

My Gift

Music by

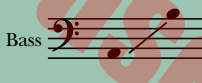
JOHN RATLEDGE

Words from a Christmas Carol by

CHRISTINA G. ROSSETTI

SATB Voices a cappella

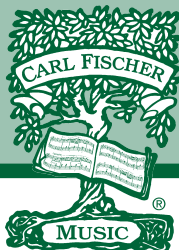
RANGES:



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Performance Notes

My Gift was written in 1979 as a graduation present to my first group of seniors at Fort Stockton High School in Fort Stockton, Texas. The composition remained in a box of old compositions until this past summer, when I found the original manuscript on several thermo- faxed sheets of staff paper.

The simple, yet poignant message in Christina Rossetti's poem fostered a lyric approach to melody and harmony; however, the straightforward harmonies are given color and nuance with the addition of rich non-harmonic tones that represent life's struggles that come to all of us. In spite of "Life's Stuff," each challenge gives our lives meaning and builds our character.

Set in primarily a four-part texture, the work celebrates the transforming power of spirituality when individuals are vulnerable enough to give themselves fully to the Higher Power. In this context, there can be no greater gift to offer.

About the Composer

John Ratledge (b. 1954) is in his ninth year as Conductor of University Singers, Area Coordinator of Graduate Choral Conducting, and Director of Choral Activities at the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa. He also teaches graduate conducting, literature, and pedagogy. Ratledge made his European conducting debut in 1996 with the Filharmonia Sudecka of Walbryzychu, Poland, and since that time, he has conducted orchestras in France, Greece, Hungary, Romania, and Spain. In addition, he has twice conducted choirs and giving master classes and workshops in South Korea. During his tenure at Shorter College of Rome, Georgia, the Shorter Chorale distinguished itself nationally and internationally by premiering the full orchestral version of the *Durufle Requiem* in Poland, Hungary, Romania, and Greece, the organ version premiere of the same work in Bulgaria, Bernstein's *Chichester Psalms* premiered in Poland, and the St. Petersburg, Russia's premiere of Handel's *Messiah*. Dr. Ratledge has conducted over 300 clinics throughout the United States and abroad.

My Gift

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Adapted from
Christina G. Rossetti

for SATB Voices, *a cappella*

JOHN RATLEDGE

$\text{♩} = 60$ *mp* *mf*

Soprano
What can I give him, poor as I am? What can I

Alto
What can I give him, poor as I am? What can I

Tenor
What can I give him, poor as I am? What can I

Bass
What can I give him, poor as I am? What can I

Keyboard
(for rehearsal only)

$\text{♩} = 60$ *mp* *mf*

4

give him, poor as I am? If I were a

give him, poor as I am? If I were a

give him, poor as I am? If I were a

give him, poor as I am? If I were a

p

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shep - herd, I would give him a lamb. If I were a wise man, _

shep - herd, I would give him a lamb. If I were a wise man, _

shep - herd, I would give him a lamb. If I were a wise man, _

shep - herd, I would give him a lamb. If I were a wise man, _

marcato unis. *mp*

I would do my part. But what can I

marcato *mp* unis.

I would do my part. But what can I

marcato unis. *mp*

I would do my part. But what can I

marcato unis. *mp*

I would do my part. But what can I

11 *molto cresc.* *mf* *sempre cresc.* unis. *ff*

give Him? What can I give Him? Oh, what can I give Him? What can I

molto cresc. *mf* *sempre cresc.* *ff*

give Him? What can I give Him? Oh, what can I give Him? What can I

molto cresc. *mf* *sempre cresc.* *ff*

8 give Him? What can I give Him? Oh, what can I give Him? What can I

molto cresc. *mf* *sempre cresc.* unis. *ff*

give Him? What can I give Him? Oh, what can I give Him? What can I

molto cresc. *mf* *sempre cresc.* *ff*

give Him? What can I give Him? Oh, what can I give Him? What can I

14 *subito pp* unis.

give Him? I will give Him my heart.

subito pp

give Him? I will give Him my heart.

subito pp

8 give Him? I will give Him my — heart.

subito pp unis.

give Him? I will give Him my heart.

subito pp

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