

To C., G. and S.

# The Biography of a Tree

a poem by Pamela Alexander

for SATB chorus

in the tradition of

Southern Harmony, The Sacred Harp,  
and the New England Singing Masters.

Charles Kaufmann

**Verdurusly**  $\text{♩} = 54$   
*mf*

Soprano  
The Bi - og - ra - phy of a Tree is not like that of a build - ing which is

Alto  
The Bi - og - ra - phy of a Tree is not like that of a build - ing which is

Tenor  
The Bi - og - ra - phy of a Tree is not like that of a build - ing which is

Bass  
The Bi - og - ra - phy a Tree is not like that of a build - ing which is

Piano (Rehearsal only)  
*mf*

**A With Expression**

S  
struc - ture on crutch - es. The sails of the woods were a - wake the sails the

A  
struc - ture on crutch - es. The sails of the woods were a - wake a - wake the sails the

T  
struc - ture on crutch - es. The sails of the woods were a - wake the sails the

B  
struc - ture on crutch - es The sails of the woods were a - wake. a - wake the sails the

pa.

12

Sails of the woods were a - wake. Mmmm - - - - -

A sails the sails of the woods were a wake. Mmmm - - - - -

T sails the sails of the woods the woods were a - wake. Mmmm - - - - -

B sails the sails of the woods the woods were a - wake. Deep - er than riv - ers for - got -

12

pa.

**B**

*mf*

18

S clear like the mu - sic of the birds of the

A dear - er than trees and bush - es Ah - - - - - Ah - - -

T Mmm - - - - - Ah - - - - - Ah - - -

B ten, Mmm - - - - - Ah - - - - - Ah - - -

18

pa.

*mf*

24

S  
for - est light, Mmm - - - - - Mmm - - - - -

A  
Mmm - - - - - Mmm - - - - -

T  
*mf*  
bright like the fur of bees or of fox - es in the snow

B  
Mmm - . Mmm - . Mmm - - - - -

pa.  
24

The musical score consists of five staves. The vocal staves (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) are in treble clef, and the piano accompaniment is in grand staff (treble and bass clefs). The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The time signature is not explicitly shown but appears to be 4/4. The lyrics are: 'for - est light, Mmm - - - - - Mmm - - - - -' for Soprano and Alto; 'bright like the fur of bees or of fox - es in the snow' for Tenor; and 'Mmm - . Mmm - . Mmm - - - - -' for Bass. The piano accompaniment provides harmonic support with chords and moving lines in both hands.