

VOCALESSENCE  Music Press

# Blessed Be!

Melanie DeMore

SATB, A CAPPELLA

VEMP-4006-PDF (PDF/INSTANT DOWNLOAD)  
VEMP-4006-PRT (PRINTED SCORE)

# Blessed Be!

## PERFORMANCE NOTE:

The tempo marked on the page is recommended, but the piece can work at different speeds. The most important thing is that *Blessed Be!* is felt in 2 and that it “swings and swings hard,” as Melanie would say. This swing is achieved by making sure the singers feel the back-beats (beats 2 & 4) throughout the entire piece. This swing should be accompanied by some type of body percussion (chest hits, thigh slaps, hand claps, or finger snaps). Singers should be encouraged to move in a way that supports “the groove.” (Choirs can determine through experimentation whether they can sustain a fast groove—moving on every beat—or a slow groove—moving every other beat).

The syncopated moments in the score are meant to be sung as written in an organic manner that propels the rhythmic actions forward smoothly—think jazz. Melanie wants to keep the swing going through the verses, even though the voice parts are sung with more lyricism. Above all things, sing the piece with joy and from your lived experiences. Share yourself and your voices with the listeners.

## TEXT:

Blessed Be!  
Blest, Be, Blessed Be the Living Tree.

Blessed Be the Tree of Life  
that grows within you and me.

Steady and true,  
Rooted in love.  
Shelter and peace  
Below and above.

Sing to the sky,  
Rise from the earth.  
Seasons come round again,  
Death to rebirth

Blessed Be the Tree of Life  
that grows within you and me.

**Melanie DeMore** Melanie DeMore is a singer, composer, community musician and social activist. She was born in the Bronx area of New York but has travelled widely, researching and implementing ways in which music (and particularly, song) can be used as a tool for building stronger communities through education and shared experiences. She helps to preserve the African American Folk Tradition through song and Gullah stick pounding, and brings both academic discrimination and training and earthy enthusiasm to her work as a composer and music leader. She works extensively with organizations involved in social justice and is highly-esteemed as a singer, having been a founder-member of the Grammy Award-nominated vocal ensemble Linda Tillery and the Cultural Heritage Choir. Her teaching is embedded within a wide community in which she is held in high regard for her use of song in healing.

VOCALESSENCE  Music Press

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 **VOCALESSENCE**  
TOGETHER WE SING

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\*Please purchase one (1) item for each score that you intend to distribute. This is applicable whether you order as a PDF download or a printed score. In either case, the price of the item represents one (1) copy of the item.

for my dear Carolyn: the girl who paints trees.  
Commissioned in celebration of Carolyn Brunelle's 50th year  
as a member of the Plymouth Congregational Choir, Minneapolis.

# Blessed Be!

Melanie DeMore

Melanie DeMore  
(2019)

with a backbeat groove (♩=110-120)

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). It features a backbeat groove. The score is divided into five systems, each with a vocal line and a bass line. The first system includes a Bass line and a 'Chest hits or Claps' line. The second and third systems are for Bass (B) and include lyrics: 'Bless - ed Be! Blest Be, Bless - ed Be the Liv - ing Tree.' The fourth system is for Tenor (T) and includes lyrics: 'Bless - ed Be! Bless - ed Be!'. The fifth system is for Tenor (T) and includes lyrics: 'Bless - ed Be! Bless-ed Be, Bless-ed Be!'. A 'continue to end' instruction is placed at the end of the third system's bass line.

21

ALTO

A  
Bless - ed Be the Tree of Life that grows with - in you and me.

T  
Bless - ed Be! Bless - ed Be!

B  
Bless - ed Be! Blest Be, Bless - ed Be the Liv - ing Tree.

25

A  
Bless - ed Be the Tree of Life.

T  
Bless - ed Be! Bless-ed Be, Bless-ed Be!

B  
Bless - ed Be! Blest Be, Bless - ed Be the Liv-ing Tree.

29

SOPRANO

S  
Bless - ed Be the Tree of Life that grows with - in you and me.

A  
Bless - ed Be the Tree of Life that grows with - in you and me.

T  
Bless - ed Be! Bless - ed Be!

B  
Bless - ed Be! Blest Be, Bless - ed Be the Liv - ing Tree.

33

S  
Bless - ed Be the Tree of Life.

A  
Bless - ed Be the Tree of Life.

T  
Bless - ed Be! Bless-ed Be, Bless-ed Be!

B  
Bless - ed Be! Blest Be, Bless - ed Be the Liv-ing Tree.

37

S  
Bless - ed Be the Tree of Life that grows with-in you and me.

A  
Bless - ed Be the Tree of Life that grows with-in you and me.

T  
Bless - ed Be! Bless - ed Be!

B  
Bless - ed Be! Blest Be, Bless - ed Be the Liv - ing Tree.

41

S  
Bless - ed Be the Tree of Life.

A  
Bless - ed Be the Tree of Life.

T  
Bless - ed Be! Bless-ed Be, Bless-ed Be!

B  
Bless - ed Be! Blest Be, Bless - ed Be the Liv-ing Tree.

Blessed Be!

45

S  
Stead - y and true,  
Sing to the sky, Root - ed in love.  
Rise from the earth.

A  
Stead - y and true,  
Sing to the sky, Root - ed in love.  
Rise from the earth.

T  
8

B

49

S  
Shel - ter and peace Be - low and a - bove.  
Sea - sons come round a - gain, Death to re - birth.

A  
Shel - ter and peace Be - low and a - bove.  
Sea - sons come round a - gain, Death to re - birth.

T  
8  
Shel - ter and peace Be - low and a - bove.  
Sea - sons come round a - gain, Death to re - birth.

B

53

S  
Bless - ed Be the Tree of Life that grows with - in you and me.

A  
Bless - ed Be the Tree of Life that grows with - in you and me.

T  
8  
Bless - ed Be! Bless - ed Be!

B  
Bless - ed Be! Blest Be, Bless - ed Be the Liv - ing Tree.

Blessed Be!

57

S  
Bless - ed Be the Tree of Life.

A  
Bless - ed Be the Tree of Life.

T  
Bless - ed Be! Bless-ed Be, Bless-ed Be!

B  
Bless - ed Be! Blest Be, Bless - ed Be the Liv-ing Tree.

61

S  
Bless - ed Be the Tree of Life that grows with - in you and me.

A  
Bless - ed Be the Tree of Life that grows with - in you and me.

T  
Bless - ed Be! Bless - ed Be!

B  
Bless - ed Be! Blest Be, Bless - ed Be the Liv - ing Tree.

65

S  
Bless - ed Be the Tree of Life.

A  
Bless - ed Be the Tree of Life.

T  
Bless - ed Be! Bless-ed Be, Bless-ed Be!

B  
Bless - ed Be! Blest Be, Bless - ed Be the Liv-ing Tree.

Blessed Be!

PERUSAL SCORE

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Blessed Be!