

# Being Who You Are

SA children's choir, piano,  
and small percussion instruments



# Elizabeth Alexander

*Seafarer Press*

## Being Who You Are

Rudolph the reindeer couldn't get respect  
'Cause his nose was different from the rest.  
The ugly duckling had a scrawny neck  
So the others drove him from the nest.  
These two, to name a few, did what they had to do.  
Like you, this they knew: "To thine own self be true!"  
Rudolph was a great phenomenon,  
Soon that duckling turned into a swan,  
You'll do fine if you just keep on being who you are.

Susan B. Anthony held aloft her sign  
Even though folks said she was a fool.  
And even hecklers couldn't undermine  
Ruby Bridges marching into school.  
These two, to name a few, did what they had to do.  
Like you, this they knew: "To thine own self be true."  
Susan called on women to arise,  
Ruby's courage opened many eyes,  
Speak your truth! Don't apologize for being who you are.

So if you wear glasses on your nose,  
If you're bald or have eleven toes,  
Be the best "you" that you can be,  
Tell your story with honesty,  
And you'll shine ever brilliantly, being who you are.

Elizabeth Alexander, with students from Waunakee Elementary School

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### Composer Note:

When the students and I wrote this song together, we used percussion instruments that happened to be in the school music room, like jingle bells, slide whistles, claves, castanets, and sandblocks. These diverse instruments became our musical representation of our own individuality. When YOU sing this song, feel free to use any instruments you have around — or maybe even build your own!



**Cover Art:**  
Olga Bolotova, aka HelgaLin  
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# Being Who You Are

SA, piano and small percussion instruments

Elizabeth Alexander,  
with Waunakee Elementary School students

Joyfully, with a swing rhythm

S  
A

*mp*

Ru - dolph the rein - deer  
Su - san B. An - tho - ny

*f* *m.s.* *m.d.* *p* *m.s.*

*2nd time only*

S  
A

could - n't get re - spect 'cause his nose was diff' - rent from the  
held a - loft her sign, e - ven though folks said she was a

*f* *m.s.*

S  
A

rest. The ug - ly duck - ling had a scraw - ny neck, so the  
fool. And e - ven heck - lers could - n't un - der - mine Ru - by

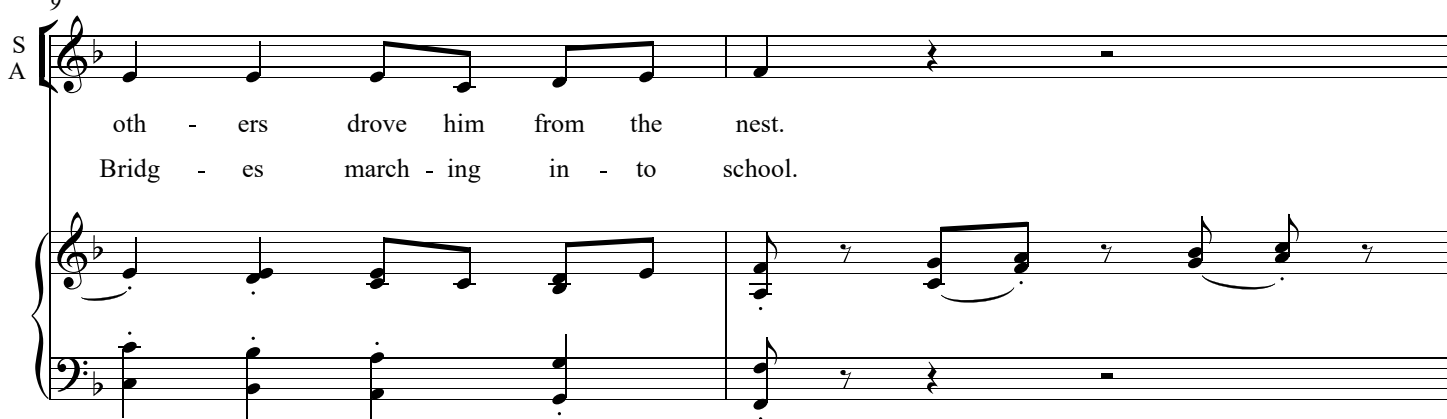
*f* *m.s.*

Music © 1992 by Elizabeth Alexander.  
New revised lyrics © 2019 by Elizabeth Alexander.

