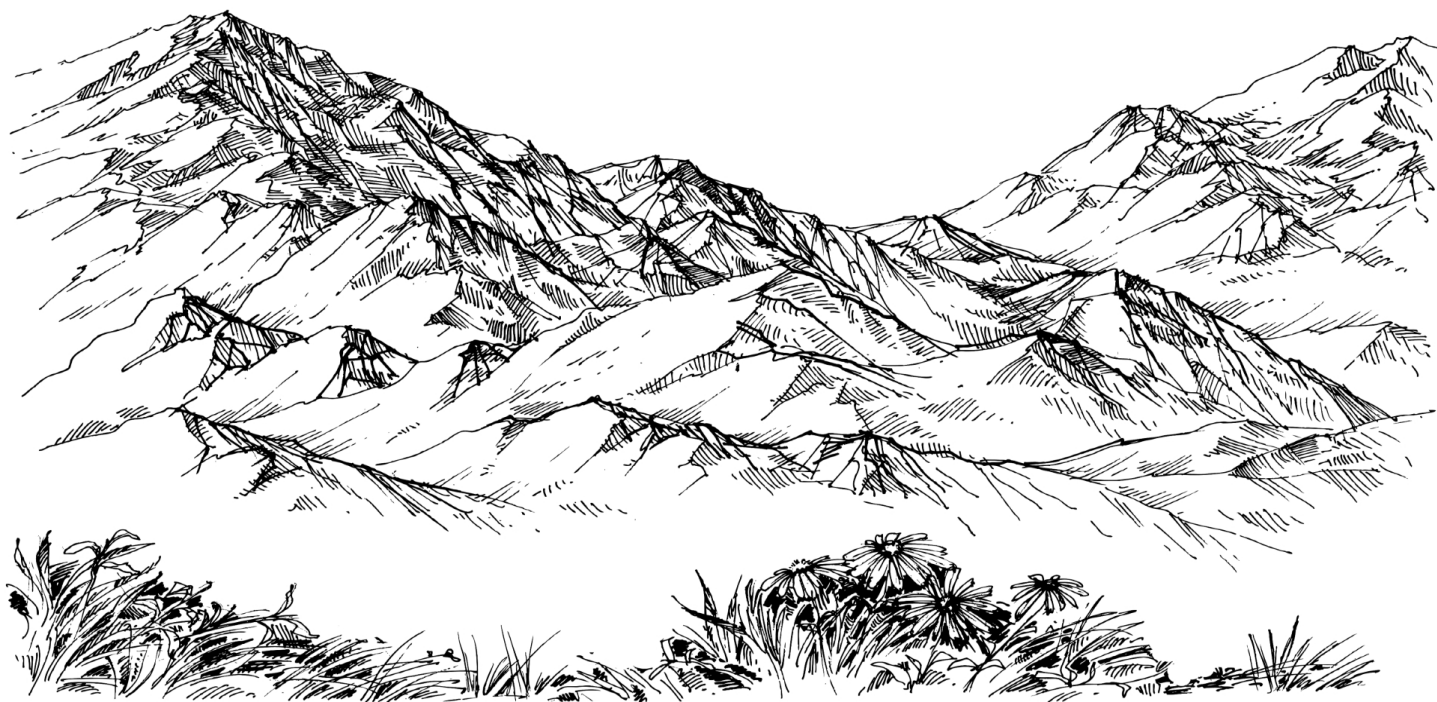


# Blessed Be the Flower That Triumphs

Michael de Vernon Boblett

SATB a cappella



# Elizabeth Alexander

*Seafarer Press*

## Blessed Be the Flower That Triumphs at Last

Blessed be the flower that triumphs  
Over snows, over thorns, over withered stems,  
Over windswept mountains, over deserts cruel and dry.  
Blessed be the flower that triumphs.

Blessed be the flower that triumphs  
Over wars, over change, over centuries,  
Over barbed wire fences, over soldiers' heavy feet.  
Blessed be the flower that triumphs.

Blessed be the flower that triumphs  
Over well-meaning hands bent on gathering.  
Over small closed rooms, with their vases hard and cold.  
Blessed be the flower that triumphs.

Blessed be the flower that triumphs  
Over vain words of priests and of poets' pens  
And attempts to domesticate its wild, wild Truth.  
Blessed be the flower that triumphs.

Blessed be the flower that triumphs  
Over past, over death, over silences,  
Enduring beyond iron and tears and severed roots,  
And restoring to all things a joyful smallness.  
Blessed be the flower that triumphs at last.

Poem © by 2007 by Michael de Vernon Boblett. Used and adapted by permission of the author

---

**Composer's Note:** Requiems are essentially about what it means for beauty and meaning to triumph over anyone and anything that might destroy faith, hope or life itself.

