

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

## BIRDS OF THE PSALMS\*

### 1. Psalm 91 (You Are My Refuge and My Stronghold)

*You are my refuge and my stronghold; it is you in whom I put my trust.  
You shall cover me with your pinions, and I shall find refuge under your wings. Amen.*

Music by Patricia Van Ness (1951)

Score rev. 19 February 2018

*From Music for the Psalms,  
dedicated in its entirety to Peter Sykes\**

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

$\text{♩} = 60$

Soprano 1

Soprano 2

Alto

Tenor 1&2

Baritone

Baritone & Bass

*mp*  
*sempre molto legato*

You you you you

*mp*  
*sempre molto legato*

You you

*mp*  
*sempre molto legato*

You you you

**A** *mf expansive*

S. You are my

S. You are my

A. are my

T. 1&2 *mf expansive*  
You are

Bar. *mf expansive*  
you  
Baritone joins Bass to letter E.

Bar./B. *mf expansive*  
you You

8

S. re - fuge

S. my my re - fuge

A. re - fuge

T. 1&2 my re - - - fuge

Bar./B. my my re - - fuge

11

**B** *mp*

S. and my strong hold strong -

S. and my (hold strong -

A. strong - hold

T. 1&2 and my strong hold

Bar./B. and my strong hold hold

14

*cresc. to letter C*

S. - hold you in whom I

S. - hold it you in whom I

A. (hold it is you in whom

T. 1&2 it you in whom I

Bar./B. hold is you you I

17

C *mf*

S. put my trust. You shall

S. put my put my trust. You you shall

A. put my trust You you

T. 1&2 put trust. You You you

Bar./B. put trust. You

20

S. (co - ver co - ver

S. co - ver co - - - ver

A. co - ver me

T. 1&2 (co - co - ver me

Bar./B. co - - - ver co - - - - ver me

**D**

23

S. with pin - ions I

S. with pin - ions I

A. with pin - ions I

T. 1&2 *f* with pin - ions *f*

Bar./B. with with your pin - - - ions



26

S. I shall find re - - - - fuge

S. re - - - - fuge

A. I shall find re - fuge

T. 1&2 I shall find re - fuge (re - - - -)

Bar./B. I find re - fuge re - fuge,

29

S. *mp* re - fuge *mf* I shall find

S. *mp* re - fuge *mf* I shall find

A. *mp* re - fuge *mf* re - fuge find

T. 1&2 *mp* re - - fuge (re *mf* find

Bar./B. *mp* re - fuge *mf* re - fuge I shall find

32

S. *mp* re - fuge re - fuge un - - -

S. *mp* re - fuge re - fuge (un - - -

A. *mp* re - fuge re - fuge un - der

T. 1&2 *mp* (re (re (fuge (un - - -

Bar./B. *mp* re - fuge, re - - - fuge

35

S. *mf* - - - der your

S. *mf* un - - - der un - - - der your

A. *mf* (un - - - der un - - - der your

T. 1&2 *mf* un - - - der un - - - - - der your

Bar./B. *mf* un - - - - - der, un - - - - - der your

38

S. *mp* your wings.

S. *mp* your wings.

A. *mp* your wings.

T. 1&2 *mp* wings. Ah ah

Bar. *mp* wings. Ah ah

Bar./B. *mp* wings. Ah ah

Baritone begins own staff bar 39

42

S. Ah

S. Ah

A. Ah ah

T. 1&2 ah ah

Bar. ah ah ah

Bar./B. ah ah ah

45

S. *mf* Ah *mp* A - men.

S. *mf* ah *mp* A - - men.

A. *mf* ah *mp* ah A men.

T. 1&2 *mf* ah *mp* ah A - men.

Bar. *mf* ah *mp* ah A - men.

Bar./B. *mf* ah *mp* ah A - men.



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

# BIRDS OF THE PSALMS\*

## 2. Psalm 55 (Wings Like a Dove)

*My heart quakes within me, and the terrors of death have fallen upon me.  
And I said, "Oh, that I had wings like a dove! I would fly away and be at rest.  
Had it been an enemy who was against me, I could have hidden from him. But it was you, my own  
companion, my guide. I said, "Oh, that I had wings like a dove! I would fly away and be at rest.*