2

9

S  
A



oth - ers drove him from the nest.  
Bridg - es march - ing in - to school.

11

S  
A



These two, to name a few, did what they had to do.\_\_\_\_  
These two, to name a few, did what they had to do.\_\_\_\_

15

S  
A



Like you, this they knew: "To thine own self be true!"\_  
Like you, this they knew: "To thine own self be true!"\_

20

S

A

Ru - dolf was a great phe - nom - e - non, (*Jingle bells*)  
 Su - san called on wo - men to a - rise, (*Slide whistle*)

23

S

A

Soon that duck - ling turned in - to a swan, (*Duck call*)  
 Ru - by's cou - rage o - pened ma - ny eyes, (*Ratchet*)

26

S

A

You'll do fine if you just keep on be - ing who you are.

You'll do fine if you just keep on be - ing who you are.

Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped.

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 Cadena, translator • Norbert Capek, minister and advocate for religious freedom • Jessica Corbett, editor • David Cummings, poet • Philip Dacey, poet • Catherine Dalton, composer and scrum partner • Emily Dickinson, poet • Evelyn Dudley, poet and caregiver • Rob Eller-Isaacs, minister and composer advocate • Ralph Waldo Emerson, philosopher and poet • Louise Erdrich, writer • David Allan Evans, poet • Sophia Lyon Fahs, writer • Richard M. Fewkes, minister and writer • Pasha Gertler, poet • Jack Gallagher, composer and teacher • Paul Gerike, proofreader • Jocelyn Hagen and Michael Hagan, founders of Graphite Marketplace • Steve Harper, just about everything • Steve Harkins, web designer • Edie Hill, composer and friend • Langston Hughes, poet • Margaret and George Heald, piano technician • Karel Husa, composer and teacher • David Ignatow, poet • Kabir, mystic • Linda Kachelmeier, composer and scrum partner • Ruth Palmer, conductor and composer advocate • Joan Wolf Prefontaine, poet • Paul Rardin, conductor and composer advocate • Kalidasa, poet • Steve Kaul, recording engineer • Søren Kierkegaard, philosopher and poet • Dorothy Knost, piano teacher • Ben Krywosz, artistic director of Nautilus Music-Theater • Denise Levertov, poet • George Ella Lyon, poet • Jonathan Machen, vocalist • Dawna Markova, writer • Anne Matlack, conductor and composer advocate • Nancy Menk, composer advocate • Edna St. Vincent Millay, poet • Jane Ramseyer Miller, conductor, composer, social activist • Joe Mish, conductor and composer advocate • J. David Moore, composer • Gerald Rich, poet • Carl Sandburg, poet • 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 • Anna Vonhuben, illustrator and graphic designer • Nancy White, poet • John Greenleaf Whittier, poet • Theodore Chickering Williams, poet • Daniel Winter, pianist and teacher • Nancy Wood, poet • Yehudi Wyner, composer and teacher

**A lot of hard work  
and creativity went  
into bringing this  
music to you...**



**...and some of it  
was even mine.**

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

*Elizabeth Alexander*  
**Seafarer Press**  
**The Music of Elizabeth Alexander**  
**www.seafarerpress.com**

39 **rallentando**

S Be the best "you" that you can be, Tell your sto - ry with

A Be the best "you" that you can be, Tell your sto - ry with

Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped.

42 **meno mosso** **A tempo**

S ho - nest - y, And you'll shine ev - er bril - liant - ly...

A ho - nest - y, And you'll shine ev - er bril - liant - ly...

Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped.

46

S be - ing who you are! (ALL INSTRUMENTS)

A be - ing who you are! (ALL INSTRUMENTS)

*f* m.s. m.d.

