# 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")

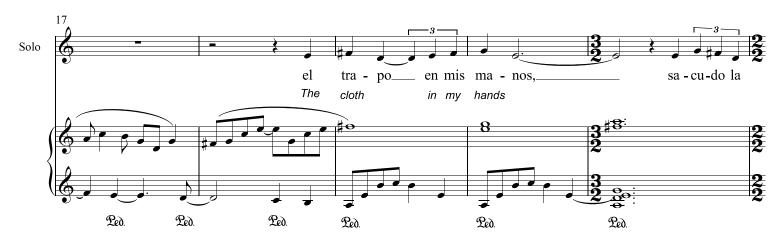
Original poem in English by Elizabeth Alexander Translation to Spanish by Agustin Cadena

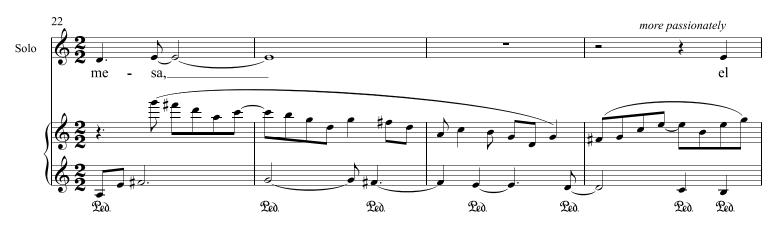
Elizabeth Alexander

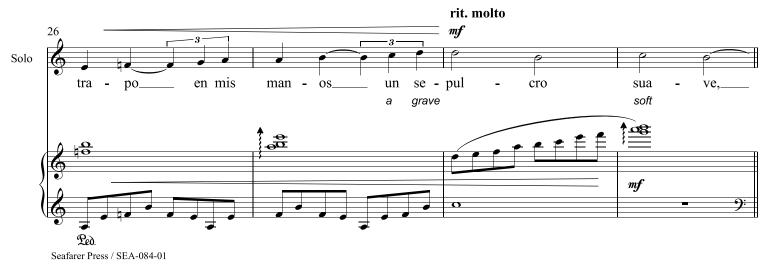


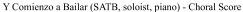
Y Comienzo a Bailar (SATB, soloist, piano) - Choral Score



