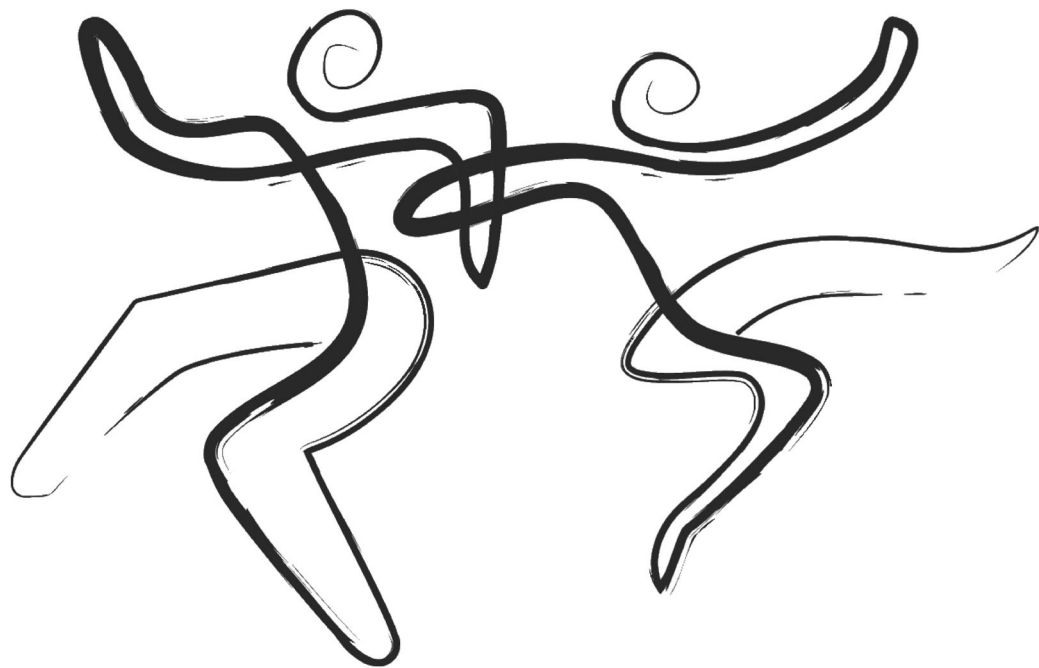


We Give Thanks for Being

1-4 part choir, piano



Elizabeth Alexander

Seafarer Press

We give thanks for being.
We give thanks for being here.
We give thanks for being here together.

Traditional

Composer Note: These three simple lines make up one of the first prayers taught to young children in my church. The immediacy and openheartedness in these words is also beloved by many adults, calling them out of their daily worries and distractions and into conscious presence. There's no solemn invocation or flowery language here. Instead, the prayer gets right to the point, weaving thankfulness, community and covenant together into something you can slip into your pocket and carry around with you all day long. If you ask me, that's a pretty decent foundation for a solid gratitude practice and a contemplative life.

Because I composed this piece for my own congregation in 2021 during the coronavirus pandemic, I thought a great deal about what it means to be "together." I suspected that many congregants would not be able to attend the song's live, in-person premiere. That's why the final measures consist of unsynchronized individual voices, affirming community with one another despite being separated by time and space.

As you sing this song's final measures, listen deeply and fully. Find your own rhythm, pitches and inflection. Revel in the rich collage of voices all around you. Look up and connect with someone else through a lifted gaze, a generous thought, or a meaningful touch.

We Give Thanks for Being is designed to be sung by singers of all ages and abilities.
It may be sung in 1, 2, 3 or 4 parts, depending on who shows up at choir practice.

SEA-145-00 / We Give Thanks for Being (1-4 part choir)
SEA-145-01 / We Give Thanks for Being (community/congregational song)

For more information visit
www.seafarerpress.com/works/we-give-thanks-for-being

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We Give Thanks for Being

1-4 pt. chorus and piano *

Traditional

Elizabeth Alexander

Lively, joyfully

Soprano (S): Treble clef, 6/8 time signature. Rests for the first four measures, then a half note G4 in the fifth measure.

