

# Give Me a Laundry List

(and I'll set it to music)

*A fantasy on Rossini's musical boast*

SATB a cappella



# Elizabeth Alexander

*Seafarer Press*

*“Give me a laundry list and I’ll set it to music.”*

- Gioacchino Rossini

## Laundry List

A shirt, a skirt, a girdle and a turtleneck,  
A frock, a smock, a bonnet and a cotton sock,

Mitten and mufflers, diapers and dusters,  
Garters and gaiters.

Ribbons and rompers, jumpers and jodhpurs,  
Boxers and bloomers and blazers.

A tartan, a parka,  
A cardigan, a caftan and a cami and a cap.

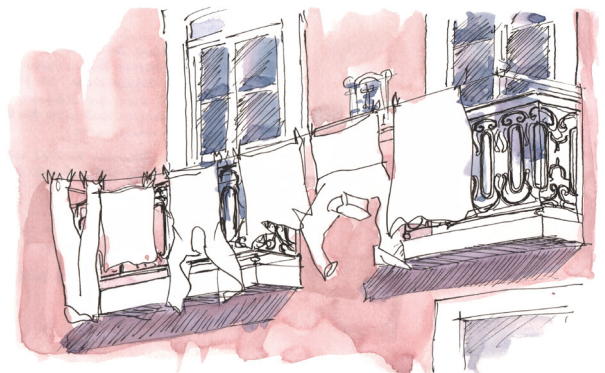
A pajama, a pashmina, a kimono, muumuu, tutu,  
A dashiki, a dupatta, balaclava, bandana, bikini!

Laundry list © 2025 by Elizabeth Alexander

### Composer Note:

Unlike us mortal composers who can easily labor over a single measure for hours, Gioacchino Rossini was famous for composing with confidence and speed. Legend has it that some of his overtures were composed the night before they were premiered.

Creating a musical setting of Rossini’s clever if somewhat arrogant boast was an irresistible challenge. Along the way I threw in my own “laundry list” and capped it off with one of his favorite compositional shortcuts: the “Rossini crescendo.”



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# Give me a Laundry List

(and I'll set it to music)

SATB a cappella

Boast by Gioacchino Rossini  
Laundry List by Elizabeth Alexander

Elizabeth Alexander

(♩ = 100-108) **Buoyantly**

Musical score for the first system, measures 1-3. The score is for SATB voices and piano accompaniment. The key signature has one flat (B-flat) and the time signature is 12/8. The tempo is marked as (♩ = 100-108) **Buoyantly**. The dynamics are marked *mp* (mezzo-piano). The lyrics are: S: Give me a laun - dry list and; A: Give me a laun - dry list and I'll set it to mu - sic.; T: A laun - - - dry list and; B: (no lyrics); P: (for rehearsal only).

Musical score for the second system, measures 4-6. The score is for SATB voices and piano accompaniment. The key signature has one flat (B-flat) and the time signature is 12/8. The dynamics are marked *mp* (mezzo-piano). The lyrics are: S: I'll set it to mu - sic.; A: Give me a laun - - - dry list and I'll set it to mu - sic.; T: I'll set it to mu - sic. Give me a laun - dry list and I'll set it to mu - sic, a; B: a list, a list, a list of laun - dry, a; P: (no lyrics).

7

S Give me a laun - dry list and I'll set it to mu - sic, and

A Give me a laun - dry list, a laun - dry list, \_\_\_\_\_ and

T list, a list, a laun - dry list, and I'll set it to mu - sic, a

B list, a list, a laun - dry list, and I'll set it to mu - sic, and

Detailed description: This block contains the musical notation for measures 7 and 8. It features four vocal staves (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and a piano accompaniment. The Soprano part begins with a melodic line that includes a trill. The Alto, Tenor, and Bass parts provide harmonic support with various rhythmic patterns. The piano accompaniment consists of chords and moving lines in both hands. The lyrics are: 'Give me a laun - dry list and I'll set it to mu - sic, and' for Soprano; 'Give me a laun - dry list, a laun - dry list, \_\_\_\_\_ and' for Alto; 'list, a list, a laun - dry list, and I'll set it to mu - sic, a' for Tenor; and 'list, a list, a laun - dry list, and I'll set it to mu - sic, and' for Bass.

