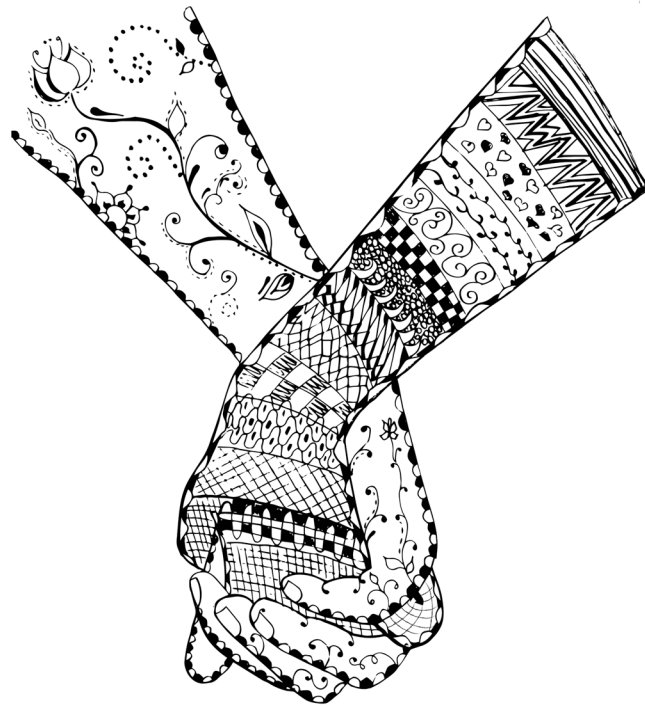


A Palette To Paint Us As We Are

Gerald Rich

SATB, 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*,
Ivored 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.

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

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Elizabeth Alexander

Lyrally (♩ = 54-56)

S
A
T
B

bell-like
mf
mp

ped. *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.* *ped.* *ped.*

9

mf *poco rit.*
p *murmuring*

ped. *ped.* *ped.* *ped.* *ped.* *ped.* *ped.* *ped.* *ped.*

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12 **A tempo**

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

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

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

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

p

Red. Red. Red. Red. Red. Red. Red.

16

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

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

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

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

leggiero

Red. Red. Red. Red. Red. Red. Red.

molto cresc.

20

S Give us a pal-ette to paint us as we are, *molto cresc.*

A Give us a pal-ette to paint us as we are, *molto cresc.*

T Give us a pal-ette to paint us as we are, *molto cresc.*

B Give us a pal-ette to paint us as we are, *molto cresc.*

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

24 *f marcato*

S E - nough of black and white, yel - low and red, *f marcato*

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

T - - - - - yel - low and red, *f marcato*

B - - - - - yel - low and red, *f marcato*

f marcato

* 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 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.**

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purchased through any music store or dealer.**

Elizabeth Alexander

Seafarer Press

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31 *sfz*

Ped. Ped.

34 *p warmly*

S Cof - fee, and choc' - late, and ca - fé au lait,

A Cof - fee, and choc' - late, and ca - fé au lait,

p subito *leggiero*

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

38 *p warmly*

T I - vo - ried saf - fron, and saf - froned i - vo - ry,

B I - vo - ried saf - fron, and saf - froned i - vo - ry,

Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped.

42 *mf regally*

S
Bronze and brass, _____ cop - per and rose gold,

A
Bronze and brass, _____ cop - per and rose gold,

T
Bronze and brass, _____ cop - per and rose gold,

B
Bronze and brass, _____ cop - per and rose gold,

mf regally

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

45 *mp dolce*

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

A
Tea, and pale but - ter, _____ gol - den al - - - mond,

T
Tea, _____ gol - den al - - - mond,

B
Tea, and pale but - ter, _____ gol - den al - - - mond,

mp

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

48 *mf marcato*

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

B *mf marcato*
In - fi - nite va - ri - e - ties of

crisp, march-like

mf

Ped. * Ped. * Ped. *

51

T browns and tans,

B browns and tans,

Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. *

53 *mf marcato*

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

A *mf marcato*
In - fi - nite va - ri - e - ties of browns and tans,

Ped. * Ped. * Ped.

56 *leggiero*

mp

Red. *Red.*

58 *mp legatissimo*

S Pale rose pink, and

mp marcato

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

mp legatissimo

T Pale rose pink, and

B

Red.

60

S soft rose cream, ma -

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

T soft rose cream, ma -

B

mp

ma -

Red. *Red.*

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68 *ff*

S
pagne.

A
pagne.

T
pagne.

B
pagne.

ff bell-like

mf

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

(pedal with right hand)

73

S
p marcato
E - nough of white,

A
p marcato
E - nough of white,

T
p marcato
E - nough of black, e - nough of

B
p marcato
E - nough of black, e - nough of

p subito

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

75 *dolce* *pp*
 S e-nough of yel - low, e - nough, e - nough.
 A e-nough of yel - low, e - nough, e - nough.
 T red, e - nough.
 B red, e - nough.

pp
 warmly
 Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped.

78 *rit.*
 Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped.

81 *A tempo* *p*
 S These are the col - ors of peo - ple I see,
 A These are the col - ors of peo - ple I see,
 Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped.

83 **freely, meno mosso** *legato*

S not yel - low and red,

A not yel - low and red,

T Not black and white,

B Not black and white,

slowly

Ped.

85 **a tempo** *mp*

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

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

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

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

mp

pedal with each chord

allargando

89 *mf* *f*

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

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

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

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

mf *f*

meno mosso

91 *p*

S Give us a pal - ette to paint us

A Give us a pal - ette to paint us

T Give us a pal - ette to paint us

B Give us a pal - ette to paint us

p

slowly, magical

mp

keep pedal depressed

96 **rallentando**

S true.

A true.

T true.

B true.

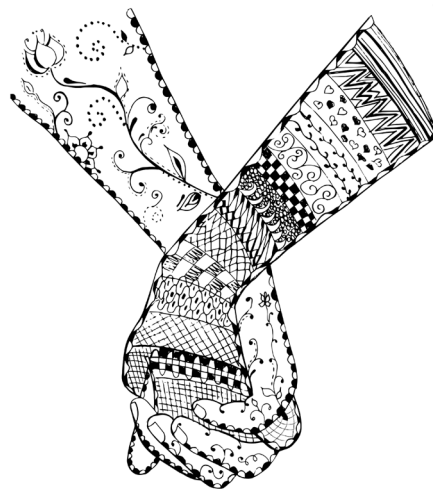
warmly *pp*

Ped. *Ped.* *Ped.*

8va

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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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