

Cherish Your Doubt

SSAA, soloist, piano, opt. bass



Elizabeth Alexander

Seafarer Press

Cherish Your Doubt

Words and Music by Elizabeth Alexander

Springtime without winter would enter with a yawn,
And dawn without the night would be a tedium of light.
Reunion follows parting, renewal follows death,
And our songs of love have grown
From the very seeds our doubt have sown.
Without a doubt, our hearts and minds would never grow.
Without a doubt, our dreams would have nowhere to go.
Without a doubt, we'd never change the status quo.
Yes, without a doubt, we'd be hanging on
To notions that are better gone.
Try to love the questions, those thorny, thorny questions.
Trust your intuition, and cherish your doubt.

Cherish your doubt; don't throw it out.
That's what true belief is about.
With a faith both tempered and strong,
Questioning only helps it along,
Use your eyes and ears and hands and heart and mind,
And what you find may change the world.
So don't throw it out. Cherish your doubt.

Cherish your doubt; don't throw it out.
Mighty oaks can weather a drought;
Any faith worth taking to heart,
Tested a bit, will not fall apart.
Use your eyes and ears and hands and heart and mind,
And what you find may change the world.
So don't throw it out. Cherish your doubt.

Don't be afraid of what you'll find.
Leave your darkest fears behind (and)

Cherish your doubt; don't throw it out.
That's one thing you can't do without.
When you walk that less-traveled route
Suddenly new ideas may sprout.
Use your eyes and ears and hands and heart and mind,
And what you find may change the world.
So don't throw it out. Cherish your doubt.

Call on your reason and compassion,
Although it may not be in fashion.
Don't be afraid of what you'll find.
Leave your darkest fears behind.
Cherish your doubt; don't you ever refuse it.
You can move a whole mountain if you use it.

A different drummer you will hear when you cherish your doubt.
You haven't anything to fear when you cherish your doubt.
That's what true belief is about: Don't throw it out!

Composer's Note: One spring morning during my last year of college I attended a church service just outside of Wooster, Ohio. It was my first experience with what is now my chosen faith, Unitarian Universalism. The congregants sat in folding chairs in a circle in a barn while a soft-spoken layperson gave a thoughtful meditation entitled "Cherish Your Doubts," inspired by a writing by Robert T. Weston.

Years later I came upon Weston's writing again and wondered: What if a praise choir were to proclaim not only the awesome power of *faith*, but also that of its spiritual companion, *doubt*?

Cherish Your Doubts

Robert T. Weston

*Cherish your doubts, for doubt is the handmaiden of truth.
Doubt is the key to the door of knowledge; it is the servant
of discovery.
A belief which may not be questioned binds us to error, for
there is incompleteness and imperfection in every belief.
Doubt is the touchstone of truth; it is an acid which eats
away the false.
Let no man fear for the truth, that doubt may consume it; for
doubt is a testing of belief.
The truth stands boldly and unafraid; it is not shaken by the
testing:
For truth, if it be truth, arises from each testing stronger,
more secure.
He that would silence doubt is filled with fear; the house of
his spirit is built on shifting sands.
But he that fears not doubt, and knows its use, is founded on
a rock.
He shall walk in the light of growing knowledge; the work of
his hands shall endure.
Therefore let us not fear doubt, but let us rejoice in its help:
It is to the wise as a staff to the blind; doubt is the
handmaiden of truth.*

© by Robert T. Weston.

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Elizabeth Alexander

(♩ = 80-84) Soulful, sincere

Piano

p

In sections without pedal markings, trust your intuition.

5

9

Solo

p

Spring - time with - out win - ter _____ would en - ter with a yawn _____ and

13

Solo

dawn with - out the night _____ would be a te - di - um _____ of light. _____ Re -

17

Solo

u - nion fol - lows part - ing, re - new - al fol - lows death, _____ And our

generously

* One or more soloists may *ad lib* freely, taking whatever liberties with rhythm, pitch and inflection they feel called to. Optional bass part may be downloaded at www.seafarerpress.com/works/cherish-your-doubt

21 *mp*

Solo

songs of love_____ have grown_____ from the ver - y

mp

Ped. Ped.

