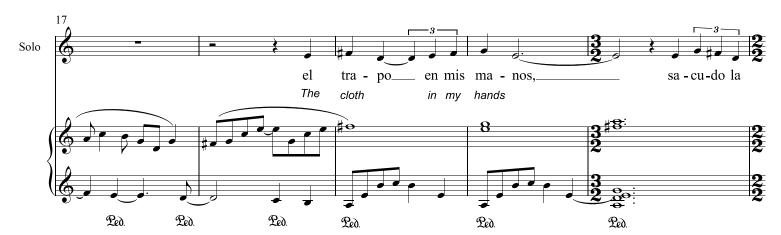
Original poem in English by Elizabeth Alexander Translation to Spanish by Agustin Cadena

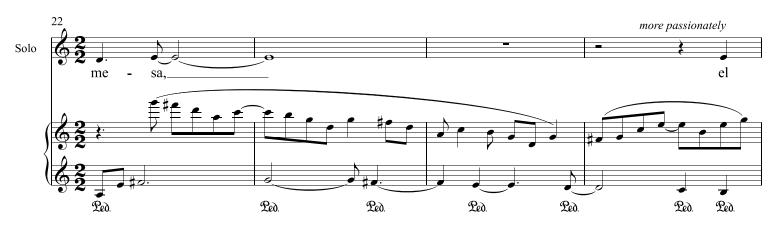
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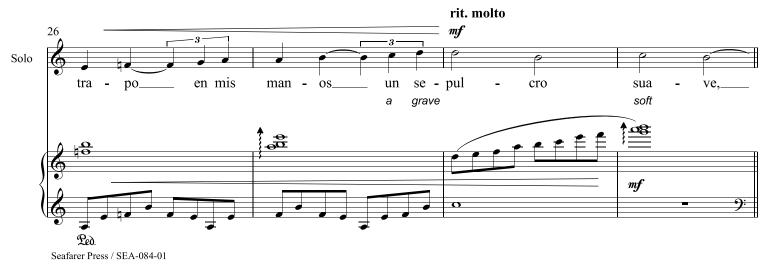


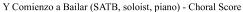
Y Comienzo a Bailar (SATB, soloist, piano) - Choral Score



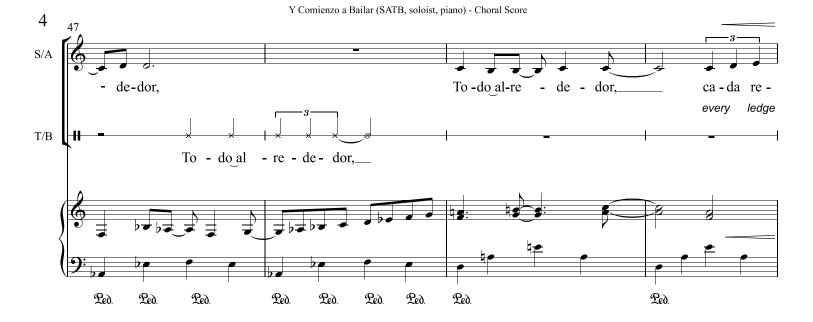


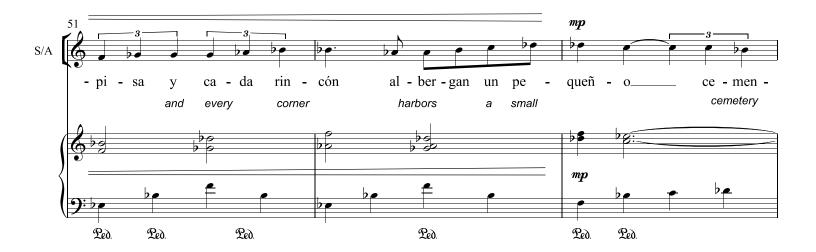


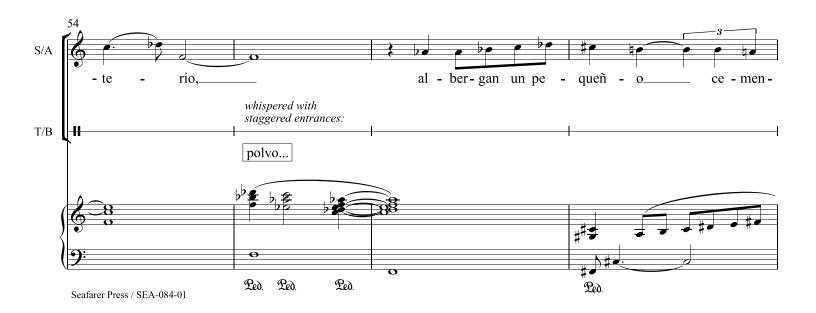


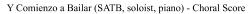




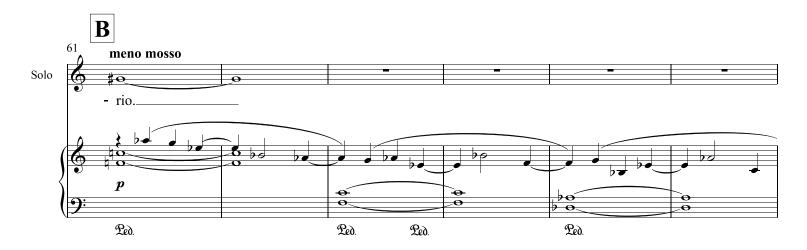


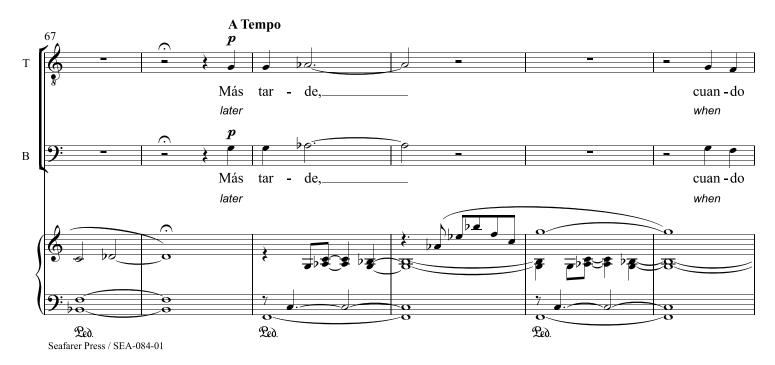














Y Comienzo a Bailar (SATB, soloist, piano) - Choral Score





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* For musical reasons, I used the plural of garden here, "jardines," instead of "jardín." -E.A. Seafarer Press / SEA-084-01

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