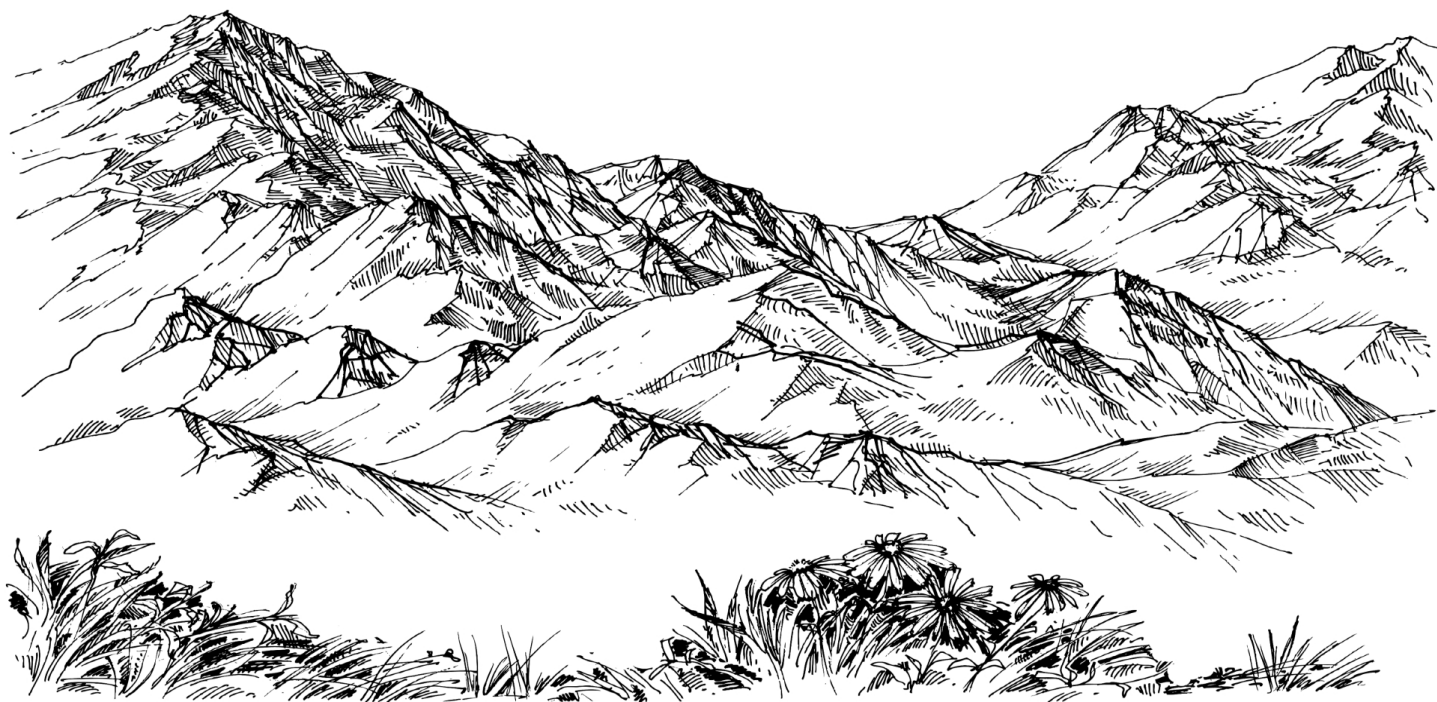


Blessed Be the Flower That Triumphs

Michael de Vernon Boblett

SATB, 2 horns, harp, strings



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.



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Composer Note: When I was asked to compose this “companion piece” for a concert featuring the Fauré *Requiem*, I felt both excited and intimidated. What more could my music say about death, loss and transcendence than was already conveyed by that timeless choral masterwork?

As I mulled this question over in my mind I kept coming back to the same word: Resurrection. What a big and weighty word! And what exactly did it mean?

I found a surprisingly small and simple answer in Michael de Vernon Boblett’s poem “Blessed Be the Flower that Triumphs at Last.” Resurrection is what happens when a patient flower faithfully returns despite the ravages of wind and drought, pride and avarice, brutality and war. It is what happens when love and hope refuse to be snuffed out even by death itself, blessing the living with their eternal legacy.

Blessed Be the Flower That Triumphs exists in two versions, one for SATB chorus *a cappella* (SEA-078-00) and one for SATB chorus with a small chamber orchestra consisting of 2 horns, harp and strings (SEA-078-01). While the orchestral version includes additional instrumental material, the choral parts themselves are identical in both versions. Choirs wishing to have the opportunity to perform both versions may wish to purchase and sing from the orchestral version’s choral part (SEA-078-03).

Blessed Be the Flower That Triumphs

for SATB choir, 2 horns, harp, and strings

Michael deVernon Boblett

Elizabeth Alexander

(♩ = 50-54) **Tenderly**

S
A
T
B

Vln: *p* tenderly
Hn:
Hp:

for rehearsal only

6

11

16

21 **A** *p*

S Bless-ed be the flow - er that tri - umphs _____ o - ver snows, o - ver thorns, o - ver

A Bless-ed be the flow - er that tri - umphs _____ o - ver snows, o - ver thorns, o - ver

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

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

27

S with - ered stems, _____ o - ver wind - swept moun - tains, des - erts cruel and dry,

A with - ered stems, o - ver wind - swept moun - tains, des - erts cruel and dry,

T with - ered stems, o - ver wind - swept moun - tains, des - erts cruel and dry, _____

B with - ered stems, o - ver wind - swept moun - tains, des - erts cruel and dry, _____

33

S
A
T
B

Bless - ed be the flow - er that tri - umphs, _____
Bless - ed be the flow - er that tri - - - - - umphs.
Bless - ed be the flow - er that tri - - - - - umphs.
Bless - ed be the flow - er that _____ tri - - - - - umphs.