9 *lightly p*

S I'll set it to mu - sic, and I'll set it to mu - sic, \_\_\_\_\_ A

A I'll set it to mu - sic, and I'll set it to mu - sic, \_\_\_\_\_

T laun - dry list, \_\_\_\_\_ and I'll set it to mu - sic, \_\_\_\_\_

B I'll set it to mu - sic, and I'll set it to mu - sic, \_\_\_\_\_

Detailed description: This block contains the musical notation for measures 9 and 10. It features four vocal staves and a piano accompaniment. The Soprano part has a melodic line with a trill. The Alto, Tenor, and Bass parts provide harmonic support. The piano accompaniment includes chords and moving lines. The lyrics are: 'I'll set it to mu - sic, and I'll set it to mu - sic, \_\_\_\_\_ A' for Soprano; 'I'll set it to mu - sic, and I'll set it to mu - sic, \_\_\_\_\_' for Alto; 'laun - dry list, \_\_\_\_\_ and I'll set it to mu - sic, \_\_\_\_\_' for Tenor; and 'I'll set it to mu - sic, and I'll set it to mu - sic, \_\_\_\_\_' for Bass. The dynamic marking 'lightly p' is present at the start of measure 9.

A

12

S list of laun - dry set to mu - sic, Give me a laun - dry list and

A *p* lightly Give me a laun - dry list and I'll set it to mu - sic, Give me a laun - dry list and

T *p* lightly a list of laun - dry

B *p* lightly a list of laun - dry,

15

S I'll set it to mu - sic, to mu - - sic. Give me a laun - dry list and

A I'll set it to mu - sic, to mu - - sic. Give me a laun - dry list and

T set to mu - sic, a laun - dry list, a laun - dry list, a list, a laun - dry list and

B I'll set it to mu - sic, laun - dry list, a laun - dry list, a list, a laun - dry list and

18 *mf*

S I'll set it to mu - sic, a list of

A I'll set it to mu - sic, a list of

T I'll set it to, mu - sic, a list, a list of

B I'll set it to give me a list, a list of

21

S laun - - dry, I'll set it to mu - sic, a list, a list, give me a list, a list, a

A Give me a laun - dry list, a list, a list, a list, a list, give me a list, a list,

T laun - - dry, a list, a list, a list, a list a list, a list, a list, a list,

B laun - - dry, a list, give me a list, a list, a list, give me a list, a list,

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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.**

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*Elizabeth Alexander*

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**B**

29

B

shirt, a skirt, a gir - dle and a tur - tle-neck, a frock and a smock and a

32

S

A

T

B

*mp*

\* Mit - tens and muf - flers, dia - pers and dust - ers,

*pp with a hint of jauntiness, going easy on the articulation*

bon - net and a cot - ton sock, a laun - - dry list,

34

S

A

T

B

gar - ters and gait - ers, Rib - bons and rom - pers, jump - ers and jodh - pers,

a list, a list,

\* Altos, if you think your “laundry list” leaves you almost no time to take a breath, you’d be right. Individual singers may take catch breaths by omitting an item of clothing here and there. If you do this gleefully and without apology, all will be well.

36

*mp*

S A tar - tan, a par - ka, a

*pp with a hint of jauntiness, going easy on the articulation*

A box - ers and bloom - ers and blaz - ers. A laun - dry list, a list,

T

B a list, a laun - dry list, a list,

39

*pp with a hint of jauntiness, going easy on the articulation*

S car - di - gan, a caf - tan and a ca - mi and a cap. a list,

A a list, a laun - dry list, a list,

*mp a la Figaro\**

T A pa - ja - ma, a pash - mi - na, a ki -

B a list, a list, a laun - dry list,

\* And what's with the tenors' "laundry list"? The inspiration comes two sources:

- 1) Figaro's mesmerizingly fast "Largo al Factotum" from Rossini's *The Barber of Seville*, which is itself a list!
- 2) The Swedish chef from *The Muppet Show*.

42

S a list, a list, a

A a list, a list, a

T - mo - no, muu - muu, tu - tu, a da - shi - ki, a du - pat - ta, ba - la -

B a list, a list,

44

S laun - dry list, *mp* bi - ki - ni, *mf* bi - ki - ni, *mp* bi - ki - ni. A

A laun - dry list, *mp* bi - ki - ni, *mf* bi - ki - ni, *mp* bi - ki - ni.

T - cla - va, ban - dan - na, *mp* bi - ki - ni, *mf* bi - ki - ni, *mp* bi - ki - ni, *mp* bi - ki - ni. A pa -

B a list, *mp* bi - ki - ni, *mf* bi - ki - ni, *mp* bi - ki - ni. A

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**...and some of it  
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52 <sup>1.</sup>

S car - di - gan, a caf - tan and a ca - mi and a cap. A

A Rib - bons and rom - pers, jump - ers and jodh - purs, box - ers and bloom - ers and blaz - ers. A

T -shi - ki, a du - pat - ta, ba - la - cla - va, ban - dan - na, bi - ki - ni. *port.*

B frock and a smock and a bon - net and a cot - ton sock,

**D**

...and now for a small Rossini crescendo

54

S list, a list, a list, a list, a list,

A list, a list, a list, a list, a list, a laun - dry

T a list, a list, a list, a list, a list, a list, a list, a *mp*

B Give me a laun - dry list, a list, a list, a list, a list, a



61

S list, a laun - dry list, a list, a list, a laun - dry list, a laun - dry

A list, a list, a list, a list, a list, a laun - dry list, a laun - dry

T list, a list, a list, a list, a list, a laun - dry list, a laun - dry

B list, a list, a list, a list, a list, a laun - dry list, a laun - dry

63

S list, a laun - dry list, a laun - dry list! and I will set that list to mu - sic!