So it's no wonder that when Minneapolis' Bethlehem Lutheran Church commissioned a choral work to follow and compliment Gabriel Fauré's celebrated Requiem, I did not focus my thinking on death. Instead, I found myself contemplating the true nature of resurrection.

My questioning led me to Michael de Vernon Boblett's gracious and powerful poem, "Blessed Be the Flower That Triumphs." The mystery in this poem still takes me breath away. Is this tenacious flower a man or a Messiah, a scientific idea or a religious belief, a tiny flower or the voice of truth?

**About the choral and orchestral versions of this song:** The orchestral version of this song includes several passages that are purely instrumental, but the choral parts themselves are identical to those in the a cappella version. Choirs wishing to perform both versions of this song may simply purchase and use the orchestral version's choral part.

# Blessed Be the Flower That Triumphs

SATB a cappella

Michael deVernon Boblett

Elizabeth Alexander

**A** Tenderly

S  
Bless - ed be the flow - er that tri - umphs o - ver

A  
Bless - ed be the flow - er that tri - umphs o - ver

T  
Bless - ed be the flow - er that tri - - - umphs o - ver

B  
Bless - ed be the flow - er that tri - - - umphs o - ver

*for rehearsal only*

S  
snows, o - ver thorns, o - ver with - ered stems, o - ver

A  
snows, o - ver thorns, o - ver with - - - ered stems, o - ver

T  
snows, o - ver thorns, o - ver with - - - ered stems, o - ver

B  
snows, o - ver thorns, o - ver with - - - ered stems, o - ver

9

S  
wind - swept moun - tains, des - erts cruel and dry,

A  
wind - swept moun - - tains, des - erts cruel and dry,

T  
wind - swept moun - tains, des - erts cruel and dry,

B  
wind - - swept moun - tains, des - erts cruel and dry,

13

S  
Bless - ed be the flow - er that tri - umphs,

A  
Bless - ed be the flow - er that tri - - - - - umphs.

T  
Bless - ed be the flow - er that tri - - - - - umphs.

B  
Bless - ed be the flow - er that tri - - - - - umphs.

17 **B** *mf*

S Bless - ed be the flow - er that tri - umphs o - ver

A *mf*  
Bless - ed be the flow - er that tri - umphs, that tri - umphs o - ver

T *mf*  
Bless - ed be the flow - er that tri - umphs, that tri - umphs o - ver

B *mf*  
Bless - ed be the flow - er that tri - umphs, that tri - umphs o - ver

21 *f*

S wars, o - ver change, o - ver cen - tu - ries, o - ver

A *f*  
wars, o - ver change, o - ver cen - - tu - ries, o - ver

T *f*  
wars, o - ver change, o - ver cen - tu - ries, o - ver

B *f*  
wars, o - ver change, o - ver cen - - tu - ries, o - ver

25

S  
barbed wire fences, soldier's heavy

A  
barbed wire fences, soldier's heavy

T  
barbed wire fences, soldier's heavy

B  
barbed wire fences, soldier's heavy

28

S  
feet, Bless - ed be the flow - er

A  
feet, Bless - ed be the flow'r

T  
feet, Bless - ed be the

B  
feet, Bless - ed be the

32

S  
that tri - umphs, that tri - umphs o - ver

A  
that tri - umphs, that tri - umphs o - ver

T  
flow'r that tri - umphs o - ver

B  
flow'r that tri - umphs o - ver

35

**C** *mp*

S *mp*  
well - mean - ing hands bent on gath - er - ing, o - ver

A *mp*  
well - mean - ing hands bent on gath - er - ing, o - ver

T *mp*  
well mean - ing hands bent on gath - er - ing, o - ver

B *mp*  
well mean - ing hands gath - er - ing, o - ver

39

S  
small closed rooms, with their vas - es hard and

A  
small closed rooms, with their vas - es hard and

T  
small closed rooms with their vas - - es hard and

B  
small closed rooms with their vas - - es hard and

42

S  
cold, o - ver vain words of

A  
cold, o - ver vain words of

T  
cold, o - ver vain words of

B  
cold, o - ver vain words of

44

S  
priests and of poets' pens, and at -

A  
priests and of poets' pens, and at -

T  
priests and of po - - - ets' pens, and at -

B  
priests and of po - - - ets' pens, and at -

47

S *mf*  
- tempts to do - mes - ti - cate its wild, wild Truth, and at -

A *mf*  
- tempts to do - mes - ti - cate its wild wild Truth, and at -

T *mf*  
- tempts to do - mes - ti - cate its wild wild Truth, and at -

B *mf*  
- tempts to do - mes - ti - cate its wild, wild Truth, and at -

51 *f*

S - tempts to do - mes - ti - cate its Truth.

