

Saving all the Whales in the Sea

Solo Version for medium voice and piano



Elizabeth Alexander

Seafarer Press

Saving all the Whales in the Sea

(Solo version)

Well one fine day while talkin' to my friend, my friend declared to me:
"Oh wouldn't it be very very good to save all the whales in the sea?"
We spoke to all the folks we knew who thought the same as we.
A thousand people signed right up to save all the whales in the sea.

My friend said, "We will never give an inch or shrink from noble fights.
As long as we are saving all the whales, let's strengthen women's rights!"
We told the happy news to those within our coterie.
Eight hundred people stuck around to strengthen women's rights,
and save all the whales in the sea.

My friend said, "Those who quit before the fight just had some basic flaws.
Without them we can do a better job to help the union's cause!"
We told our fellow workers that we now had missions three.
Six hundred people stuck around to help the union's cause,
and strengthen women's rights,
and save all the whales in the sea.

My friend said, "Workers, women, and the whales! Let's do some more besides.
I think it's time to double down and work to ban all pesticides!"
We vowed that we would stand beside each butterfly and bee.
Four hundred people stuck around to ban all pesticides,
and help the union's cause,
and strengthen women's rights,
and save all the whales in the sea.

My friend said, "Those who couldn't stick it out were little more than hacks.
They'd only hold us back as we attempt to lower income tax!"
We told our true believers that achieving this was key.
Two hundred people stuck around to lower income tax,
and ban all pesticides,
and help the union's cause,
and strengthen women's rights,
and save all the whales in the sea.

My friend said, "Say, it's really quite a shame to see the sky so brown.
It wouldn't take an awful lot of work to close the smokestacks down!"
We told our flock that now we stood for air that was smoke-free.
A hundred people stuck around to close the smokestacks down,
and lower income tax,
and ban all pesticides,
and help the union's cause,
and strengthen women's rights,
and save all the whales in the sea.

My friend said, "Has there ever been a team that had such unity?
I think we're finally ready to address our foreign policy!"
She looked at me with eager eyes, expecting I'd agree...
And now works all alone to change our foreign policy,
and close the smokestacks down,
and lower income tax,
and ban all pesticides,
and help the union's cause,
and strengthen women's rights,
and save all the whales in the sea.

*Music & New Lyrics © 2025
by Elizabeth Alexander
(Original lyrics © 1991)*

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Solo Version for medium voice and piano

♩ = 104-116

Music & Lyrics by Elizabeth Alexander

4

1. Well one fine day while talk-ing to my friend, my friend de-clared to me: Oh

7

would - n't it be ve - ry ve - ry good to save all the whales in the sea?" We spoke to all the folks we knew who

10

thought the same as we. A thou - sand peo - ple signed right up to save all the whales in the

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A

13

sea!

C B \flat F E \flat C B \flat

16

2. My friend said: "We will ne - ver give an inch or shrink from no - ble fights. As

G C B \flat F E \flat

19

long as we are sa - ving all the whales, let's streng - then wo - men's rights!" We

F E \flat G

21

told the hap - py news to those with - in our co - te - rie. Eight

F E \flat Cm B \flat

23

hun-dred peo-ple stuck a-round to streng-then wom-en's rights _____ and save all the whales in the

C Eb G7

26

B

sea.

C Bb F Eb C Bb

29

3. My friend said: "Those who quit be-fore the fight just had some ba-sic flaws. With-

G C Bb F Eb

32

- out them we can do a bet-ter job to help the un-ion's cause!" We

F Eb G

34

told our fel - low work - ers that we now had mis - sions three. Six hun - dred peo - ple stuck a - round to

F Eb Cm Bb C Eb

37

help the un - ion's cause, and streng - then wom - en's rights _____ and save all the whales in the

G⁷

40

C

sea.

C Bb F Eb C Bb

43

4. My friend said: "Work - ers, wo - men and the whales! Let's
5. My friend said: "Those who could - n't stick it out were

G C Bb

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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55 2.

hun - dred peo - ple stuck a - round to low - er in - come tax, and ban all pes - ti - cides, and

C Eb G⁷

58

help the un-ion's cause, and streng-then wom-en's rights and save all the whales in the

61 D

sea.

C B^b F E^b C B^b

64

6. My friend said: "Say, it's real-ly quite a shame to see the sky so brown. It

G C B^b F E^b

67

would - n't take an aw - ful lot of work to close the smoke-stacks down!" We

F Eb G

69

told our flock that now we stood for air that was smoke-free. A hun-dred peo-ple stuck a-round to

F Eb Cm Bb C Eb

72

close the smoke - stacks down, and low - er in-come tax, and ban all pes - ti - cides, and

G7

75

help the un - ion's cause, and streng-then wom-en's rights _____ and save all the whales in the

G7 Eb G

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