A list, a laun - dry list, a laun - dry list! and I will set that list to mu - sic!

T list, a laun - dry list, a laun - dry list, and I will set that list to mu - sic!

B list, a laun - dry list, a laun - dry list, and I will set that list to mu - sic!

NOTE: If you wish to perform this ending without divisi, simply omit the *lower* of the two parts.



## Selected Choral Music by Elizabeth Alexander

- A Palette To Paint Us As We Are** (Gerald Rich)  
SATB, piano • SSA, piano
- Beware the Winter Settlin' In** (Elizabeth Alexander)  
SATB, Celtic band, opt. unison children's choir
- Blessed Be the Flower That Triumphs** (Michael Boblett)  
SATB a cappella • SATB, orchestra
- Cherish Your Doubt** (Elizabeth Alexander)  
SATB, piano • SSAA, piano
- Die Gedanken Sind Frei** (German protest song, arr.)  
SATB, piano • vocal duet, piano
- Do Not Leave Your Cares at the Door** (Norman Naylor)  
SATB a cappella • TTBB a cappella
- Even a Fist Was Once an Open Palm** (Yehuda Amichai)  
SATB a cappella
- Faith Is the bird that feels the light** (Rabindranath Tagore)  
SSA a cappella • SATB a cappella
- Fighting Over What We Believe** (Elizabeth Alexander)  
SATB, soloists, piano • SSA, soloists, piano
- Finally On My Way To Yes** (Pesha Gertler)  
SSATB, piano
- Folks, I'm Telling You** (Langston Hughes)  
SSATB, piano
- Get Curious** (Elizabeth Alexander)  
SSAA a cappella
- Glen Song** (Scott Bates)  
SSATB, piano
- Grace** (Elizabeth Alexander)  
SATB, piano • SSA, piano
- Handles** (Elizabeth Alexander)  
SSA, piano
- How To Sing Like a Planet** (Elizabeth Alexander)  
SATB, piano • TBB, piano
- If You Can Walk You Can Dance** (Zimbabwean Proverb)  
SAB, piano, claves • TBB, piano, claves  
SSA, piano, claves • SATB, piano, claves
- Immortal Love** (John Greenleaf Whittier)  
SATB a cappella
- Infant Holy, Infant Lowly** (Polish carol, arr.)  
SSA a cappella
- Jump!** (Ray Bradbury)  
SSA, piano • SSA, string quartet
- Kindling** (Elizabeth Alexander)  
SATB, piano • SATB, chamber ensemble
- Let it Matter** (Elizabeth Alexander)  
SSA, piano • SATB, piano
- Like a Leaf** (Wendell Berry)  
SATB, piano
- No Other People's Children** (Elizabeth Alexander)  
1-4 part choir, soloist, piano
- ...or a musician** (Philip Dacey)  
SATB, orchestra
- A Palette To Paint Us As We Are** (Gerald Rich)  
SA, piano • SATB, piano
- Praise Wet Snow Falling Early** (Denise Levertov)  
SATB, piano
- Reasons for the Perpetuation of Slavery** (Alexander)  
SSAA a cappella
- Same Birds** (David Allen Evans)  
SATB a cappella
- Sing Me Awake** (Gregory Orr)  
SATB, piano, string quartet • SATB, piano, string orchestra
- Song of Kabir** (Kabir)  
SATB a cappella
- The Gate is Open** (Sister Peronne Marie Thibert)  
SATB a cappella
- They Have Freckles Everywhere** (Elizabeth Alexander)  
SSAA, piano
- To Make a Prairie** (Emily Dickinson)  
SSA, piano
- We Give Thanks for Being** (Traditional)  
1-4 part choir, piano
- We Lift Up Our Hearts** (Richard Fewkes)  
Unison children's choir, SATB, piano
- We Remember Them** (Sylvan Kamens, Jack Riemer)  
SATB, piano
- Where there Is Light in the Soul** (Chinese proverb)  
SAB a cappella • SATB a cappella  
SSA a cappella • TBB a cappella
- When the Song of the Angels Is Stilled** (Howard Thurman)  
SATB a cappella • TTBB a cappella  
SSAA a cappella • SATB, flute
- Why I Pity the Woman Who Never Spills** (Joan Prefontaine)  
SSAA a cappella

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