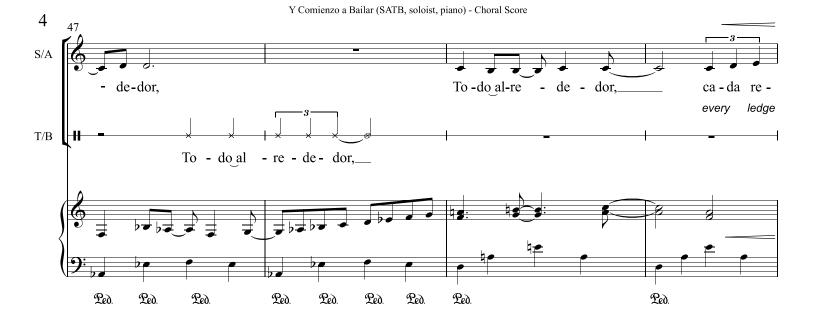


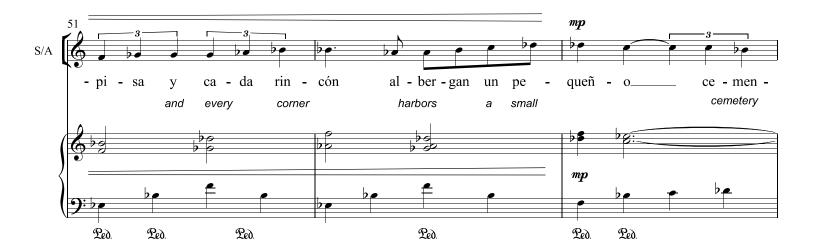


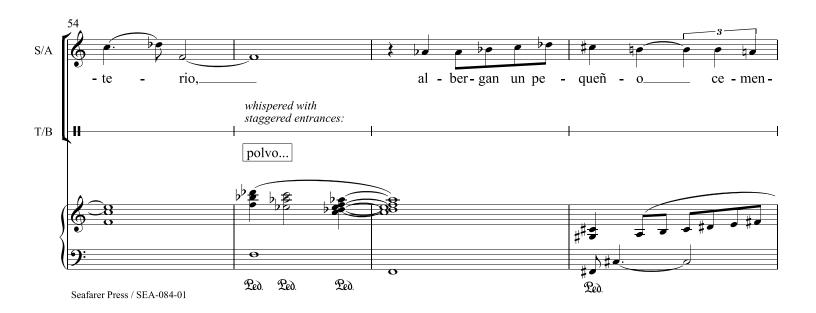


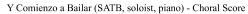




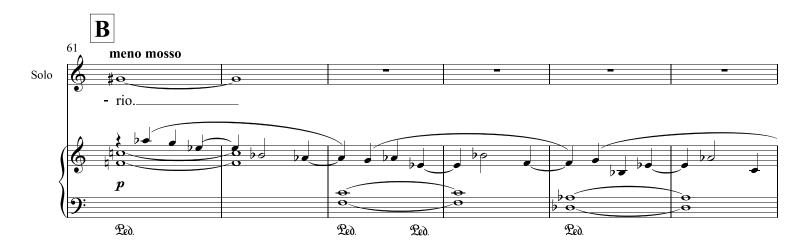


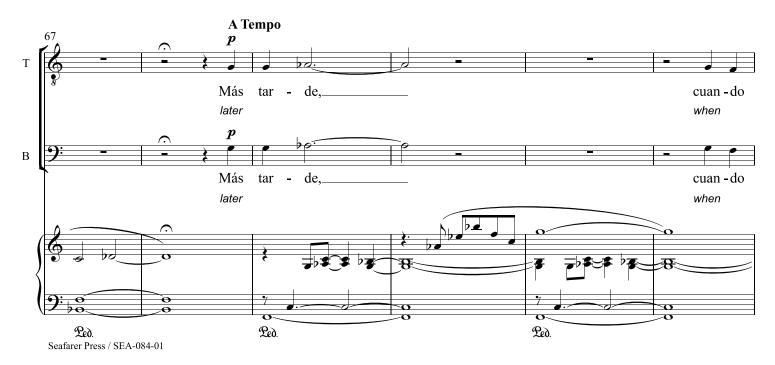














Y Comienzo a Bailar (SATB, soloist, piano) - Choral Score





Opal Palmer Adisa, poet • Paul Adams, technological hero • Stephen Alexander, lyric consultant • Ginny Allen, Agile coach and friend • The great people at American Composers Forum • Yehuda Amichai, poet • A. R. Ammons, poet • Jennifer Anderson, conductor and composer advocate • Scott Bates, poet • Abbie Betinis, initiator of collaborative endeavors • Beth Norton, conductor and composer advocate • Dennis Blubaugh, more than just a music dealer • Michael deVernon Boblett, poet • Edna Busby, my first piano teacher • Ray Bradbury, writer • Augustin Cacena, translator • Norbert Capek, minister and advocate for religious freedom Jessica Corb**A** coort of concerce voor concerce advocate • Philip Dacey, poet • Catherine Dalton, composer and scrum partner • Emily Dickinson, poet • Evelyn Dudley, poet and caregiver • Rob Eller-Isaacs and poet • Louise crarten, write • David Alian evans, poet • Sophia Lyon Fahs, writer • Richard M. Fewkes, minister and writer • Pacha Cirtler pothack Gallagher, composer and teacher • Paul Gerike, proofreader • Joseph Hayer and Signer • Edie Hill, composer and friend • Langston Hughes, poet • Margaret and George **Amus** Signer • Einda Kachelmeier, composer and friend • Langston Hughes, poet • Margaret and George **Amus** Signer • Linda Kachelmeier, composer and scrum partner • Ruth Palmer, conductor and composer advocate • Joan Wolf Prefontaine, poet • Paul Rardin, conductor and composer advocate • Ralph Audotor and composer advocate • Joan Wolf Prefontaine, poet • Paul Rardin, conductor and composer advocate • Ralidasa, poet • Steve Kaul, recording engineer •

211

Dorothy Knost, piano teacher Music-Theater • Denise Jonathan Machen, vocalist • Dawna conductor and conductor and Millay, Søren Kierkegaard, philosopher and poet Ben Krywosz, artistic director of Nautilus Levertov, poet • George Ella Lyon, poet artist • Ruth MacKenzie, collaborative Markova, writer • Anne Matlack, composer advocate • Nancy Menk, composer advocate • Edna St. Vincent poet • Jane Ramseyer Miller, conductor, composer, social activist • Joe Mish, conductor and composer advocate • 7. David Morre tomposer advocate • 7. David Morre tomposer advocate • 7. David Morre tomposer advocate • 7. David Morre tomposer

