

I'll Go Alone

Evelyn K. Dudley

SSAA and soloists a cappella



Elizabeth Alexander

Seafarer Press

I'll Go Alone

I'll go alone if I have to.

If you're behind me when I begin this journey, stay there, for you will only hinder me.
I'll go alone if I have to.

My footprints will vanish from this trail someday,
 but the seeds that I sow will remain and grow.
The fragrance from the fruit that is borne will draw those who hunger and thirst,
 those who seek God in Spirit and Truth –
I'll go alone if I have to.

For at the end of this journey waits a festive table filled
 with blessings and prayers that I prayed and had forgotten.
Have your fill of these blessings!

Oh, I am tired from the journey, and Jesus bids me rest,
 and I will sit on the porch of the kingdom,
 and realize the destination was no more important than the journey.

I'll go alone if I have to. On this journey, I'll go alone.

Original text 1998 © by Evelyn K. Dudley
Adapted text © 2007 by Elizabeth Alexander, for use in musical setting only

Original reflection by Evelyn Dudley

I'll go alone if I have to. I'll lay aside every sin and weight which so easily beset me. So if you're behind me when I begin this journey, stay there, for you will only hinder me.

In my basket, in case you are wondering, are seeds to be sown. You see, this is a road less traveled and only a few they'll be that will find it. My footprints will someday vanish from this trail, but the seeds I sow will grow and bear fruit that will remain. The fragrance from this fruit will draw hungry souls to sojourn with me, as we all seek God in Spirit and Truth.

Dust from this road tempts my thirst, but it is not mere water that I thirst for. The cup of destiny contains the substance that will quench my thirst, so only from destiny's cup will I drink.

Eternity has allowed me only a few moments in time, so I must be about my Father's business and find my way back to where I belong. My steps are ordered towards a destination that has been waiting for me since the laying of the world's foundation. If I deviate from this journey, I'll only delay my arrival.

Although my feet are shod with preparation, they still grow weary, so I must stand on the promises of God to gain strength for miles of this road left untrodden.

At the end of this journey waits a festive table filled with blessings and prayers that I prayed and had forgotten. Have your fill of these blessings! Divide them among my progeny to the fourth and fifth generation. For along the way, I've eaten of bread you know not of. I am full.

Tired from my journey, Jesus bids me to rest and extends His hands with an invitation. I'll gladly accept and sit on the porch of the Kingdom to recap my travels, and realize that this journey was just as important as the destination.

I'll Go Alone

SSAA with soloists, a cappella

Evelyn K. Dudley

Elizabeth Alexander

With determination (♩ = 56-60)

Alt. Solo *p*

Solos *p*

S I

S II

A I

A II

I'll go a-lone if I have ___ to, I'll go a-lone, ___ If I

I'll go a-lone if I have ___ to, I'll go a-lone, ___ If I

5

Alt. Solo

Solos

A I

A II

have to I'll ___ go, ___ I'll go a-lone, ___

have to I'll ___ go, ___ I'll go a-lone, ___

p I'll go a-lone, I'll go, ___ I'll go a-lone, _

p I'll go a-lone, I'll go, ___ I'll go a-lone, _

9 Solo #2 *p*

Solos *I'll go a-lone if I have__ to, I'll go a-lone, If I have to I'll go__*

S I

S II

A I *I'll go a-lone, If I have to*

A II *I'll go a-lone,*

13 Solo #3 *p*

Solos *a-lone, I'll go__ on the jour - ney a-lone. I'll lay_ a -*

S I

S II *I'll go a-lone, a-lone,*

A I *go Oh, I'll go a-lone, a-lone,*

A II *go a-lone, I'll go a-lone.*

17

Solos *p*
side ev' - ry sin, ev' - ry weight which may be - set me, if* I

S I
Oh, oh,

S II

A I
Oh, ev' - ry weight which may be - set me.

A II
Oh, ev' - ry weight which may be - set me.

21

Solos
have to, I'll go a - lone,

S I *mp*
If you're be -

S II *mp*
I'll go a - lone, a - lone, I'll go a - lone, If you're be -

A I *mp*
I'll go a - lone, a - lone, I'll go a - lone. If you're be -

A II
I'll go a - lone, a - lone, a - lone.

* If necessary for balance, a small group may sing the last phrase of Solo #3.