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*  
♩ = 65  
with intensity

Soprano 1  
quakes

Soprano 2  
My heart quakes

Soprano 3/  
Alto 1  
My heart quakes

Alto 2

S. 1  
and the

S. 2  
with - in me,

S. 3/A. 1  
in me, me,

A. 2  
- in in me,

Van Ness, *Birds of the Psalms, 2. Psalm 55 (Wings Like a Dove)*

2

8

S. 1  
ter - rors of death have fall - en death have fall - - en on me.

S. 2  
ter - rors of death have ter - rors of death have fall - - en on me.

S. 3/A. 1  
ter - rors of death have ter - rors of death have fall - en

A. 2  
ter - rors of death have ter - rors of death have fall on me

12

S. 1  
"Oh oh oh oh oh

S. 2  
And "Oh oh oh

S. 3/A. 1  
And I I said, oh

A. 2  
I

17

S. 1  
oh oh "like a a

S. 2  
oh oh oh "oh that I had, "wings, wings like a a

S. 3/A. 1  
that I had wings like a a

A. 2  
that I had, that I had wings like a

mp

**A**

23

S. 1  
dove, fly rest." been

S. 2  
dove, I would fly a-way and be at rest." Had it been Had it

S. 3/A. 1  
dove, Had it been

A. 2  
dove,

---

28

S. 1  
been (en en - e my

S. 2  
been an en - e - my en - e my who

S. 3/A. 1  
an en - e my (gainst me

A. 2  
an en - e my who was a

---

33

S. 1  
but it was you my own com-pan-ion own com-pan -

S. 2  
was a gainst me you my own (com you my own com-pan -

S. 3/A. 1  
me you my own (com you my own (com (pan

A. 2  
me you my own (com you my own com-pan-ion

Van Ness, *Birds of the Psalms, 2. Psalm 55 (Wings Like a Dove)*

4

38

S. 1  
ion my\_ guide.\_\_\_\_ "Oh\_\_\_\_ oh\_ oh\_ oh\_ oh\_

S. 2  
ion, my guide,\_\_\_\_\_ I said,\_\_\_\_ "Oh oh\_\_\_\_ oh\_

S. 3/A. 1  
ion, I\_\_\_\_ "Oh oh\_\_\_\_

A. 2  
my guide,\_\_\_\_

44

S. 1  
oh\_\_\_\_ "like a\_\_\_\_

S. 2  
oh\_ oh\_ oh\_\_\_\_ "oh\_ that I had, "wings, wings like a

S. 3/A. 1  
that\_\_\_\_ I had wings like\_\_\_\_ a\_\_\_\_

A. 2  
"oh\_ that I had, that\_\_\_\_ I had wings like

49

S. 1  
a dove,\_\_\_\_ fly\_\_\_\_ rest,\_\_\_\_ at\_\_\_\_ rest."  
*rit.*

S. 2  
a dove,\_\_\_\_ I would fly a-way and be at rest." at\_\_\_\_ rest."\_\_\_\_

S. 3/A. 1  
a\_\_\_\_ dove,\_\_\_\_ at\_\_\_\_ rest."\_\_\_\_

A. 2  
a dove,\_\_\_\_ rest,\_\_\_\_ rest."\_\_\_\_

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. 19 February 2018  
\*From *Music for the Psalms*,  
dedicated in its entirety to Peter Sykes

$\text{♩} = 60$

Soprano

Alto

Tenor

Baritone

Bass

Bring out moving notes  
*mf* With intensity; sempre molto legato

Keep, keep, keep me keep me as the ap - ple of your

Bring out moving notes  
*mf* With intensity; sempre molto legato

Keep, keep, keep me keep me ap-ple

Bring out moving notes  
*mf* 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, \_\_\_\_\_ and hide 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 - -

*Handwritten flourish*

49

S. *mf*  
ow- wings.

A. 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



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

# BIRDS OF THE PSALMS\*

## 4. Psalm 104 (Birds of the Air)

*Beside your springs the birds of the air make their nests  
and sing among the branches.*

*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*

Note on Text: Please follow underlay carefully to avoid sibilants.

$\text{♩} = 62$  *mf with delicacy*

Soprano 1 & 2  
Be - side (ide (ide your spring (pring

Alto 1 & 2  
Optional Soprano  
*mf with delicacy* *mp* A. 1 A. 2 A. 1  
Be - (ide (ide spring

Tenor 1 & 2  
*mf with delicacy*  
(Be *mf with delicacy* spring

Baritone  
*mf with delicacy*  
(ide your  
*mf with delicacy*

Bass  
*mf with delicacy*  
(ide your

7

S. 1 & 2

A. 1 & 2

Optional S.

T. 1 & 2

Bar.

B.

your springs the

(pring (pring (pring birds bird

(pring (pring bird

(pring birds

(pring the birds

*mf* *mf* *mp* *A. 1* *A.1&2 mf*

13

S. 1 & 2

A. 1 & 2

Optional S.

T. 1 & 2

Bar.

