

Where there is Light in the Soul

Chinese proverb

SSA a cappella



Elizabeth Alexander

Seafarer Press

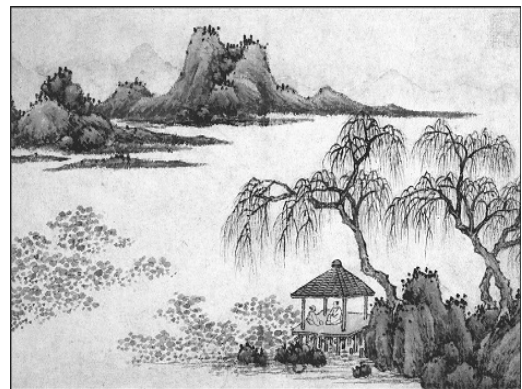
*Where there is light in the soul there will be beauty in the person.
Where there is beauty in the person there will be harmony in the home.
Where there is harmony in the home there will be honor in the nation.
Where there is honor in the nation there will be peace in the world.*

From *The Great Learning*, attributed to Confucius

Composer's Note: "When I set this Chinese proverb to music, I offered myself a delightful musical challenge. Using the basic building blocks of rhythm, melody, harmony and articulation, I gave a distinct character to each of the proverb's five ideals: Light, Beauty, Harmony, Honor and Peace. Whenever one of these words makes an appearance, no matter how briefly, its 'musical signature' is present as well."

Where there is Light in the Soul

SAB • SEA-070-00
SATB • SEA-070-01
SSA • SEA-070-02
TBB • SEA-070-03



Cover image:

"Landscape with Pavilion and Willows."
Attr. to Shen Zhou (1427-1509)

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(♩ = 76-88) with lightness and grace

mp

S I
Where there is light in the soul there will be beau - - ty in the

S II
Where there is light in the soul there will be beau - - ty in the

A
Where there is light in the soul there will be beau - - ty in the

4

S I
per - - son. Where there is

S II
per - - son, where there is light in the soul. Where there is

A
per - - son, where there is light in the soul. Where there is

6

S I
beau - ty in the per - - son there will be

S II
beau - ty in the per - - son there will be

A
beau - ty in the per - - son there will be

8

S I
har - mo - ny, there will be har - mo - ny, there will be

S II
har - mo - ny, there will be har - mo - ny, there will be

A
har - mo - ny, there will be har - mo - ny, there will be

10

S I
har - mo - ny in the home, Where there is

S II
har - mo - ny in the home, in the home, Where there is

A
har - mo - ny in the home, the home, Where there is

13

S I
har - mo - ny in the home there will be hon - or in the

S II
har - mo - ny in the home there will be hon - or in the

A
har - mo - ny in the home there will be hon - or in the

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

Where there is Light in the Soul (SSA a cappella) - Choral Score
...and warmth

23 *f* *p*

S I
 light in the soul, where there is light in the soul,

S II
 light in the soul, where there is light in the soul,

A
 light in the soul, where there is light in the soul,

26

S I
 There will be peace in the world, there will be peace in the

S II
 There will be peace in the world, there will be peace in the

A
 There will be peace in the world, there will be peace in the

30 *mf*

S I
 world, where there is light in the soul

S II
 world, where there is light in the soul

A
 world, where there is light in the soul

44 *pp* *poco rit.*

S I there will be peace. there will be peace.

S II there will be peace in the world, there will be peace.

A there will be peace.

About the Text: “In the years since I wrote this song, I have come across other versions of this Chinese text, but with different words and sentence structures. Some versions contained only three lines, while others contained five or more! What was going on?”

Eventually I could not contain my curiosity any longer. A full day of internet research revealed that this “proverb” is actually an adaptation of a passage in *Dà Xué*, or *The Great Learning*, a well-known summary of the teachings of Confucius compiled in the 1st c. BCE by his disciple Zeng Shen (Zengzi). In its original context this passage is the second half of a palindromic verse, which moves from the wider world to the individual, and then back out to the wider world. The result is an endless circle of cause and effect.

The text has been translated by quite a few scholars. Here are two of them:

“Things being investigated, knowledge became complete. Their knowledge being complete, their thoughts were sincere. Their thoughts being sincere, their hearts were then rectified. Their hearts being rectified, their persons were cultivated. Their persons being cultivated, their families were regulated. Their families being regulated, their states were rightly governed. Their states being rightly governed, the whole kingdom was made tranquil and happy.”

James Legge (19th c. Oxford University)

*“When things are investigated, knowledge is extended.
When knowledge is extended, the will becomes sincere.
When the will is sincere, the mind is correct.
When the mind is correct, the self is cultivated.
When the self is cultivated, the clan is harmonized.
When the clan is harmonized, the country is well governed.
When the country is well governed, there will be peace throughout the land.”*

A. Charles Muller (2013, University of Tokyo)

I never discovered who created the translation that I set to music, or why the writing was abridged. But it’s no mystery to me why this teaching still endures after 2000 years. Its kernel of wisdom is still true. It is the thoughts and actions of *individuals* which ultimately shape their families, communities and nations — and indeed shape the entire world.” - E.A.