Vln:

37

Hn:

41 *un poco aggressivo*

3

45

Hn.

3

49 *pesante* Hn: *dolce*

53

57 Vln: Hp: *8va*

B 61 *mf*

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

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

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

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

65 *f*

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

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

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

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

69

S barbed wire fenc - es, sol - dier's heav - y feet,

A barbed wire fenc - es, sol - dier's heav - y feet,

T barbed wire fenc - es, sol - dier's heav - y feet,

B barbed wire fenc - es, sol - dier's heav - y feet,

Vla.

75 *p*

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

A
p
Bless - ed be the flow'r _____ that tri - umphs that tri-umphs o - ver

T
p
Bless ed be _____ the flow'r that tri - umphs _____ o - ver

B
p
Bless - ed be the flow'r that tri - umphs _____ o - ver

C

80 *mp*

S
well - mean - ing hands bent on gath - er - ing, _____ o - ver small closed rooms, with their

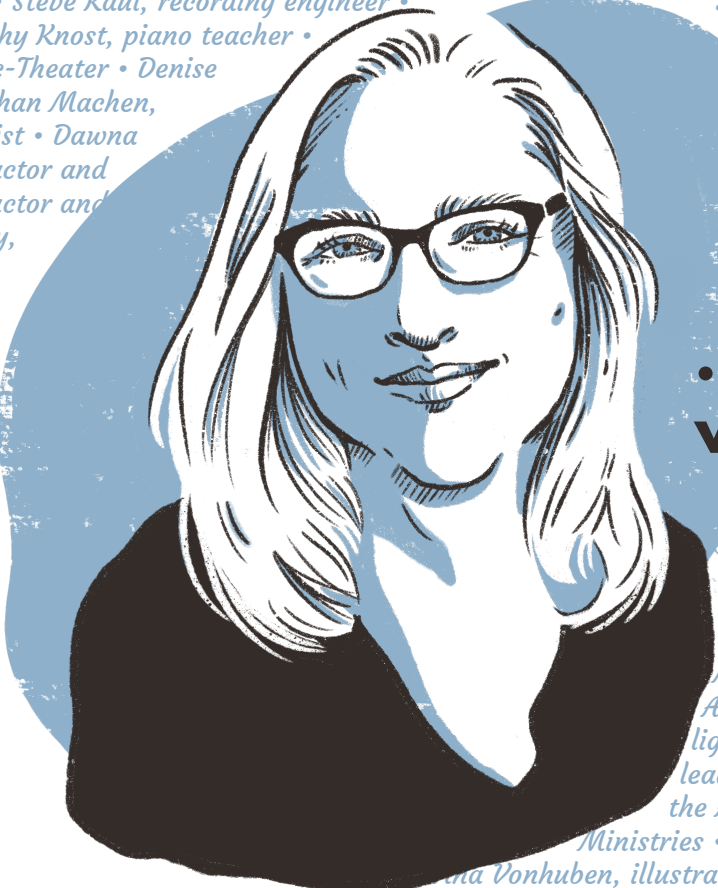
A
mp
well - mean - ing hands bent on gath - er - ing, o - ver small closed rooms, with their

T
mp
well mean - ing hands bent on gath - er - ing, o - ver small closed rooms with their

B
mp
well mean - ing hands gath - er - ing, o - ver small closed rooms with their

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 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.**

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(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

D

108 *mf*

S Bless-ed be the flow - er that tri - umphs _____ o - ver past, o - ver death, o - ver

A be the flow - er that tri - umphs _____ o - ver past, o - ver death, o - ver

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

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

114 *mp* *p* *pp*

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

A si - lenc - es, si - - lenc - es, si - lenc - es,

T si - lenc - es, si - - lenc - es, si - lenc - es,

B si - lenc - es, si - - lenc - es, si - lenc - es,

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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.**

**This page has been intentionally omitted.
(You know why.) A complete perusal score may be
purchased through any music store or dealer.**

Elizabeth Alexander

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The Music of Elizabeth Alexander

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142

S
- stor - ing to all things a joy - ful small - ness,

A
- stor - ing to all things a joy - ful small - ness,

T
- stor-ing to all things a joy - ful small - ness,

B
- stor - ing to all things a joy - ful small - ness, Bless-ed

Vln.

149

S
Bless-ed be, bless - ed be. Bless - ed

A
Bless-ed be, bless - ed be.

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

B
be, bless - ed be.

mf *ff* *mf*

mp *ff*

mp *ff* *mf*

ff

157

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

A
mf
Bless - ed be the flow - er, bless - ed be, bless - ed

T
mf
bless - - ed be, bless - ed be the flow - er, bless - ed

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

161

meno mosso*mp*

Solo
at last,

S
mp
be the flow - er, that tri - umphs,

A
mp
be the flow - er, the flow'r that tri - - - umphs,

T
mp *p*
be the flow'r that tri - umphs, bless - ed

B
mp *p*
be the flow'r that tri - - - umphs, bless - ed

166

Solo *p* Bless - ed be.

Solo *mp* at last, that tri-umphs at last, *p*

S *p* bless-ed be at last at

A *p* bless-ed be at last, at

T be, at last, at

B be, at last, at

Hn.

173

Solo *mp* Bless - ed be.

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

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

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

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

Hp.