**Was even Mine** poser and friend • King Sigismund III, religious reformer • Ann Silsbee, composer, poet and friend • Simon Alexander-Adams, sounding board, fellow creative, and awesome son Steven Stucky, composer and teacher Rabindranath Tagore, poet • Sister Peronne Marie Thibert, teacher and writer • Oliver Alexander-Adams, unconventional thinker and light of my life • Howard Thurman, civil rights leader and writer • Everyone whose work supports the Association for Unitarian Universalist Music Ministries • Charles Varney, high school choral director

John Greenleaf Whittier, poet • Theodore Chickering Williams, poet • Daniel Winter, pianist and teacher • Nancy Wood, poet • Yehudi Wyner, composer and teacher

This page has been intentionally omitted. (You know why.) A complete perusal score may be purchased through any music store or dealer.

Elizabet Alyander

Seafarer Press The Music of Elizabeth Alexander

www.seafarerpress.com





12 119 Α 0 b. 6 -dos de di nes.\* nues - tros jar from our gardens 6 121 •  $\frac{2}{2}$  $\mathbf{b}$ rit. 25 **E** meno mosso 124 5 10bo p Θ  $\mathbf{e}$ 20 0 **b** -0 0 Led. Led. Led. Led. 130 A Tempo S p А đ Las som - bras, den, no nos res pon -The shadows not to us respond Т 3 p В Las som - bras, nos res pon den, no The shadows to us respond not ten. ten  $\widehat{\phantom{a}}$ O 8 ò >0 >0 -0

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

Led.

Led.

Led.

Led.

Led.

Led.

Led.





Opal Palmer Adisa, poet • Paul Adams, technological hero • Stephen Alexander, lyric consultant • Ginny Allen, Agile coach and friend • The great people at American Composers Forum • Yehuda Amichai, poet • A. R. Ammons, poet • Jennifer Anderson, conductor and composer advocate • Scott Bates, poet • Abbie Betinis, initiator of collaborative endeavors • Beth Norton, conductor and composer advocate • Dennis Blubaugh, more than just a music dealer • Michael deVernon Boblett, poet • Edna Busby, my first piano teacher • Ray Bradbury, writer • Augustin Cacena, translator • Norbert Capek, minister and advocate for religious freedom Jessica Corb**A** coort of concerce voor concerce advocate • Philip Dacey, poet • Catherine Dalton, composer and scrum partner • Emily Dickinson, poet • Evelyn Dudley, poet and caregiver • Rob Eller-Isaacs and poet • Louise crarten, write • David Alian evans, poet • Sophia Lyon Fahs, writer • Richard M. Fewkes, minister and writer • Pacha Cirtler pothack Gallagher, composer and teacher • Paul Gerike, proofreader • Joseph Hayer and Signer • Edie Hill, composer and friend • Langston Hughes, poet • Margaret and George **Amus** Signer • Einda Kachelmeier, composer and friend • Langston Hughes, poet • Margaret and George **Amus** Signer • Linda Kachelmeier, composer and scrum partner • Ruth Palmer, conductor and composer advocate • Joan Wolf Prefontaine, poet • Paul Rardin, conductor and composer advocate • Ralph Audotor and composer advocate • Joan Wolf Prefontaine, poet • Paul Rardin, conductor and composer advocate • Ralidasa, poet • Steve Kaul, recording engineer •

211

Dorothy Knost, piano teacher Music-Theater • Denise Jonathan Machen, vocalist • Dawna conductor and conductor and Millay, Søren Kierkegaard, philosopher and poet Ben Krywosz, artistic director of Nautilus Levertov, poet • George Ella Lyon, poet artist • Ruth MacKenzie, collaborative Markova, writer • Anne Matlack, composer advocate • Nancy Menk, composer advocate • Edna St. Vincent poet • Jane Ramseyer Miller, conductor, composer, social activist • Joe Mish, conductor and composer advocate • 7. David Morre tomposer advocate • 7. David Morre tomposer advocate • 7. David Morre tomposer advocate • 7. David Morre tomposer

