

Commissioned by Cappella Clausura, Amelia Leclair, Director,  
and Premiered on 7 & 8 May 2016, Boston and Newton MA

# BIRDS OF THE PSALMS\*

## 3. Psalm 17 (Keep Me As the Apple of Your Eye)

*Keep me as the apple of your eye;  
hide me under the shadow of your wings.*

Adapted from *The Psalter,  
The Book of Common Prayer*

Music by Patricia Van Ness (1951)  
Score rev. 26 February 2025  
*\*From Music for the Psalms,  
dedicated in its entirety to Peter Sykes*

$\text{♩} = 60$

**Soprano**

**Alto**

**Tenor**  
*mf* Bring out moving notes  
With intensity; *sempre molto legato*  
Keep, keep, keep \_\_\_\_\_ me \_\_\_\_\_ keep \_\_\_\_\_ me as the ap - ple of your

**Baritone**  
*mf* Bring out moving notes  
With intensity; *sempre molto legato*  
Keep, keep, keep \_\_\_\_\_ me \_\_\_\_\_ keep \_\_\_\_\_ me ap - ple

**Bass**  
*mf* Bring out moving notes  
With intensity; *sempre molto legato*  
Keep, keep, keep \_\_\_\_\_ me \_\_\_\_\_ keep \_\_\_\_\_ (ap \_\_\_\_\_

9

T. *mp* eye, keep me as the ap - ple of your eye, *mf* and hide me hide me

Bar. *mp* eye keep me ap - ple eye and hide hideme *mf*

B. *mp* eye keep (ap eye and me hide me *mf*

18

T. *mp* un - der shad - - - ow *mf* of

Bar. *mp* un - der the shad - - - ow *mf* of

B. *mp* un - der shad - - - ow *mf* of your

25

S. *mf* Bring out moving notes With intensity; *sempre molto legato*  
Keep, keep, keep me

A. *mf* Bring out moving notes With intensity; *sempre molto legato*  
Keep, keep, keep me

T. your wings. Keep, keep, keep me

Bar. your wings Keep keep keep me

B. wings wings Keep keep keep me

33

S. *mp*  
 keep \_\_\_\_\_ me as the ap - ple of your eye, \_\_\_\_\_ keep \_\_\_\_\_ me as the ap - ple of your

A. *mp*  
 keep \_\_\_\_\_ me (ap eye \_\_\_\_\_ keep \_\_\_\_\_ me (ap

T. *mp*  
 keep \_\_\_\_\_ ap-ple eye \_\_\_\_\_ keep \_\_\_\_\_ as ap-ple

Bar. *mp*  
 keep \_\_\_\_\_ ap - ple of your eye keep \_\_\_\_\_ ap - ple

B. *mp*  
 keep \_\_\_\_\_ (ple of your eye keep \_\_\_\_\_ (ple

41

S. *mf* *mp*  
 eye, \_\_\_\_\_ andhide me hide me un - der shad - -

A. *mf* *mp*  
 eye \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ un - der shad - -

T. *mf* *mp*  
 eye \_\_\_\_\_ and hide hideme un - der the shad - ow \_\_\_\_\_

Bar. *mf* *mp*  
 of your eye and \_\_\_\_\_ hide me un - der shad - ow \_\_\_\_\_

B. *mf* *mp*  
 of your eye and \_\_\_\_\_ hide me un - der the shad - -

49

S. *mf*  
ow \_\_\_\_\_ wings. \_\_\_\_\_

A. *mf*  
ow \_\_\_\_\_ wings \_\_\_\_\_

T. *mf*  
\_\_\_\_\_ of your wings. \_\_\_\_\_

Bar. *mf*  
\_\_\_\_\_ of your wings \_\_\_\_\_

B. *mf*  
ow \_\_\_\_\_ of your wings wings \_\_\_\_\_

55

S. *mp* rit. *p*  
of your \_\_\_\_\_ wings \_\_\_\_\_

A. *mp* *p*  
\_\_\_\_\_ your \_\_\_\_\_ wings. \_\_\_\_\_

T. *mp* *p*  
of your \_\_\_\_\_ wings. \_\_\_\_\_

Bar. *mp* *p*  
of your \_\_\_\_\_ wings \_\_\_\_\_

B. *mp* *p*  
of your \_\_\_\_\_ wings wings \_\_\_\_\_