

# **believe from the polar express words and music by alan silvestri and glen ballard arr mark hayes choral octavo 2 part**

**Believe** from *The Polar Express* is one of the most enchanting pieces of music to emerge from the beloved holiday film, a collaboration between composer Alan Silvestri and lyricist Glen Ballard. Arranged for choral performance by Mark Hayes, this 2-part octavo has captivated audiences with its heartwarming message and beautiful melodies. This article delves into the song's themes, musical composition, and its significance in the context of the film and choral music.

## **Overview of The Polar Express**

*The Polar Express*, a 2004 animated film directed by Robert Zemeckis, is based on the children's book by Chris Van Allsburg. The story follows a young boy who embarks on a magical train journey to the North Pole, where he discovers the spirit of Christmas and the importance of belief. The film features stunning animation, a memorable score, and a cast of iconic characters, making it a favorite for families during the holiday season.

## **The Significance of "Believe"**

At the heart of *The Polar Express* lies the song "Believe." This piece serves as a musical embodiment of the film's central message: the importance of believing in the magic of Christmas and the wonder of childhood. The lyrics invite listeners to embrace their imagination and maintain a sense of wonder, regardless of their age.

## Thematic Elements

The themes explored in "Believe" resonate deeply with audiences, especially during the holiday season. Some of the key themes include:

- **Faith and Belief:** The song encourages listeners to hold onto their beliefs, which can take many forms, from faith in Santa Claus to a more profound belief in the goodness of the world.
- **Childhood Innocence:** "Believe" captures the essence of childhood and the pure, unfiltered joy that comes from imagination and wonder.
- **Hope and Joy:** The uplifting melody and lyrics convey a sense of hope, reminding listeners that joy can be found in the simplest of things, such as a train ride to the North Pole.

## Musical Composition

The musical arrangement of "Believe" is a significant factor in its emotional impact. Alan Silvestri's composition, paired with Glen Ballard's poignant lyrics, creates a piece that is both haunting and uplifting.

## Structure and Form

The song follows a typical verse-chorus structure, which is effective in reinforcing its central message. Key elements of the composition include:

1. **Melody:** The melody of "Believe" is simple yet memorable, making it accessible for singers of all ages. It travels through a range of emotions, starting softly and building to a powerful, resonant climax.
2. **Harmony:** The harmonies in the choral arrangement add depth to the piece, creating a rich sound that enhances the emotional experience.
3. **Dynamics:** The use of dynamic contrasts—from gentle, soft passages to powerful, climactic moments—helps convey the song's message of belief and hope.

## Choral Arrangement by Mark Hayes

Mark Hayes' arrangement of "Believe" for 2-part choir brings the song to life in a way that is engaging for singers and audiences alike. His thoughtful approach to the arrangement showcases the strengths of young and developing voices, making it a popular choice for choirs during the holiday season.

Key features of Hayes' arrangement include:

- **Accessibility:** The 2-part harmony makes it easy for choirs of varying skill levels to perform the piece, ensuring that all singers can participate.
- **Expressive Dynamics:** Hayes incorporates dynamic markings that guide choirs in delivering an expressive performance, emphasizing the song's emotional peaks and valleys.
- **Vocal Techniques:** The arrangement encourages the use of various vocal techniques, including soft singing, crescendos, and powerful climaxes, which can be particularly effective in live performances.

## Performance Context

"Believe" is frequently performed during holiday concerts, school music programs, and community events. Its universal themes and beautiful melodies make it a fitting choice for various occasions.

## Tips for Performing "Believe"

For choirs preparing to perform "Believe," here are some tips to enhance the performance:

1. **Emotional Connection:** Encourage singers to connect emotionally with the lyrics. Understanding the message of belief will help them convey the song's meaning more effectively.
2. **Practice Dynamics:** Pay attention to dynamic changes throughout the piece. Practicing these contrasts will add depth and interest to the performance.
3. **Visualization:** Encourage singers to visualize the story of The Polar Express as they sing. This can help to create a more immersive experience for both the performers and the audience.

## Conclusion

In summary, "Believe" from The Polar Express, composed by Alan Silvestri and Glen Ballard and arranged by Mark Hayes, is a poignant and uplifting piece that captures the essence of childhood wonder and the importance of belief. Its beautiful melody, heartfelt lyrics, and accessible choral

arrangement have made it a beloved choice for holiday performances. As choirs around the world share this song, they continue to spread its message of hope and joy, reminding audiences of the magic that exists in believing. Whether sung in a concert hall or a school auditorium, "Believe" serves as a timeless reminder of the spirit of Christmas and the power of imagination.

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **What themes are explored in the song 'Believe' from The Polar Express?**

The song 'Believe' explores themes of hope, faith, and the magic of believing in the impossible, emphasizing the importance of maintaining childlike wonder and belief.

### **Who are the composers of 'Believe' from The Polar Express?**

The song 'Believe' is composed by Alan Silvestri and Glen Ballard.

### **What is the arrangement style of the choral octavo for 'Believe' by Mark Hayes?**

Mark Hayes's arrangement of 'Believe' is designed for 2-part choir, making it accessible for younger or less experienced choirs while still capturing the emotional depth of the original piece.

### **How does the music of 'Believe' enhance the storytelling in The Polar Express?**

The music of 'Believe' enhances the storytelling by creating an emotional backdrop that reinforces the themes of the film, allowing the audience to connect with the characters' journeys and the overarching message of belief.

**What age group is the 2-part arrangement of 'Believe' appropriate for?**

The 2-part arrangement of 'Believe' is suitable for children and youth choirs, making it ideal for school performances, holiday concerts, and community events.

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