**Was even Mine** poser and friend • King Sigismund III, religious reformer • Ann Silsbee, composer, poet and friend • Simon Alexander-Adams, sounding board, fellow creative, and awesome son Steven Stucky, composer and teacher Rabindranath Tagore, poet • Sister Peronne Marie Thibert, teacher and writer • Oliver Alexander-Adams, unconventional thinker and light of my life • Howard Thurman, civil rights leader and writer • Everyone whose work supports the Association for Unitarian Universalist Music Ministries • Charles Varney, high school choral director

John Greenleaf Whittier, poet • Theodore Chickering Williams, poet • Daniel Winter, pianist and teacher • Nancy Wood, poet • Yehudi Wyner, composer and teacher

This page has been intentionally omitted. (You know why.) A complete perusal score may be purchased through any music store or dealer.

Elizabet Alyander

Seafarer Press The Music of Elizabeth Alexander

www.seafarerpress.com



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



Opal Palmer Adisa, poet • Paul Adams, technological hero • Stephen Alexander, lyric consultant • Ginny Allen, Agile coach and friend • The great people at American Composers Forum • Yehuda Amichai, poet • A. R. Ammons, poet • Jennifer Anderson, conductor and composer advocate • Scott Bates, poet • Abbie Betinis, initiator of collaborative endeavors • Beth Norton, conductor and composer advocate • Dennis Blubaugh, more than just a music dealer • Michael deVernon Boblett, poet • Edna Busby, my first piano teacher • Ray Bradbury, writer • Augustin Cacena, translator • Norbert Capek, minister and advocate for religious freedom Jessica Corb**A** coort of concerce voor concerce advocate • Philip Dacey, poet • Catherine Dalton, composer and scrum partner • Emily Dickinson, poet • Evelyn Dudley, poet and caregiver • Rob Eller-Isaacs and poet • Louise crarten, write • David Alian evans, poet • Sophia Lyon Fahs, writer • Richard M. Fewkes, minister and writer • Pacha Cirtler pothack Gallagher, composer and teacher • Paul Gerike, proofreader • Joseph Hayer and Signer • Edie Hill, composer and friend • Langston Hughes, poet • Margaret and George **Amus** Signer • Einda Kachelmeier, composer and friend • Langston Hughes, poet • Margaret and George **Amus** Signer • Linda Kachelmeier, composer and scrum partner • Ruth Palmer, conductor and composer advocate • Joan Wolf Prefontaine, poet • Paul Rardin, conductor and composer advocate • Ralph Audotor and composer advocate • Joan Wolf Prefontaine, poet • Paul Rardin, conductor and composer advocate • Ralidasa, poet • Steve Kaul, recording engineer •

211

Dorothy Knost, piano teacher Music-Theater • Denise Jonathan Machen, vocalist • Dawna conductor and conductor and Millay, Søren Kierkegaard, philosopher and poet Ben Krywosz, artistic director of Nautilus Levertov, poet • George Ella Lyon, poet artist • Ruth MacKenzie, collaborative Markova, writer • Anne Matlack, composer advocate • Nancy Menk, composer advocate • Edna St. Vincent poet • Jane Ramseyer Miller, conductor, composer, social activist • Joe Mish, conductor and composer advocate • 7. David Morre tomposer advocate • 7. David Morre tomposer advocate • 7. David Morre tomposer advocate • 7. David Morre tomposer

**Was even Mine** poser and friend • King Sigismund III, religious reformer • Ann Silsbee, composer, poet and friend • Simon Alexander-Adams, sounding board, fellow creative, and awesome son Steven Stucky, composer and teacher Rabindranath Tagore, poet • Sister Peronne Marie Thibert, teacher and writer • Oliver Alexander-Adams, unconventional thinker and light of my life • Howard Thurman, civil rights leader and writer • Everyone whose work supports the Association for Unitarian Universalist Music Ministries • Charles Varney, high school choral director

John Greenleaf Whittier, poet • Theodore Chickering Williams, poet • Daniel Winter, pianist and teacher • Nancy Wood, poet • Yehudi Wyner, composer and teacher

This page has been intentionally omitted. (You know why.) A complete perusal score may be purchased through any music store or dealer.

Elizabet Alyander

Seafarer Press The Music of Elizabeth Alexander

www.seafarerpress.com