Alto (A): Treble clef, 6/8 time signature. Rests for the first four measures, then a half note G4 in the fifth measure.

Tenor (T): Treble clef, 6/8 time signature. Rests for the first four measures, then a half note G4 in the fifth measure.

Bass (B): Bass clef, 6/8 time signature. Rests for the first four measures, then a half note G3 in the fifth measure.

Piano: Treble and Bass clefs, 6/8 time signature. *mf* dynamic. Chords D and A(omit3) are indicated above the staff. The piano part includes a *Red.* (ritardando) and an asterisk (*) at the end of the system.

Section A (marked with a box 'A' and measure 6):

Soprano (S): Treble clef, 6/8 time signature. *mf* dynamic. Lyrics: "We give thanks, give thanks for being." Musical notation includes a half note G4, a quarter note A4, and a half note B4.

Alto (A): Treble clef, 6/8 time signature. *mf* dynamic. Lyrics: "We give thanks, for being." Musical notation includes a half note G4, a quarter note A4, and a half note B4.

Tenor (T): Treble clef, 6/8 time signature. Lyrics: "thanks for being. We give" Musical notation includes a half note G4, a quarter note A4, and a half note B4.

Bass (B): Bass clef, 6/8 time signature. Lyrics: "thanks for being. We give" Musical notation includes a half note G3, a quarter note A3, and a half note B3.

Piano: Treble and Bass clefs, 6/8 time signature. Chords D and C/D are indicated above the staff. The piano part includes a *Red.* (ritardando) at the end of the system.

* The alto part may be sung by any or all voice parts in unison. Additional voice parts may be added at any time, or not at all.

We Give Thanks for Being (1-4 pt. chorus and piano) - Piano-Vocal Score

2

10

S
A
T
B

We give thanks for be - ing here, _____
 We give thanks _____ for be - ing here. _____
 thanks _____ for be - ing here, be - ing here. We give
 thanks _____ for be - ing here, _____ We give

D C

Ped. Ped.

14

S
A
T
B

We give thanks _____ be-ing here to - ge - ther, _____
 We give thanks _____ for be - ing here to - ge - ther, _____
 thanks _____ for be - ing here to - ge - ther, be-ing - here to - ge - ther, _____
 thanks, _____ we give thanks for be - ing here to - ge - ther, be-ing - here to - ge - ther, _____

D C G

Ped. Ped. 1 2 5 Ped.

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 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

26

S We give thanks, _____ we give thanks, _____ we give

A We give thanks for be - ing here to - ge - ther, be - ing here to - ge - ther, _____

T We give thanks for be - ing here to - ge - ther,* Oh, _____ we give

B thanks, give thanks for be - ing here to - ge - ther,* Oh, _____ we give

F Eb

Ped. *Ped.*

* Heads up, tenors and basses. The composer changed *one note* in your countermelody this time. If I were you I'd circle it right now.

29 *mf warmly*

S thanks for be - ing to - ge - ther, _____ to -

A _____ *mf warmly* to - ge - ther, _____ to -

T thanks for be - ing to - ge - ther, _____ to -

B thanks _____ to - ge - ther, _____ to -

Bb C

mf warmly

Ped. *Ped.*

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
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40

S - ge - ther, _____ to - *p*

A - ge - ther, _____ to - *p*

T - ge - ther, _____ to - *p*

B - ge - ther, _____ to - *p*

Repeat ad lib. growing softer until fading out. Piano fades out before the singers.

From this point on, voices are no longer synchronized, at the same tempo, or on the notated pitches. Sing simply and authentically, listening deeply to one another and finding your own way.

This many-voiced chorus affirms that it is a cohesive community even as its individual voices may be separated by time and space. If you have not already connected with your fellow singers through a lifted gaze, a touch, or a focused thought, take this opportunity now.

44

S - ge - ther. _____ to -

A - ge - ther. _____ to -

T - ge - ther. _____ to -

B - ge - ther. _____ to -

p

At some point in time, omit the parenthetical notes. Eventually fade out entirely, leaving only the singers