

ALPHABET II

Alphabet II, for a capella SATB chorus, is an alphabet poem found in a 1727 New England Primer. Each letter is introduced and connected to a biblical character or to a short, instructive scriptural quotation.

(*Alphabet I* – the third movement of *Four Heartfelt Anthems* was written in 2004 for unaccompanied treble choir and is a fast moving fugue.)

In contrast, *Alphabet II* which I wrote for Harold Rosenbaum is a much more spacious and grand chorale – full of fire that eventually burns its way down to a mellow glow.

David Del Tredici

TEXT

ALPHABET



In Adam's fall
We sinned all.

Thy life to mend
This Book attend.

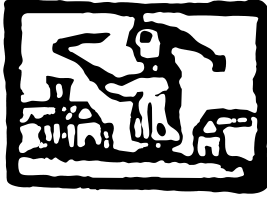
The Cat doth play
And after slay.



A Dog will bite
A thief at night.

An Eagle's flight
Is out of sight.

The idle Fool
Is whipped at school.



As runs the Glass
Man's life doth pass.



My book and Heart
Shall never part.

Job feels the rod
Yet blesses God.

Our King the good



No man of blood.

The Lion bold
The Lamb doth hold.

The Moon gives light
In time of night.

Nightingales sing
In time of spring.

The royal Oak was the tree
That saved his Royal Majesty.

Peter denies
His Lord and cries.



Queen Esther comes in Royal State
To save the Jews from dismal fate.

Rachel does mourn
For her firstborn.

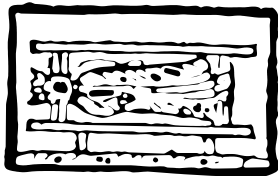
Samuel anoints
Whom God appoints.

Time cuts down all
Both great and small.



Uriah's beauteous wife
Made David seek his life.

Whales in the sea
God's voice obey.



Xerxes the great did die
And so must you and I.

Youth forward slips.
Death soonest nips.

Zaccheus he
Did climb the tree
His Lord to see.