

# **The Blessing of a Friend**

Choral Anthem  
for SATB or Two-part Voices, Piano

Words

**Paulann Canty**  
**Larry E. Schultz**

Music

**Larry E. Schultz**  
**David J. DeSeguirant**

*LarryE.Schultz.com*

Originally composed for the 1986 graduating class of Oklahoma Baptist University, this revised version of "The Blessing of a Friend" is an effective expression for graduations, concluding events, and other life transitions. The lyrics are meaningful for faith, school or community settings.

**Wondering where the time has gone while standing here today;  
now that this place feels like home it's time to go away.  
Once again we clasp our hands with strong desire to stay.  
Feelings search for perfect words; there's so much left to say.**

**It hurts to leave a friend.  
It's hard to close the door and walk away  
from the safety of this time and place.  
Yet we know the time has come;  
our mission here is through.  
We must move on that we might grow,  
just as we grew here, too.**

**Faithful friendships in our lives mean more than we can say;  
in our hearts we realize they'll never go away.  
We know that we've been truly blessed, time and time again,  
with the richest gift of life: the blessing of a friend.**

**-Paulann Canty & Larry E. Schultz**

Words © 1986 Paulann Canty, Larry E. Schultz. All rights reserved.  
Permission to reproduce is granted only for the number of copies purchased.

*LarryE.Schultz.com*

# The Blessing of a Friend

for SATB or any combination of Two-Part Voices, Piano

Paulann Canty  
& Larry E. Schultz

Larry E. Schultz  
& David J. DeSeguirant

*Flowing* ♩ = 100

*mf legato*

*Ad.* *sim.*

The piano introduction consists of two staves in G major, 4/4 time. The right hand plays a flowing eighth-note melody, while the left hand provides a simple harmonic accompaniment. The tempo is marked as 'Flowing' with a quarter note equal to 100 beats per minute. The dynamics are mezzo-forte (mf) and legato. The introduction concludes with a decrescendo hairpin.

\*1st Time: TB  
2nd Time: All  
*mp unis.*

5

Won - dering where the time has gone while stand - ing here to - day; —  
Faith - ful friend - ships in our lives mean more than we can say; —

*mp unis.*

The vocal entry for Tenors and Basses begins at measure 5. The melody is simple and lyrical, with lyrics: 'Won - dering where the time has gone while stand - ing here to - day; Faith - ful friend - ships in our lives mean more than we can say;'. The dynamics are mezzo-piano (mp) and unison (unis).

5

*mp*

The piano accompaniment for the first vocal entry continues from the introduction. It features a steady eighth-note accompaniment in the right hand and a simple bass line in the left hand. The dynamics are mezzo-piano (mp).

8

\*1st Time: SA

— now that this place feels like home — it's  
— in our hearts — we re - a - lize — they'll

The vocal entry for Soprano and Alto begins at measure 8. The melody continues from the previous section. The lyrics are: '— now that this place feels like home — it's in our hearts — we re - a - lize — they'll'. The dynamics are mezzo-piano (mp).

8

The piano accompaniment for the second vocal entry continues from the previous section. It maintains the same eighth-note accompaniment and bass line. The dynamics are mezzo-piano (mp).

\*Voicing suggestion if sung by SATB voices.

Words and Music © 1986 Paulann Canty, David J. DeSeguirant, Larry E. Schultz. All rights reserved.

Permission to reproduce is granted only for the number of copies purchased.

