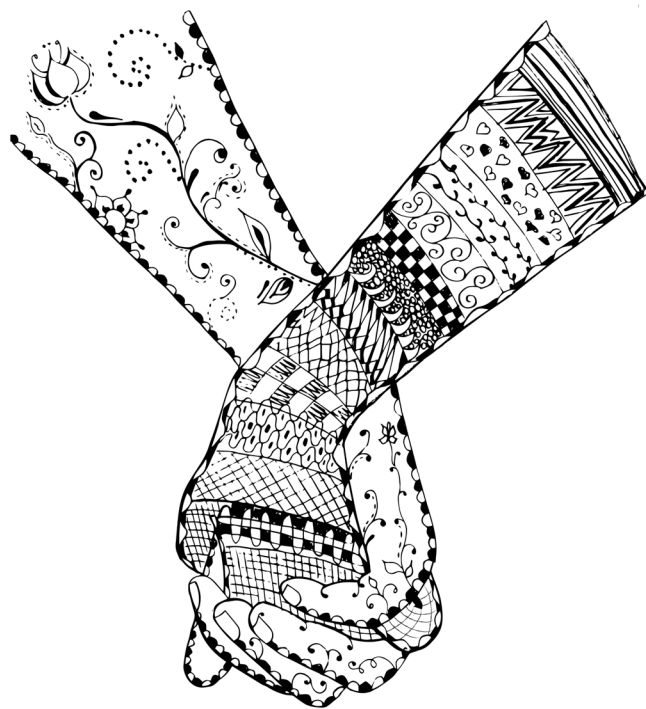


A Palette To Paint Us As We Are

Gerald Rich

SSA, piano



Elizabeth Alexander

Seafarer Press

A Palette To Paint Us As We Are

Give us a palette to paint us as we are.
Enough of black and white, yellow and red,
Those false colors that sham at fact.

Coffee, and chocolate, and *café au lait*,
Ivory saffron, and saffroned ivory,
Bronze, and brass, copper, and rose gold,
Tea and pale butter, golden almond,
Infinite varieties of browns and tans,
Pale rose, pink and soft rose cream,
Mahogany, oak, cedar, and champagne.

These are the colors of people I see,
Not black and white, not yellow and red.
Those false colors no longer will do.
Give us a palette to paint us true.

Gerald Rich

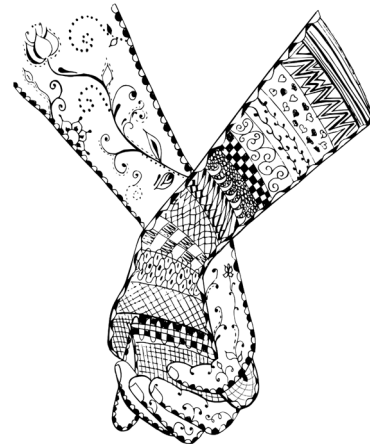
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Composer Note: I first heard Gerald Rich's moving tribute to our skins' true colors at a poetry reading in 1996. As he began to read this poem, the room suddenly grew very still. As I took in each delicious shade. I envisioned a musical language that would contain as much harmonic and melodic color as the poem, moving tenderly from one hue to another. Two years later, imagining Rich's words in the voices of a children's choir, I set his poem to music.

What I did not imagine at the time was that adults would want to sing this song! Gerald's son Jerry encouraged me to make an arrangement of this song for his high school choir in Alexandria, Virginia. Within a year, other adult choirs were performing this new version. Meanwhile women's choirs began performing the original treble voice version. Looking back, I find it hard to believe that I was initially skeptical about adults singing these idealistic words — but once again I'm glad I allowed a choral director to lead me in a direction I would not have headed on my own.

Gerald Rich (1925-2006) taught English for over 35 years at Toms River High School, where he founded the school's literary magazine and developed the school's speech, humanities and creative writing programs. He also served as assistant professor at Ocean County College and visiting professor at Trenton State College, and taught through Elderhostel and Great Books Programs. Upon retirement, Rich received the Distinguished Honoree Award from Toms River Schools Hall of Fame.

Rich's personal writings were influenced by his experiences as a soldier, teacher and parent, as well as a powerful sense of conscience. A veteran of World War II, he went on to write a memoir archived by the Project on Ethics and Art in Testimony (PEAT), recording what he witnessed during the liberation of Dachau.



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A Palette To Paint Us As We Are
(SATB, piano) - SEA-014-03
(SSA, piano) - SEA-014-02
Seafarer Press

A Palette To Paint Us As We Are

SSA, piano

Gerald Rich

Elizabeth Alexander

Lyrically ($\text{♩} = 54-56$)

S I

S II

A

bell-like

mf

mp

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

(pedal with right hand)

6

p murmuring

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

9

mf

p murmuring

poco rit.

