

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

BIRDS OF THE PSALMS*

6. Psalm 63 (I Seek You)

*I seek you, my soul thirsts for you, as in a barren and dry land,
for your loving-kindness is better than life itself.
You have been my helper,
and under the shadow of your wings I will rejoice.*

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

Music by Patricia Van Ness (1951)
Score rev. 19 February 2018
*From *Music for the Psalms*,
dedicated in its entirety to Peter Sykes

mp - mf using natural dynamics *With tenderness; sempre molto legato;*
Stagger breathing throughout

$\text{♩} = 76$
mp *mf*

Soprano my

Soprano Stagger breathing throughout
With tenderness; sempre molto legato;
mf

Alto my

I seek you, seek you my my

Tenor Stagger breathing throughout
With tenderness; sempre molto legato;
mf

seek you my

Bass *mf*

I seek

Van Ness, Birds of the Psalms, 6. Psalm 63 (I Seek You)

6

S. soul my soul my soul thirsts for

S. soul soul thirsts for

A. soul soul thirsts

T. soul soul thirsts for

Bar./B. soul soul thirsts for

10

S. *mp* you *mf* as you dry barren

S. *mp* you *mf* as dry and barren

A. *mp* you *mf* as in a barren

T. *mp* you *mf* as in a dry barren

Bar./B. *mf* as dry

14

A

mp

S. - ren land, for your lov - ing

S. - ren land for love

A. land, for your love

T. - ren land, for love

Bar./B. land for your lov - ing -

A musical score for five voices (Soprano 1, Soprano 2, Alto, Tenor, and Bass/Bassoon) across measures 14 to 17. The music is in a common time signature with a key signature of one flat. Measure 14 begins with a box containing the letter 'A'. The dynamics are marked as *mp*. The lyrics for Soprano 1 are '- ren land, for your lov - ing'. Soprano 2 has '- ren land for love'. Alto has 'land, for your love'. Tenor has '- ren land, for love'. Bass/Bassoon has 'land for your lov - ing -'. The vocal lines feature various note values and rests, with some phrases spanning multiple measures.

18

S. kind - ness is bet - - -

S. - kind is bet - - -

A. for love love love

T. love is love

Bar./B. kind - - - - - ness

A musical score for five voices (Soprano 1, Soprano 2, Alto, Tenor, and Bass/Bassoon) across measures 18 to 21. The lyrics for Soprano 1 are 'kind - ness is bet - - -'. Soprano 2 has '- kind is bet - - -'. Alto has 'for love love love'. Tenor has 'love is love'. Bass/Bassoon has 'kind - - - - - ness'. The music continues with melodic lines and rests, maintaining the *mp* dynamic.

Van Ness, Birds of the Psalms, 6. Psalm 63 (I Seek You)

4

21 *mf*

S. - ter than life

S. - - ter than life life it

A. (ter than than life

T. than life

Bar./B. than life.

24 *mp*

S. self. A - - -

S. self. A - - -

A. self. A - - -

T. (Ah a - - -

Bar./B. A - - -

B

27 *f* *mp*

S. - men.____

S. - men.____ help____

A. men.____ You have been my help - er____ help__

T. - men.____ help____

Bar./B. - men.____ have been

32 *mf*

S. my help - per____ help - - -

S. help____ help____

A. help____ help____

T. help er____

Bar./B.

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6

37

S. *mp* *mf*
per, You my my

S. *mp* *mf*
You my my

A. *mp* *mf*
per, You have been my (help

T. *mp* *mf*
You been my (help

Bar./B. *mf*
You have been my (help

41

S. *mp*
help - - er. Un - der the shad - -

S. *mp*
help - - er. Un - der shad - ow

A. *mp*
my help - er. (Uh (shad

T. *mp*
help - er. (Uh (sha

Bar./B. *mp*
help - er. Un - der the shad - -

C

45

S. - dow of your wings I

S. of your wings

A. shad - dow your wings

T. of your wings

Bar./B. - ow of your wings

48

S. shall re - - - -

S. shall re - - - -

A. shall re - - - -

T. shall re - - - - joyce.

Bar./B. I shall re - - - joyce.

Van Ness, Birds of the Psalms, 6. Psalm 63 (I Seek You)

51 *mp* *rit.* *f*

S. joice. (Ah A - - - - men.

S. - joice. A - - - - men.

A. - joice. A - - - - men.

T. (Ah a - - - - men.

Bar./B. (Ah a - - - - men.