25 **A**

S I hind me when I _____ be - gin my jour - ney, stay _____ there, — stay there. *mf*

S II hind me when I _____ be - gin my jour - ney, stay _____ there, — stay there. *mf*

A I hind me when I _____ be - gin my jour - ney, stay there, — stay there. *mf*

A II _____ stay there, — stay there. *mf*

29 **Solo #4** *mp*

Solos _____ I'll go _____ a - lone,

S I *p subito* For you will on - ly hin - der me, — you will on - ly hin - der me. A -

S II *p subito* For you will on - ly hin - der me, — you will on - ly hin - der me, I'll go a -

A I *p subito* For you will on - ly hin - der me, — you will on - ly hin - der me, I'll go a -

A II *p subito* For you will on - ly hin - der me, — you will on - ly hin - der me, I'll go a -

33

Solos *mf* Solo #5 *mf*
I'll go a-lone, I'll go a-lone,

S I *mp*
lone, I'll go a-lone if I have to,

S II *mp*
lone, I'll go a-lone if I have to, I'll go a-lone if I have to,

A I *mp*
lone, I'll go a-lone if I have to, I'll go a-lone if I have to,

A II *mp*
lone, I'll go a-lone, I'll go a-lone,

37

Solos *mf*
I'll go a-lone, if I have to.

S I *mf*
I'll go a-lone if I have to, I'll go a-lone if I have to. Oh my

S II *mf*
I'll go a-lone if I have to, I'll go a-lone if I have to. Oh my

A I *mf*
I'll go a-lone if I have to, I'll go a-lone if I have to.

A II *mf* *mp*
lone, I'll go a-lone if I have to, Oh I'll go a-lone if I have to. My

41 *mp*

S I foot - prints will van - ish from this trail some day, but the seeds I

S II foot prints will van - ish from this trail some day, but the seeds I

A I

A II foot-prints will van - ish from this trail some day but the seeds that I sow

46 *mp dolce*

S I sow will re - main and grow, the fra - grance of the

S II *mp dolce* sow will re - main and grow, the fra - grance of the

A I *mp dolce* the fra - grance of the

A II *mp dolce* will re - main and grow, the fra - grance of 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 serum 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 serum 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
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**...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

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61 Solo #6 *mp*

Solos
I'll go a - lone if I have_ to, I'll go a - lone, _____

S I
Truth, _____ a - - lone, _____ I will _____

S II
Truth, _____ a - - lone, _____ I will _____

A I
Truth, _____ a - - lone, _____ I will _____

A II
Truth, _____ a - - lone, _____ I will _____

65 Solo #7 *mf*

Solos
I'll go a - lone_ up - on_ the jour - ney, _____

S I
go a - lone up - on the jour - ney_ For at the

S II
go a - lone on the jour - ney, I'll go a - lone,

A I
go a - lone on the jour - ney, I'll go a - lone, For at the

A II
go _____ on the jour - ney, I'll go a - lone, For at the

69 **C**

S I end of this jour - ney waits a fes - tive ta - ble filled with bless -

S II At the end of this jour - ney waits a fes - tive ta - ble filled with bless -

A I end of this jour - ney waits a fes - tive ta - ble filled with bless -

A II end of this jour - ney waits a fes - tive ta - ble filled with bless -

72

S I - ings, filled with bless - ings and prayers that I prayed and I had for - got - ten,

S II - ings, filled with bless - ings and prayers that I prayed and I had for - got - ten,

A I - ings, filled with bless - ings and prayers I prayed and I had for - got - ten, Oh,

A II - ings, Oh,

85 **D**

S I tired from the jour - ney, I am tired, and

S II tired from the jour - ney, I am tired, and

A I tired from the jour - ney, I am tired, and

A II tired from the jour - ney, Oh, I am tired, and

89

S I Je - sus bids me rest. And I will *mp with energy*

S II Je - sus bids me rest, bids me rest. And I will *mp with energy*

A I Je - sus bids me rest. And I will *mp with energy*

A II Je - sus bids me rest. And I will *mp with energy*

93

S I sit on the porch_ of the king - - dom, sit on the porch of the king -

S II sit on the porch_ of the king - - dom, sit on the porch of the king -

A I sit on the porch_ of the king - dom, I'll sit on the porch of the king -

A II sit on the porch_ of the king - dom, I'll sit on the porch of the king -

96

S I - dom, on the porch_ of the king - dom and rest,_____

S II - dom, on the porch of the king dom and rest,_____

A I - dom, on the porch of the king - dom and rest._____

A II - dom, on the porch of the king - dom_ and rest._____

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107 Solo #8 (or small group) *f*

Solos *f* the jour - ney:

SI *f* jour - ney, the jour - ney: I'll go a - lone.

SII jour - ney, the jour - ney, the jour - - - ney: I'll go a - lone.

AI *f* jour - ney, the jour - ney, the jour - - - ney: I'll go a - lone.

AII *f* jour - ney, the jour - ney, the jour - - - ney: I'll go a - lone.