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

A tempo

12 *p*

Tutti

Give us a pal-ette to paint us as we are, _____

p

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

16

Tutti

Give us a pal-ette to paint us as we are, _____

leggiero

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

20

S I

Give us a pal-ette to paint us as we are, _____

S II

Give us a pal-ette to paint us as we are, _____

A

Give us a pal-ette to paint us as we are, _____

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

24 *f marcato*

S I
E - nough of black and white, yel - low and red,

S II
E - nough of black and white, yel - low and red,

A
marcato
yel - low and red,

f marcato

* Ped. Ped. * Ped.

26

S I
-

S II
E - nough of black and white, yel - low and red,

A
E - nough of black and white, E - nough of yel - low and red,

sfz

* 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 • Sasha Gertler, poet • Jack Gallagher, composer and teacher • Paul Gerike, proofreader • Jocelyn Hagen and Michael Hakan, 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.**

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purchased through any music store or dealer.**

Elizabeth Alexander

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38

S I I - vo-ried saf-fron, and saf-fronned i - vo - ry,

S II I - vo-ried saf-fron, and saf-fronned i - vo - ry,

A I - vo-ried saf-fron, and saf-fronned i - vo - ry,

Red. *Red.* *Red.* *Red.*

42 *mf regally*

Tutti Bronze and brass, cop - per and rose gold,

regally

mf

Red. *Red.* *Red.* *Red.* *Red.* *Red.*

45 *mp dolce*

S I Tea, gol - den al - - mond,

S II *mp dolce* Tea, and pale but - ter, gol - den al - - mond,

A *mp dolce* Tea, and pale but - ter, gol - den al - - mond,

mp

Red. *Red.* *Red.* *Red.* *Red.* *Red.* *Red.* *Red.* *Red.* *Red.*

48

S I

S II

A

mf marcato

In - fi - nite va - ri - e - ties _____ of

mf marcato

In - fi - nite va - ri - e - ties of

crisp, marching

mf

Red. * Red. * Red. *

51

S I

S II

A

browns and tans,

browns and tans,

Red. Red. Red. Red. *

53

mf marcato

S I

S II

A

In - fi - nite va - ri - e - ties _____ of browns and tans,

In - fi - nite va - ri - e - ties of browns and tans,

Red. * Red. * Red.

56 *leggiero*

mp

Ped. Ped. Ped.

B

58 *mp legatissimo*

S I Pale rose pink, and

mp marcato

S II Not black and white, not yel-low and red,

mp marcato

A Not black and white, not yel-low and red,

Ped.

60

S I soft rose cream, ma -

S II not black and white, not yel-low and red, ma -

A not black and white, not yel-low and red, ma -

Ped. Ped.

62 *mf*

S I hog - a - ny, oak, ma - hog - a - ny,

S II hog - a - ny, not black and white, ma - hog - a - ny,

A hog - a - ny, not black and white, ma - hog - a - ny, we

Ped. *Ped.* *Ped.* * *Ped.* *Ped.* *Ped.*

65

S I oak, ce - dar, and cham -

S II not black and white but ce - dar, and cham -

A are not black and white but ce - dar, and cham -

* *Ped.* *Ped.* *Ped.* *Ped.*

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76

S I *pp* e - nough.

S II *pp* e - nough.

A *pp* yel - low, e - nough, e - nough.

warmly pp

Leg. *Leg.* *Leg.* *Leg.* *Leg.* *Leg.*

rit.

78

Leg. *Leg.* *Leg.* *Leg.* *Leg.* *Leg.* *Leg.* *Leg.*

C *A tempo*

freely, meno mosso

81

S I *p* These are the col - ors of peo - ple I see, Not black and white,

S II *p* These are the col - ors of peo - ple I see, Not black and white,

A *p* These are the col - ors of peo - ple I see, *legato* not yel - low and red,

slowly

Leg. *Leg.* *Leg.* *Leg.* *Leg.*

85 **a tempo** *mp*

Tutti

Those false col - ors no lon - ger will do. Those false col - ors no lon - ger will do.

mp

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

(pedal with right hand)

89 **allargando** *mf* *f*

S I

Those false col - ors no lon - ger will do.

S II

Those false col - ors no lon - ger will do.

A

Those false col - ors no lon - ger will do.

mf *f*

slowly, magical

mp

(keep pedal depressed)

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

meno mosso

92 *p*

S I Give us a pal - ette to paint us

S II Give us a pal - ette to paint us

A Give us a pal - ette to paint us

rallentando

96

S I true.

S II true.

A true.

warmly

pp

Red. *Red.* *Red.*

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SATB • SEA-078-00
- Cherish Your Doubt** (Alexander)
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SATB • SEA-071-00
- Even a Fist Was Once an Open Palm** (Yehuda Amichai)
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- Faith Is the bird that feels the light** (Tagore)
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- Handles** (Alexander)
SSA, piano • SEA-148-00
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SATB, piano • SEA-105-01
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TBB, piano, claves • SEA-022-05
SSA, piano, claves • SEA-022-06
SATB, piano, claves • SEA-022-07
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SSAA • SEA-062-04
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