

# Trust the Seeds

SATB and orchestra



Elizabeth Alexander

*Seafarer Press*

Choral Part

# Trust the Seeds

Elizabeth Alexander

(♩ = 48-50) Seamlessly

**A** *mp*

8

S Trust the seeds, al - though they lie in dark - ness,

A Trust the seeds, al - though they lie in dark - ness,

T Trust the seeds, al - though they lie in dark - ness,

B Trust the seeds, al - though they lie in dark - ness,

13

S Stir - ring be - yond your watch - ful eye. Though they

A Stir - -ring be - yond your watch - ful eye. Though they

T Stir - -ring be - yond your watch - ful eye. Though they

B Stir - -ring be - yond your watch - ful eye. Though they

17

S may not flow - - er, flow - - er, flow - - er,

A may not flow - - er, flow - - er, flow - - er,

T may not flow - - er, flow - - er, flow - - er,

B may not flow - - er, flow - - er, flow - - er,

21

S flow - er \_\_\_\_\_ as you dreamed \_\_\_\_\_ they would, When the *mp*

A flow - er as \_\_\_\_\_ you dreamed \_\_\_\_\_ they would, When the *mp*

T flow - er \_\_\_\_\_ as you dreamed \_\_\_\_\_ they would, When the *mp*

B flow - er as \_\_\_\_\_ you dreamed \_\_\_\_\_ they would, When the *mp*

27

S plant - ing's o - ver you must trust the

A plant - ing's \_\_\_\_\_ o - ver you must trust the

T plant - ing's o - ver you must trust the

B plant - ing's \_\_\_\_\_ o - ver you must trust the

31 **B**

S seeds. 5 13

A seeds. 5 13

T seeds. 5 13

B seeds. 5 13

**C**

51 *p dolce*

S Some soon bloom to fill your heart with won - der, Some on - ly af - ter you are

*p dolce*

A Some soon bloom to fill your heart with won - der, Some on - ly af - ter you are

57

S gone. You must give them free - dom, free - dom, free - dom,

A gone. You must give them free - dom, free - dom, free - dom,

64 *mp* *p*

S free - dom to grow as they should.

*mp* *p*

A free - dom to grow as they should.

**D**

72 *pp dark, senza vibrato*

S Give them room to spread their roots, and trust the seeds.

*pp dark, senza vibrato*

A Give them room to spread their roots, and trust the seeds.

*pp dark, senza vibrato*

T Give them room to spread their roots, and trust the seeds.

*pp dark, senza vibrato*

B Give them room to spread their roots, and trust the seeds.

79 **E**

S

101

S

107 **F** *mp*

T

In \_\_\_\_\_ your \_\_\_\_\_ heart \_\_\_\_\_ you know that some may with - er, \_\_\_\_\_

B

In \_\_\_\_\_ your \_\_\_\_\_ heart \_\_\_\_\_ you know that some may with - er,

111 *mp* *mf*

S

All you can do is hope and pray. \_\_\_\_\_ Some will

A

All you can do is hope and pray, hope and pray, \_\_\_\_\_ Some will

T

All you can do is pray, hope and pray, \_\_\_\_\_ Some will \_\_\_\_\_

B

All you can do is pray, \_\_\_\_\_ Some will

116

S rise up grand - - er, grand - - er, grand - er,

A rise up grand - - er, grand - - er, grand - er,

T rise up grand - - er, grand - - er, grand - er,

B rise up grand - er, grand - - er, grand - er,

120 *f*

S grand - der than you dreamed they could.

A grand - der than you dreamed they could.

T grand - der than you dreamed they could.

B grand - der than you dreamed they could.

**G** *meno mosso*

125 *p meditatively*

S There is joy if you trust, if you

A There is joy in plant - ing if you trust, if you trust,

T There is joy in plant - ing if you trust,

B There is joy in plant - ing if you trust, if you

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

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## Trust the Seeds

Trust the seeds, although they lie in darkness,  
Stirring beyond your watchful eye.  
Though they may not flower as you dreamed they would,  
When the planting's over you must trust the seeds.

Some soon bloom to fill your heart with wonder,  
Some only after you are gone,  
You must give them freedom to grow as they should.  
Give them room to spread their roots, and trust the seeds.

In your heart, you know that some may wither,  
All you can do is hope and pray.  
Some will rise up grander than you dreamed they could.  
There is joy in planting if you trust the seeds.

Elizabeth Alexander

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**Composer Note:** I wrote *Trust the Seeds* while my preschool children were in daycare. I felt vaguely guilty about that at the time, for shouldn't I have been *spending time with my children* rather than *composing music about them*? As I look back on my unease now I see how unnecessary it was, for not only did my sons adore frolicking with their friends three mornings each week, but writing music was what kept me grounded so that I could happily frolic with them the rest of the time.

As a composer I was still floundering about looking for a grand, elusive thing called "voice." I was also trying to figure out how to be a professional composer, and while that was elusive too, there was one thing I did know. If anyone was ever going to take me seriously my music needed to invite adjectives such as "formidable," "visionary," and "epic." There was nothing "epic" about *Trust the Seeds*.

A few years later when I put together my first ever choral music catalog, it was with some hesitation that I included *Trust the Seeds* at all. But what the heck. There was room on page five for one more piece. I figured it might receive a few minor performances here and there. As it turned out, it became my best selling song for several years and I even received a commission to create an orchestral version of it. This little chorale actually *was* part of my "voice" – something its lyrics were trying to tell me all along.

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### Cover Art: "Six Seeds and Pods" by Emily Hawes.

Emily studied art history and studio art at University of Virginia, as well as in private venues. An active member of a local art guild, her other interests include camping, gardening, wildlife and reptile husbandry.



More of Emily's art may be viewed at  
<http://ehsketchaday2011.blogspot.com>