111 **E** *mf*

SI *mf* I'll go a - lone on the jour -

SII *mf* I'll go a - lone if I have to, I'll go a - lone,

AI *mf* I'll go a - lone if I have to, I'll go a - lone,

AII

114

S I - - ney, If I have to I'll go on the jour - ney a - lone, I will

S II I'll go, If I have to I'll go on the jour - ney a - lone, I will

A I If I have to I'll go, I'll go, if I

A II *mf* I will go a - lone, I'll go, if I

117

S I go, I'll go, go a - lone, a -

S II go, I'll go, go a - lone, I'll go a -

A I have to I'll go, I will go on the jour - ney a - lone, I'll go a -

A II have to I'll go, I will go on the jour - ney a - lone, a -

f

127

Solos

Solo #14 *mp*

Solo #13 *mp*

Solo #12 *mp*

I will go a - lone,

I will go,

I will go,

S I

S II

A I

A II

Oh, I'll go a - lone, Oh,

Oh, I'll go a - lone, Oh,

Oh, I'll go a - lone, Oh,

Oh, I'll go a - lone, Oh,

pp

pp

pp

pp

meno mosso

132

Solos

Solo #15 *p freely*

On this jour - ney, I'll go a - lone,

S I

S II

A I

A II

a - - - lone.

a - - - lone.

a - - - lone.

a - - - lone.

I'll Go Alone

by Evelyn K. Dudley

Adapted as a lyric by Elizabeth Alexander

When Cincinnati Men's Chorus asked me to compose a song for a concert honoring strong women, the director suggested that the song celebrate the life and spirit of Coretta Scott King. I was excited about the commission but I had no idea how to begin. How could I compose a tribute to her that would spring directly from my own heart and experience?

Nevertheless I dove right into the project, educating myself about King's life and words. While this deepened my understanding of the civil rights leader, I was unable to find a wholly authentic way to bring my compositional voice to her work, loss, strength and vision.

One day it occurred to me to call singer and civil rights leader Dorothy Cotton. Years earlier she and I had attended the same church in Ithaca, NY, where we had performed together several times. Dorothy offered to mail me a program from King's memorial service, at which she had spoken. Not surprisingly, the program itself featured many prominent speakers and musicians. But the program's insert was somewhat unusual; it contained a piece of writing by Evelyn K. Dudley, King's caregiver during the last year of her life.

The writing was not about King; in fact it had been written years before the two women ever met. It was Dudley's own personal testimony and manifesto about faith, hardship, tenacity, service, and courage, written during a particularly difficult period in her life. Her words spoke to the struggle of everyone who carries on on despite pain, suffering, and loneliness, be they rich or poor, famous or unsung.

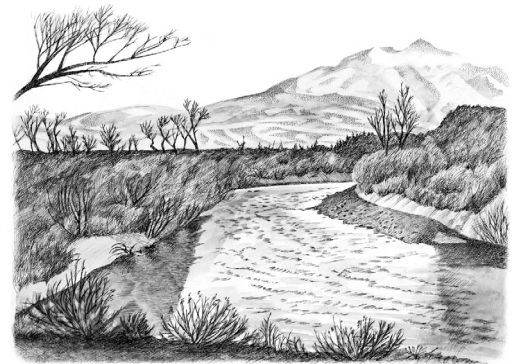
I knew instantly that I had found the perfect text for the song, and the chorus agreed. Crafting Dudley's words into a song became a labor of love.

Evelyn K. Dudley was born one of eight children in 1959 in Americus, Georgia, in a house built by her grandfather. Her father's service in the army brought her family to Hartford, Connecticut, where she spent most of her early years.

Born with a severely dislocated hip, Dudley had six surgeries before the age of twelve, spending many months on crutches and in wheelchairs, re-learning to walk after each operation. She received loving care from doctors, nurses, and family, an experience which led her to her vocation as a caregiver. She wrote poetry in her teens in response to these early experiences. During another difficult time in her life in 1997, Dudley deliberately crafted a testimony laying out her faith, resilience and purpose in life. In future years she often used that piece of writing as a touchstone and source of strength.

In the final year of Coretta Scott King's life, Dudley worked as King's primary caregiver, a job which she considered a great honor. After King's death in 2006 Dudley shared her personal testimony with King's family, who chose to include the writing as an insert in the memorial service program.

Dudley's recent activities have included volunteering through her church and at The Atlanta Collaborative Kitchen, a project of Atlanta Community Food Bank and Project Open Hands. An honors graduate of culinary arts school, she is the proud mother of two grown children and one grandchild. She currently lives in Sumter, SC.



Cover Art: "Roaring Fork River by
Carbondale" by Jonathan Machen
www.jonathanmachen.com

Machen lives in Boulder, CO with his wife and two children. He takes inspiration from the people around him, as well as the beauty of the Rocky Mountains and the American Southwest.