25

Solo

seeds our doubt_____ has sown_____

Ped. Ped.

30

Solo

Our hearts and minds would nev - er grow_____

mp

S I

With - out_(t) a___ doubt, With -

mp

S II

With - out_(t) a___ doubt, With -

mp

A I

With - out_(t) a___ doubt, With -

mp

A II

With - out_(t) a___ doubt, With -

mp

* Ped. Ped. Ped.

35

Solo *Our dreams would have no - where to go,*

S I *out (t) a doubt, With -*

S II *out (t) a doubt, With -*

A I *out (t) a doubt, With -*

A II *out (t) a doubt, With -*

* Ped. Ped. Ped.

freely - ritardando

a tempo

39

Solo *We'd ne - ver change the sta - tus quo, Yes, with -*

S I *out (t) a doubt,*

S II *out (t) a doubt,*

A I *out (t) a doubt,*

A II *out (t) a doubt,*

mf *mf* Ped. Ped.

44

Solo *p*
 out a doubt we'd be hang - in' on to no - tions that are bet - ter gone...

S I *p*
 Ooo

S II *p*
 Ooo

A I *p*
 Ooo

A II *p*
 Ooo

mp

ped.

48

Solo *passionately*
 Try to love the ques - tions, Those

mf

ped.

52

Solo
 thorn - y, thorn - ny ques - tions,

ped.

56

Solo *p* *warmly, intimately*
 Trust your in - tu - i - tion, and

p

ped.

60 **Very freely, ad lib. (Trust your intuition)**

Solo

cher - - ish, Cher - ish your

Ped. Ped.

65 (♩ = 126-138) **Joyfully, with determination**

Solo

doubt.

p

69 *mf*

S I

1. Cher - ish your doubt, Don't throw it out, That's what true be -

2. Cher - ish your doubt, Don't throw it out, Might - y oaks can

S II

1. Cher - ish your doubt, Don't throw it out, That's what true be -

2. Cher - ish your doubt, Don't throw it out, Might - y oaks can

A I

1. [Sing Alto II part for first 2 measures of 1st verse] That's what true be -

2. Oh, Cher - ish your doubt, Don't you know that might - y oaks can

A II

1. Cher - ish your doubt, Don't throw it out, That's what true be -

2. Cher - ish your doubt, Don't throw it out, Might - y oaks can

mf

Ped. Ped.

72

S I
 lief is a - bout, With a faith___ (th) both___ (th) tem-pered and strong,___
 wea-ther a drought, An - y truth___ (th) worth___ (th) tak - ing to heart,___

S II
 lief is a - bout, With a faith___ (th) both___ (th) tem-pered and strong,___
 wea-ther a drought, An - y truth___ (th) worth___ (th) tak - ing to heart,___

A I
 lief is a - bout, With a faith___ (th) both___ (th) tem-pered and strong,___
 wea-ther a drought, An - y truth___ (th) worth___ (th) tak - ing to heart,___

A II
 lief is a - bout, With a faith___ (th) both___ (th) tem-pered and strong,___ you'll find that
 wea-ther a drought, An - y truth___ (th) worth___ (th) tak - ing to heart,___

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

75

S I
 ques - tion - ing on - - ly helps it a - long,___
 test - ed a bit___ will not fall a - part,___

S II
 ques - tion - ing on - - ly helps it a - long,___ *p lyrical*
 test - ed a bit___ will not fall a - part,___ Use your

A I
 ques - tion - ing on - - ly helps it a - long,___ *p lyrical*
 test - ed a bit___ will not fall a - part,___ Use your

A II
 ques - tion - ing on - - ly helps it a - long,___
 test - ed a bit___ will not fall a - part,___ Use your *cantabile*

Red. Red. Red. Red. Red. *p*

77 (♩ = ♩) *p lyrical*

S I *And*

S II *gently pulsing*
eyes and ears and hands and heart and mind, *And*

A I eyes, ears, hands, heart and mind, and mind, *And*

A II eyes, ears, hands, heart and mind, and mind, *And*

Ped. *Ped.* *Ped.*

80 *mf*

S I what you learn may change the world, *mf* So

S II what you learn may change the world, *mf* So

A I what you learn may change the world, *mf* So

A II what you learn may change the world, *mf* So

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

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**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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93 ^{2.} *mp dolce*

Solo

Cher - ish your - - - - - doubt. - - - - -

Ped. * Ped. * Ped. * Ped.