LarryE.Schultz.com

# The Blessing of a Friend

4

11

time to go \_\_\_\_\_ a - way. \_\_\_\_\_  
nev - er go \_\_\_\_\_ a - way. \_\_\_\_\_

*mf* *div.* \*All:  
Once a - gain \_\_\_\_\_ we  
We know that we've \_\_\_\_\_ been

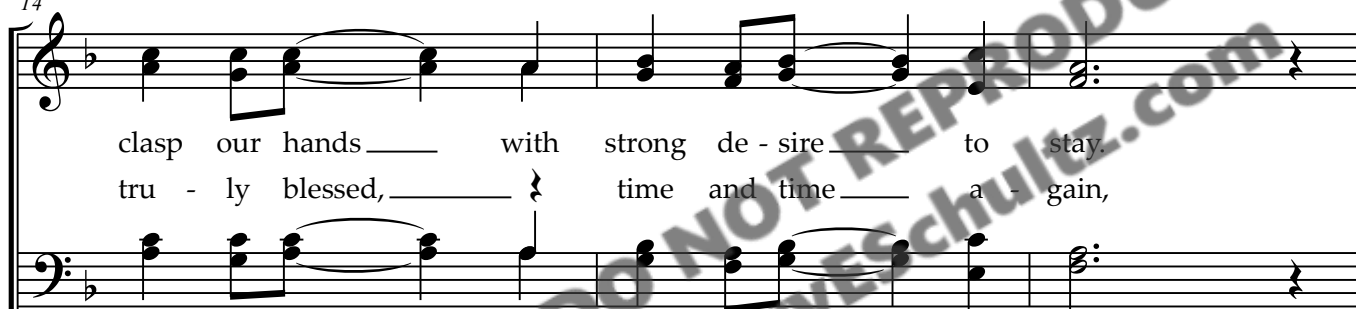


11



14

clasp our hands \_\_\_\_\_ with strong de - sire \_\_\_\_\_ to stay.  
tru - ly blessed, \_\_\_\_\_ } time and time \_\_\_\_\_ a - gain,

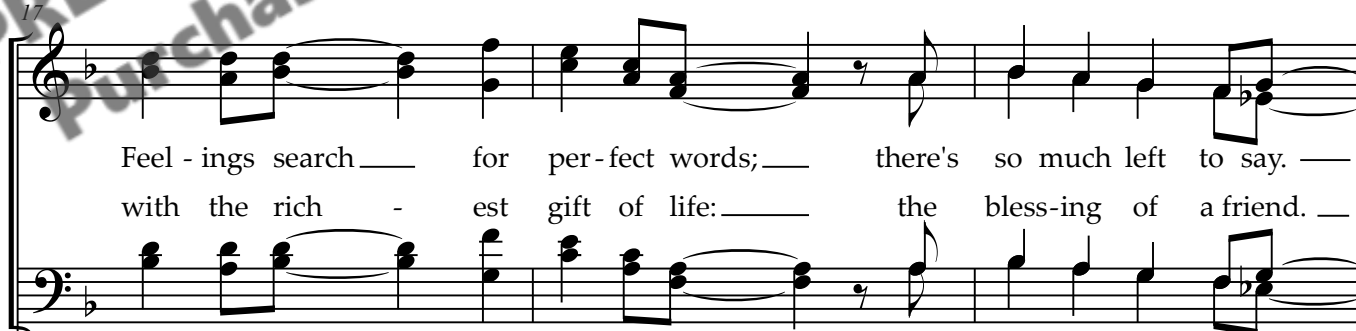


14



17

Feel - ings search \_\_\_\_\_ for per - fect words; \_\_\_\_\_ there's so much left to say. \_\_\_\_\_  
with the rich - est gift of life: \_\_\_\_\_ the bless - ing of a friend. \_\_\_\_\_



17



20 *mf unis.*

(to say) — It hurts to leave a  
(a friend) —

20 *mf*

24 *div.* and walk a -

friend. It's hard to close the door and walk a -  
and walk a -

24

The Blessing of a Friend

27 way \_\_\_\_\_ from the safe-ty of this time and place. \_\_\_\_\_

way, and walk a - way from the safe-ty of this time \_\_\_\_\_ and  
way \_\_\_\_\_ from the safe-ty of this time and place. \_\_\_\_\_

way, and walk a - way from the safe-ty of this time \_\_\_\_\_ and

Detailed description: This system contains the first two systems of music. The top system features a vocal line with lyrics and a piano accompaniment. The piano part has a treble and bass clef. The second system continues the vocal line and piano accompaniment. A large watermark 'PREVIEW COPY - DO NOT REPRODUCE' is overlaid diagonally across the page.