## Selected Choral Music by Elizabeth Alexander

- A Palette To Paint Us As We Are** (Gerald Rich)  
SATB, piano • SEA-014-01  
SSA, piano • SEA-014-02
- Beware the Winter Settin' In** (Alexander)  
SATB, Celtic band, opt. children's choir • SEA-139-00
- Blessed Be the Flower That Triumphs** (Boblett)  
SATB • SEA-078-00
- Cherish Your Doubt** (Alexander)  
SATB, piano • SEA-063-01  
SSAA, piano • SEA-063-02
- Die Gedanken Sind Frei** (German protest song, arr.)  
SATB, piano • SEA-087-00
- Do Not Leave Your Cares at the Door** (Norman Naylor)  
SATB • SEA-071-00
- Even a Fist Was Once an Open Palm** (Yehuda Amichai)  
SATB • SEA-026-01
- Faith Is the bird that feels the light** (Tagore)  
SSA • SEA-068-00
- Fighting Over What We Believe** (Alexander)  
SATB, soloists, piano • SEA-099-01
- Finally On My Way To Yes** (Pesha Gertler)  
SSATB, piano • SEA-019-00
- Folks, I'm Telling You** (Langston Hughes)  
SSATB, piano • SEA-027-00
- Glen Song** (Scott Bates)  
SSATB, piano • SEA-025-00
- Handles** (Alexander)  
SSA, piano • SEA-148-00
- How To Sing Like a Planet** (Alexander)  
SATB, piano • SEA-105-01
- If You Can Walk You Can Dance** (Zimbabwean Proverb)  
SAB, piano, claves • SEA-022-03  
TBB, piano, claves • SEA-022-05  
SSA, piano, claves • SEA-022-06  
SATB, piano, claves • SEA-022-07
- Immortal Love** (John Greenleaf Whittier)  
SATB • SEA-017-00
- Infant Holy, Infant Lowly** (Polish carol, arr.)  
SSA • SEA-020-00
- Jump!** (Ray Bradbury)  
SSA, string quartet • SEA-090-00
- Kindling** (Alexander)  
SATB, chamber ensemble • SEA-123-00  
SATB, piano • SEA-123-09
- Let it Matter** (Alexander)  
SSA, piano • SEA-125-03  
SATB, piano • SEA-125-04
- No Other People's Children** (Alexander)  
1-4 part choir, soloist, piano • SEA-141-03
- ...or a musician** (Philip Dacey)  
SATB, orchestra • SEA-007-00
- A Palette To Paint Us As We Are** (Gerald Rich)  
SA, piano • SEA-014-00  
SATB, piano • SEA-014-01
- Praise Wet Snow Falling Early** (Denise Levertov)  
SATB, piano • SEA-015-00
- Reasons for the Perpetuation of Slavery** (Alexander)  
SSAA • SEA-091-00
- Same Birds** (David Allen Evans)  
SATB • SEA-128-00
- Song of Kabir** (Kabir)  
SATB • SEA-119-00
- The Gate is Open** (Sister Peronne Marie Thibert)  
SATB • SEA-097-01
- They Have Freckles Everywhere** (Alexander)  
SSAA, piano • SEA-076-00
- To Make a Prairie** (Emily Dickinson)  
SSA, piano • SEA-016-00
- We Lift Up Our Hearts** (Richard Fewkes)  
Unison children's choir, SATB, piano • SEA-021-00
- We Remember Them** (Sylvan Kamens, Jack Riemer)  
SATB, piano • SEA-083-01
- Where there Is Light in the Soul** (Chinese proverb)  
SAB • SEA-070-00  
SATB • SEA-070-01  
SSA • SEA-070-02  
TBB • SEA-062-03
- When the Song of the Angels Is Stilled** (Thurman)  
SATB • SEA-062-00  
TTBB • SEA-062-02  
SSAA • SEA-062-04  
SATB, flute • SEA-062-05
- Why I Pity the Woman Who Never Spills** (Prefontaine)  
SSAA • SEA-058-00