97 TUTTI: *pp marcato*

A I Don't be a - fraid, Don't be a - fraid of what you'll

A II Don't be a - fraid, Don't be a - fraid of what you'll

pp marcato

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

99

A I find, - - - - -

A II find, - - - - -

Ped. * Ped. * Ped. * Ped.

101 *mp*

S I Leave your dark - est fears and

S II Leave your dark - est fears be - hind and

A I Leave your fears and

A II Leave your fears and

mp

Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped.

103 *f*

S I Cher-ish yourdoubt, Don't throw it out, That's one thing you

S II Cher-ish yourdoubt, Don't throw it out, That's one thing you

A I Cher-ish yourdoubt, Don't throw it out, That's one thing you

A II Cher-ish yourdoubt, Don't throw it out, That's one thing you

f

* Ped. Ped.

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111 (♩ = ♩) *p lyrical*

S I _____ And

S II *gently pulsing*
eyes and ears and hands and heart and mind, _____ And

A I eyes, ears, hands, heart and mind, _____ and mind, And

A II eyes, ears, hands, heart and mind, _____ and mind, And

Ped. Ped. Ped.

114 *mf*

S I what you learn may change the world, _____ So

S II what you learn may change _____ the world, _____ So

A I what you learn may change _____ the world, _____ So

A II what you learn may change _____ the world, _____ So

mf

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

SING FOUR TIMES, WITH A DIFFERENT SOLOIST ON EACH REPEAT

117 (♩ = ♩)

mf

1st Solo
Call on your rea - son and com - pas - sion,

mf

2nd Solo
Al - though it may not be in fash - ion.

mf

3rd Solo
Don't be a - fraid of what you'll find.

mf

4th Solo
Just leave your fears be - hind and

S I
don't throw it out!

S II
don't throw it out!

A I
don't throw it out!

A II
don't throw it out!

ped. *

119 *f*

S I
Cher - ish your doubt, don't you e - ver re - fuse___ it,

S II
Cher - ish your doubt, don't you e - ver re - fuse___ it,

A I
Cher - ish your doubt, don't you e - ver re - fuse___ it,

A II
Cher - ish your doubt, don't you e - ver re - fuse___ it,

f

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

121

S I
You can move a whole moun - tain if you use___ it.

S II
You can move a whole moun - tain (n).___

A I
You can move a whole moun - tain (n).___

A II
You can move a whole moun - tain (n).___

Ped. *Ped.* *Ped.*

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131

S I

S II

A I
cher - ish your doubt, cher - ish your doubt, cher - ish your doubt, cher - ish your doubt,

A II
mp
A diff' - rent drum - mer you will hear when you

135

TUTTI: *mp*

S I
You have - n't a - ny - thing to fear when you

S II
You have - n't a - ny - thing to fear when you

A I
cher - ish your doubt, cher - ish your doubt, cher - ish your doubt, cher - ish your doubt,

A II
pp (match dynamics of Alto I)
cher - ish your doubt, cher - ish your doubt, cher - ish your doubt, cher - ish your doubt,

139

p subito *mp* *mf*

S I cher-ish your doubt, cher-ish your doubt, cher-ish your doubt, cher-ish yourdoubt,

S II cher-ish your doubt, cher-ish your doubt, cher-ish your doubt, cher-ish yourdoubt,

A I cher-ish your doubt, cher-ish your doubt, cher-ish your doubt, cher-ish yourdoubt,

A II cher-ish your doubt, cher-ish your doubt, cher-ish your doubt, cher-ish yourdoubt,

p subito *mp* *mf*

143 *f*

S I That's what true be - lief is a - bout, don't throw it out!

S II That's what true be - lief is a - bout, don't throw it out!

A I That's what true be - lief is a - bout, don't throw it out!

A II That's what true be - lief is a - bout, don't throw it out!

f

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

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SSAA • SEA-062-04
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