B.

bird bird of the air air

bird of the air air

bird the air air air

bird of the air air

of the air air

**A**

Sopranos may join Altos here to end if desired.

*mp* *mf* *mp*

19

S. 1 & 2  
air \_\_\_\_\_ make\_ nests \_\_\_\_\_ (ne \_\_\_\_\_

A. 1 & 2  
Optional S.  
\_\_\_\_\_ the air \_\_\_\_\_ make\_ their \_\_\_\_\_ (ne \_\_\_\_\_ (ne \_\_\_\_\_

T. 1 & 2  
air \_\_\_\_\_ (ne \_\_\_\_\_ (ne \_\_\_\_\_

Bar.  
air \_\_\_\_\_ air \_\_\_\_\_ nests \_\_\_\_\_

B.  
air \_\_\_\_\_ make their \_\_\_\_\_ (ne \_\_\_\_\_

*mf* *mp* *mf* *mp* *mf* *mp* *mf* *mp*

26

S. 1 & 2  
\_\_\_\_\_ (ne \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ sing \_\_\_\_\_ (ing \_\_\_\_\_ (ing \_\_\_\_\_

A. 1 & 2  
Optional S.  
(ne \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ (ing \_\_\_\_\_

T. 1 & 2  
and \_\_\_\_\_ (ing \_\_\_\_\_

Bar.  
(ne \_\_\_\_\_ sing \_\_\_\_\_ (ing \_\_\_\_\_

B.  
and \_\_\_\_\_ sing \_\_\_\_\_ (ing \_\_\_\_\_ (ing \_\_\_\_\_

**B**

*mp* *mf*



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

# BIRDS OF THE PSALMS\*

## 5. Psalm 57

### (In te confidit anima mea/I Have Taken Refuge in You)

In te confidit anima mea/I have taken refuge in you;  
et in umbra alarum tuarum sperabo/in the shadow of your wings will I hope  
donec transeat iniquitas/until this time of trouble has gone by.

Music by Patricia Van Ness (1951)

Score rev. 19 February 2018

\*From *Music for the Psalms*,  
dedicated in its entirety to Peter Sykes

The Biblia Sacra Vulgata

♩ = 60

Tenor *f* with passion  
(dit con-fi- dit a-ni ma me-a ah

Baritone *f* with passion  
In te con-fi- dit a-ni ma a-ni-ma me - a

Bass *f* with passion *mp*  
con-fi- dit (ah me a ah

ah ah ah ah ah

*mf* *f* ah ah ah ah ah

*mf* *mf* *f* ah ah ah ah

Van Ness, *Birds of the Psalms*, 5. Psalm 57 (*In te confidit anima mea/I Have Taken Refuge in You*)

2

12

ah ah ah

ah ah

ah ah ah

17

**poco accel.**

In te confidit anima mea / I have taken refuge in you

ah In te con - fi - dit a - ni - ma me a;

In con - fi - dit a - ni - ma me - a

In con - fi - dit a - ni - ma me - - a,

**A**

23

et in umbra alarum tuarum sperabo / in the shadow of your wings will I hope

um - bra (a

in (um (a (a (a

et in (um (bra (a

29

**a tempo**

(la - rum tu tu - a - rum (a - rum spe -

(la rum tu - a - rum (rum (rum spe -

(la rum (rum tu - a - rum tu - a - rum, spe -

**B**

*poco accel.*

35

donec transeat iniquitas / until this time of trouble has gone by

-ra - bo spe ra - bo, do-nec tran - se-at (in - ni (ni

ra - bo spe - ra - bo. do-nec trans-se-at in - ni -

ra - bo spe - ra - bo do-nec trans-se-at (in (ni -

*a tempo*

**C**

42

qui - tas. Ah, ah ah ah ah

qui - tas. Ah ah ah ah ah

qui - tas. Ah ah ah ah

*rit.* . . . . .

47

ah ah A - men.

ah a ah ah A - men.

ah ah ah ah A - - - men.

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*

*♩ = 76*

*mp* *mf*

Soprano my

*mp* *mf*

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

*mp* *mf*

Alto my

I seek you, seek you my my

*mp* *mf*

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

seek you my

*mp* *mf*

Bass 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 soul thirsts

T. thirsts for

Bar./B.

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



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.

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

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.