A - tempts to do - mes - ti - cate its Truth.

T - tempts to do - mes - ti - cate its Truth.

B - tempts to do - mes - ti - cate its Truth.

**meno mosso** *pp* tenderly **a tempo**

56 *pp* tenderly

S Bless - ed be, bless - ed be,

A Bless - ed be, bless - ed be, bless - ed be, Bless - ed

T Bless - ed be, bless - ed be, Bless - ed

B Bless - ed be, bless - ed be, Bless - ed

**D**

61

S  
Bless - ed be the flow - er that tri - umphs \_\_\_\_\_ o - ver

A  
be the flow - er that tri - umphs \_\_\_\_\_ o - ver

T  
be the flow - - - er that tri - umphs, that tri - umphs o - ver

B  
be the flow - er that tri - umphs, that tri - umphs o - ver

65 *mf* *mp*

S  
past, o - ver death, o - ver si - lenc - es, \_\_\_\_\_

A  
*mf* *mp*  
past, o - ver death, o - ver si - - - lenc - es,

T  
*mf* *mp*  
past, o - ver death, o - ver si - - - lenc - es,

B  
*mf* *mp*  
past, o - ver death, o - ver si - - - lenc - es,

69

*p* *pp* *ppp*

S  
si - lenc - es, si - - - lenc - - - es,

A  
*p* *pp* *ppp*  
si - lenc - es, si - lenc - es, si - lenc - es,

T  
*p* *pp* *ppp*  
si - lenc - es, si - lenc - es, si - lenc - es, \* en

B  
*p* *pp* *ppp*  
si - lenc - es, si - lenc - es, si - lenc es, \* en -

75 **E**

*p*

S  
\* en - dur - ing, en - dur - ing, en -

A  
*p*  
\* en - dur - ing, en - dur - ing, en - dur - ing, en -

T  
*p*  
dur - ing, en - dur - ing, en - dur - - - - - ing, en -

B  
*p*  
-dur - ing, en - dur - ing, en - dur - - - - - ing, en -

\* The composer is especially pleased when choirs sing "en-dyoor-ing" rather than "en-door-ing."

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](http://www.seafarerpress.com)

87

S  
- yond sev - ered roots. Bless - ed

A  
- yond sev - ered roots. Bless - ed

T  
\_ yond sev - ered roots. Bless - ed

B  
\_ yond sev - ered roots. Bless - ed

91

Solo  
Bless - ed be,

Solo  
Bless - ed be,

S  
be, And re - stor - ing to warmly

A  
be, And re - stor - ing to warmly

T  
be, And re - stor - ing to warmly

B  
be, And re - stor - ing to warmly

96

S *p*  
all things a joy - ful small - ness,

A *p*  
all things a joy - ful small - ness,

T *p*  
all things a joy - ful small - ness,

B *p*  
all things a joy - ful small - ness, Bless - ed

101

Solo *mf*  
Bless - ed

S *mf*  
Bless - ed be, bless - ed

A *mp*  
Bless - ed be, bless - ed

T  
Bless - ed be, bless - ed

B  
be, bless - ed

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.**

**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](http://www.seafarerpress.com)

112

S — bless - ed be the flow - er, — that tri - umphs, —

A be, bless - ed be the flow - er, — the flow'r that tri - - -

T — bless - ed be the flow'r that tri - umphs, —

B be, bless - ed be the flow'r that tri - - -

**meno mosso**

116

Solo *mf* at last,

Solo *mp* at last, that

S *mf* — — — — — *p* bless - ed

A *mf* umphs, — — — — — *p* bless - ed

T *mf* — — — — — *mp* bless - ed be,

B *mf* umphs, — — — — — *mp* bless - ed be,

120

Solo *p* Bless - ed be. *rall.*

Solo tri - umphs at last, *p*

S be at last, *pp*

A be at last, *pp*

T at last, *p* at *pp*

B at last, *p* at *pp*

125

Solo *mp* Bless - ed be.

S last, *pp* bless - - - ed be.

A last, *pp* bless - - - ed be.

T last, *pp* bless - - - ed be.

B last, *pp* bless - - - ed be.

**Michael de Vernon Boblett** is a retired Unitarian Universalist minister living within sight of the San Diego River in San Diego, CA. As a certified practitioner of Rolfing® bodywork, he likes to say: “Now my hands do my talking.” Michael’s life also includes family, distance running, mountain climbing, telling funny stories to children, and practicing *zazen* meditation at a local meditation center. Most of his recent poems are haiku.



Cover Image by Torky. Licensed by 123RF

## 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