27

Detailed description: This system shows the piano accompaniment for the second system of music, with treble and bass clefs.

30

place. Yet we know the time has come; our mis - sion here is

*unis.* *div.*

place. *unis.* *div.*

Detailed description: This system contains the third system of music. The top system features a vocal line with lyrics and a piano accompaniment. The piano part has a treble and bass clef. The lyrics include 'place. Yet we know the time has come; our mis - sion here is'. Performance markings 'unis.' and 'div.' are present. A large watermark 'PREVIEW COPY - DO NOT REPRODUCE' is overlaid diagonally across the page.

30

Detailed description: This system shows the piano accompaniment for the third system of music, with treble and bass clefs.

34 *rit.*  
*mel.*  
 through. We must move on \_\_\_\_\_ that we might grow, just as we grew here,  
*rit.*  
*mel.*  
 34 *rit.*

37 <sup>1</sup> *a tempo* <sup>2.</sup> *a tempo*  
 too. too.  
*a tempo* *a tempo*

37 1. 2.  
*a tempo* *a tempo*

**Optional Narration** [during the second ending's piano interlude, one or two voices may speak narrations that could include scriptural benedictions, quotes on friendship, an informal word of blessing, or the following passages.]

*Faithful friends are a treasure beyond price; no amount can match their worth.* (Sirach 6:14-15)

*May God watch between you and me while we are away from one another.* (Genesis 31:49)

42 *f*  
*with increasing intensity*

The Blessing of a Friend

47 *f*

We know that we've been tru - ly blessed, —

*f*

Detailed description: This block contains the vocal line for measures 47 through 50. It is written on a grand staff with a treble clef. The music begins with a whole rest in measure 47, followed by a quarter rest and a quarter note G4 in measure 48. The melody continues with chords in measures 49 and 50. A dynamic marking of *f* (forte) is placed above the first measure and below the second measure. The lyrics "We know that we've been tru - ly blessed, —" are written below the staff.

47

*f*

Detailed description: This block contains the piano accompaniment for measures 47 through 50. It is written on a grand staff with a treble clef. The right hand features a melodic line with eighth and sixteenth notes, while the left hand provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords and moving lines. A dynamic marking of *f* (forte) is placed above the right hand in measure 49. A watermark "PREVIEW COPY - DO NOT REPRODUCE" is visible across the page.

51

time and time — a - gain, with the rich - est gift of life: —

Detailed description: This block contains the vocal line for measures 51 through 54. It is written on a grand staff with a treble clef. The melody starts with a quarter note G4 in measure 51, followed by a half note G4 in measure 52, and continues with chords in measures 53 and 54. The lyrics "time and time — a - gain, with the rich - est gift of life: —" are written below the staff.

51

Detailed description: This block contains the piano accompaniment for measures 51 through 54. It is written on a grand staff with a treble clef. The right hand features a melodic line with eighth and sixteenth notes, while the left hand provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords and moving lines.



55 *rit.* *mp unis.* *a tempo* \*

— the bless - ing of a friend. —

55 *rit.* *mp unis.* *a tempo* \*

60 *rit.* *mp* *a tempo*

60 *rit.* *p*

Hmm

*p*

The musical score is arranged in three systems. The first system (measures 55-59) features vocal lines in treble and bass clefs with lyrics "the blessing of a friend." and piano accompaniment. The second system (measures 55-59) shows the piano accompaniment in treble and bass clefs. The third system (measures 60-64) includes vocal lines with a "Hmm" instruction and piano accompaniment. Dynamics include *mp unis.*, *mp*, and *p*. Tempo markings include *rit.* and *a tempo*. A watermark "PREVIEW COPY - DO NOT REPRODUCE" and "Purchase at www.LarrySchultz.com" is overlaid on the score.

\*The piece may effectively end in unison, or with the optional harmony and concluding hum as indicated.