

LEAD ME HOME, Carlson
SBMP 1795

SSA
piano



Lead Me Home

by
Matt Carlson



Santa Barbara Music Publishing, Inc.

sbmp.com

About the composer

Matt Carlson (b. 1991) is a graduate student at the University of North Texas, where he is doctoral candidate in choral conducting. He taught in the Pennsylvania public schools for eleven years and has conducted choirs from elementary through college ages. He draws on this experience to compose works that are both musically enriching and accessible to singers of all ability levels. His music has been commissioned by school, community, and collegiate choirs and programmed for choral festivals across the nation. Website: mattcarlson.co



Composer Notes

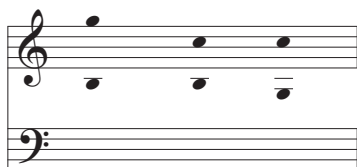
Lead Me Home is a journey that explores the concept of home. The text is inspired by the wonderful singers of the Cedar Cliff Chorale, who brainstormed what a home means to them; both its beautiful and its more difficult characteristics. These images are represented in the floors, light switch, and walls of the first verse, as the speaker reflects on their old home, wonders what is next for them in their journey, and what new homes may welcome them in.

Just by spending a short class period with them via video conference, it was absolutely clear to me that students in Cedar Cliff Chorale have a home in their choir. Their voices are what leads the speaker to their new arrival in the third chorus. Their school's alma mater has a beautiful line that inspired the imagery of this text: "Guiding us to truth and light; As a beacon o'er dark water..."

The beacon motive first appears in measure 20 of the piano part. It shines its light throughout the rest of that verse and chorus, and eventually turns into the starting pitches of the accompaniment of the bridge. The highest sounding pitches in the right hand of the piano quote the melody of the first line of the Cedar Cliff High School Alma Mater. Their choir becomes the new home.

As you perform this piece, may your singers and audience feel the same sense of camaraderie, friendship, and unity that Mr. Topping has cultivated in the Cedar Cliff Chorale. Let their beacon of choral light inspire you to shine your brightest.

Ranges



S S A

Performance time

c. 3'10"



recording and rehearsal tracks available at sbmp.com

Commissioned by the Cedar Cliff High School Chorale
Matthew Topping, conductor

Lead Me Home

Words and Music by
Matt Carlson

Empowered, grounded ♩ = 65

f

S
Lead me home Some-where I don't feel a - lone

f

S
Lead me home feel a - lone 'Cause I've been

f

A
Lead me home feel a - lone

Piano

3

on my own For too long...

on my own For too long...

on my own For too long.

f

leg.

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1795-3



Verse 1

5

Tutti, unis.

mp

The floors, they creak_ with that_ fa - mil - iar sound_

mp

* with pedal throughout

7

The light_ switch clicks, but dark - ness still sur - rounds_

9

The walls, they echo, no one else a - round_ but this great un -

11

known That I've out - grown...

pp

Chorus 1

13 *f*

S Lead me home Some-where I don't feel a - lone

S Lead me home feel a - lone

A Lead me home feel a - lone I don't want to be

PREVIEW

15

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Verse 2

17

mp

And at the edge of wa - ters dark and deep

mp

And at the edge of wa - ters dark and deep

mp

And at the edge of wa - ters dark and deep

mp

mp

mp

19

— seem to o - ver - whelm the peak

The val - ley seems to ov - ver - whelm the peak

The val - ley seems to ov - ver - whelm the peak

mp

mp

21 *mf*

But like__ a bea - con ris - ing in the__ east__ brings a new__

mf

But like__ a bea - con ris - ing in the__ east__ brings a new__

mf

But like__ a bea - con ris - ing in the__ east__ brings a new__

23

day, You will find your way.

day, You will find your way.

day, You will find your way.

Chorus 2

25

f

Lead me__ home I don't have to feel a - lone I won't be

f

Lead me__ home I don't have to feel a - lone I won't be

f

Lead me__ home I don't have to feel a - lone I won't be

27

on my__ own For too long... I've

on my__ own For too long... I've

on my__ own For too long... I've

29

al - ways_ known That my heart is made of more than_ stone_____ It has-n't

al - ways_ known That my heart is made of more than_ stone_____ It has-n't

al - ways_ known That my heart is made of more than_ stone_____ It has-n't

31

al - ways_ shown, But it will now._____ *p* Lead me

al - ways_ shown, But it will now._____

al - ways_ shown, But it will now._____

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33 Bridge

home, _____ Lead me

p Calm your fear, _____

p Push off from the shore, _____

PREVIEW

home, _____ Lead me home, _____

mp Fol - low your light, _____ *mf* Cross the dark wa - ter, _____

mp Your light will guide you, _____

mp *mf*

* Leo. * Leo.

38 *f* You are home.

f You are home.

Leave it be - hind you, You are

40 **Chorus 3** *ff* You are home. You don't have to

ff You are home. You don't have to

ff home. You are home. You don't have to

f

42

feel a - lone You're nev - er on your__ own When you're right here, _

feel a - lone You're nev - er on your__ own When you're right here, _

feel a - lone You're nev - er on your__ own When you're right here, _

ff

44

It's clear that all we__ know is to-geth-er how _

It's clear that all we__ know is to-geth-er how _

It's clear that all we__ know is to-geth-er how _

mp *ff*

46

far we'll go And when the cold wind blows, We have no fears...

far we'll go And when the cold wind blows, We have no fears...

far we'll go And when the cold wind blows, We have no fears...

48

rit.

When our fire grows, The world hears.

When our fire grows, The world hears.

When our fire grows, The world hears.

mf *f*

mf *f*

mf *f*

mp *f*

Lead Me Home

by Matt Carlson

Lead me home
Somewhere I don't feel alone
'Cause I've been on my own
For too long...

The floors, they creak with that familiar sound
The light switch clicks, but darkness still surrounds
The walls, they echo, no one else around but this great unknown
That I've outgrown...

Lead me home
Somewhere I don't feel alone
I don't want to be on my own
For too long...

And at the edge of waters dark and deep
The valley seems to overwhelm the peak
But like a beacon rising in the east brings a new day
You will find your way.

Lead me home
I don't have to feel alone
I won't be on my own
For too long...

I've always known
That my heart is made of more than stone
It hasn't always shown,
But it will now.

Calm your fear,
Push off from the shore,
Follow your light,
Your light will guide you,
Cross the dark water,
Leave it behind you,
You are home.

You are home.
You don't have to feel alone
You're never on your own when you're right here,
It's clear that all we know is together how far we'll go
And when the cold wind blows
We have no fears.

When our fire grows,
The world hears.