

Like a Leaf

Words by Wendell Berry

SATB, piano



Elizabeth Alexander

Seafarer Press

Like a Leaf

2-6 part canon

Wendell Berry

Elizabeth Alexander

With an open heart

The musical score is written on a single treble clef staff in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It consists of two systems of music. The first system begins with a double bar line and a repeat sign. The first measure of the first system is marked with a circled '1'. The second measure of the first system is marked with a circled '2'. The lyrics for the first system are: "When I rise_ up let me rise, rise up joy - ful like a___ bird. When I". The second system begins with a measure number '4' at the start. The first measure of the second system is marked with a circled '3'. The second measure of the second system is marked with a circled '4'. The lyrics for the second system are: "fall_____ let me fall with - out re - gret, let___ me".

The last system on this page is omitted in this perusal score.

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When I rise up let me rise up joyful like a bird.
When I fall let me fall without regret like a leaf.

Wendell Berry

From "Prayers and Sayings of the Mad Farmer" from The Mad Farmer Poems.
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(ca. ♩ = 120)

Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass

legato sempre
mp
Ped.

4 Tutti, Small Group, or Solo:
mp

Tenor/Bass

When I rise up let me rise, rise up

Ped.

7

Tenor/Bass

joy - ful like a bird.

Ped.

9

T B

When I fall let me

Ped.

12

T B

fall with - - out re - - gret,

Ped.

15

T B

Let me fall, let me

Ped.

18

T B

fall like a leaf, like a leaf,

Ped.

21

S Like a leaf, like a leaf,

A Like a leaf, like a leaf,

T like a leaf.

B like a leaf.

Ped.

24

S like a leaf. When I

A like a leaf. When I

T like a leaf. When I

B like a leaf. When I

27 **A** *mf*

S rise, when I rise let me rise like a bird, let me rise up

A rise, when I rise let me rise like a bird, let me rise up

T rise, when I rise let me rise a bird, let me rise up

B rise, when I rise let me rise like a bird, let me rise up

31

S joy - ful, rise up joy - ful like a bird, like a bird. When I

A joy - ful, joy - ful, joy - ful like a bird, like a bird. When I

T joy - ful, rise up joy - ful like a bird, like a bird.

B joy - ful rise up joy - ful like a bird, like a bird.

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
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

41

S
- out re - - gret, let me fall, let me

A
- out re - - gret, let me fall, let me

T
fall let me fall with - - out re - -

B
fall let me fall with - - out re - -

44

S
fall like a leaf, like a leaf,

A
fall like a leaf, like a leaf.

T
- gret, let me fall, let me fall like a

B
- gret, let me fall, let me fall like a

47

S like a leaf. When I

A When I

T leaf, like a leaf, like a leaf. When I

B leaf, like a leaf, like a leaf. When I

51 **C**

S fall, when I fall, let me

A fall, when I fall, when I fall, let me

T fall, when I fall, when I fall, let me

B fall, when I fall, let me

55

S fall with - out re - - gret. Let me

A fall with - out re - - gret, re - - gret. Let me

T fall with - out re - - gret, re - - gret.

B fall with - out re - - gret.

59

S fall like a leaf, let me

A fall like a leaf, like a leaf, let me

T Fall like a leaf, like a leaf, let me

B Fall like a leaf, like a leaf, let me

63

S fall with - out re - gret.

A fall with - out re - gret, with - out re - gret, with - out re - gret.

T fall, fall with - out re - gret, with - out re - gret.

B fall, fall, fall with - out re - gret. Solo: Let me

D meno mosso

68

S

A Solo: let me fall like a

T

B fall like a leaf.

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Elizabeth Alexander
Seafarer Press
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80

S
Let me fall like a leaf. Oh when I

A
Let me fall like a leaf. When I

T
Let me fall like a leaf. When I

B
fall let me fall like a leaf. When I

E a tempo

84

S
rise,* let me rise,

A
rise* up let me rise, rise up joy - ful like a

T
rise* up let me rise, let me rise,

B
rise,* Oh when I rise up let me

opt. v

* Redistribute singers to different voice parts so that lower voices have enough support.
Individuals with lower ranges may sing the lower divisi notes.

87

S Oh when I rise up let me rise, rise up

A bird. When I fall let me fall with - -

T let me rise, Oh when I

B rise, rise up joy - ful like a bird. When I

Detailed description: This block contains the first system of the choral score, measures 87-89. It features four vocal staves (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and a grand staff for piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: Soprano: "Oh when I rise up let me rise, rise up"; Alto: "bird. When I fall let me fall with - -"; Tenor: "let me rise, Oh when I"; Bass: "rise, rise up joy - ful like a bird. When I". The piano accompaniment consists of a right hand with a steady eighth-note pattern and a left hand with chords and occasional eighth notes. There are dynamic markings like *mf* and accents.

90

S joy - ful like a bird. When I fall let me

A - out re - - - gret, let me fall, let me

T rise up let me rise, rise up joy - ful like a

B fall let me fall with - - out re - -

Detailed description: This block contains the second system of the choral score, measures 90-92. It features four vocal staves and a grand staff for piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: Soprano: "joy - ful like a bird. When I fall let me"; Alto: "- out re - - - gret, let me fall, let me"; Tenor: "rise up let me rise, rise up joy - ful like a"; Bass: "fall let me fall with - - out re - -". The piano accompaniment continues with a similar eighth-note pattern in the right hand and chords in the left hand. There are dynamic markings like *mf* and accents.

93

S fall with - - out re - - gret, let me

A fall like a leaf, like a leaf.

T bird. When I fall let me fall with - -

B - gret, let me fall, let me fall like a

96

S fall, let me fall, like a leaf, like a

A like a

T - out re - - gret, let me fall, let me

B leaf, like a leaf.

99 *p*

S leaf,

A leaf,

T fall like a leaf, like a leaf,

B like a leaf,

102 **rallentando molto**

S like a leaf.

A like a leaf.

T like a leaf.

B like a leaf.