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

## BIRDS OF THE PSALMS\*

### 7. Psalm 148 (Creeping Things and Winged Birds)

*Halleluia! Halleluia! Sun and moon, all you shining stars and heav'n of heav'ns praise you.*

*Halleluia! Fire and hail and snow and fog and wind praise you.*

*Wild, wild beasts, cows and sheep and little lambs, creeping, creeping, creeping things and all winged birds. praise you.  
Halleluia...*

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

$\text{♩} = 140$   
*lightly, with whimsy*



Soprano

Soprano *mf*  
zoom, zoom, zoom, zoom, \_

Alto *mf*  
zoom, zoom, zoom, zoom,

Tenor *mf*  
(Hal - le hal - le-lu-jah hal-le-lu - jah, sun and moon,

Baritone *mf*  
Hal-le-lu - jah! hal - le-lu - jah (jah sun and moon,

Bass *mf*  
Hal-le-lu - jah! (hal le (hal (jah sun and moon, \_



7

S. 

S. 

A. 

T. 
  
all you shin-ing stars and heav'n of heav'ns\_ praise\_ praise you,

Bar. 
  
all, stars and heav'n of heav'ns praise\_ you praise, you\_

B. 
  
all you shin-ing stars heav'n of heav'ns praise\_ you, praise\_

11

**A** *mf*

S. 
  
Hal-le - lu - ia, (hal hail

S. 
  
Hal-le - lu - ia hal - le - lu - ia

A. 
  
Hal - le - lu - ia, ia, hal - le - lu - ia\_ hail and

T. 
  
praise\_ you! (le - lu - ia\_ (lu - jah, (hal - le - lu - fire and hail and

Bar. 
  
praise you! Hal - le - lu - ia\_ Hal - le - (hal, fire and hail\_

B. 
  
praise you! (lu, fire and hail\_

16

S. snow and fog and wind praise you praise.

S. snow and fog and praise you praise.

A. snow and fog praise you you praise you.

T. snow wind praise, you, praise praise you.

Bar. snow, and wind praise you praise praise you.

B. and praise, praise praise you.

21 **B**

S. Wild wild beasts

S. zoom, zoom, zoom, zoom, cows and sheep and lit - tle lambs

A. Wi - ld (wi cows and sheep

T. zoom, zoom, zoom, zoom, cows and sheep

Bar. (Wi beasts

B. beasts lit - tle lambs

25

S. *mp* creep-ing creep-ing creep-ing *mf* and all wing-ed birds, ah ah

S. *mp* creep ing creep-ing things and *mf* all wing-ed birds

A. *mp* (cree things *mf* all zoom Wild wild

T. *mp* (cree (cree things and *mf* all wing - ed birds Wild wild beasts

Bar. \_\_\_\_\_

B. *mp* (cree (cree things and birds Wild

---

30

S. ah ah *mp*

S. cows lit-tle lambs cree *mp* (cree

A. cows and sheep (cree

T. *mp* creep-ing creep-ing creep-ing *mp* and

Bar. cows and sheep and lit-tle lambs creep ing creep-ing things and

B. cows and sheep (cree (cree and and *mp*

33

*mf*

S. all wing-edbirds. (Hal - le - lu (lu

*mf*

S. all wing-edbirds. (Hal - le (jah hal - le (lu

*mf*

A. all birds. Hal - le - lu - jah hal - le - lu -

*mf*

T. all wing - edbirds. (lu (le (lu

*mf*

Bar. all wing - ed birds. Hal - le - lu - jah

*mf*

B. all birds. (Hal (Hal - le -

---

39

**C** *mf*

S. (lu - jah! Hal - le - lu - ia,

*mf*

S. jah! zoom zoom zoom zoom Hal - le - lu - ia

*mf*

A. (lu jah! Hal - le - lu - ia, ia,

*mf*

T. (jah! (le - lu - ia (lu - jah,

*mf*

Bar. (lu - jah! Hal - le - lu - ia Hal - le -

*mf*

B. lu - (lu,

44

S. (hal hail snow and fog and wind

S. hal - le - lu - ia snow and fog and praise you

A. hal - le - lu - ia hail and snow and fog praise you

T. hal - le - lu - jah, fire and hail and snow wind praise, you,

Bar. (hal, fire and hail and snow, and wind praise you

B. fire and hail and praise, praise

49

**D** *mf*

S. praise you praise, Hal-le - lu - ia, (hal

S. *mf* praise, hal - le - lu - ia hal - le - lu -

A. *mf* you praise you, hal - le - lu - ia, ia, hal - le - lu - ia

T. praise praise you, (lu - ia (lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah,

Bar. *mf* praise praise hal-le-lu-ia (ia hal - le - (hal,

B. *mf* praise hal-le-lu-ia (lu,

54

S. hail and snow and fog wind praise you

S. ia snow and fog and praise you

A. hail snow and fog and wind

T. fire and hail and snow fog and praise, you,

Bar. fire and hail and snow, and wind praise you

B. fire and hail and praise, praise.

58

S. praise you praise! A - - - men!

S. praise! A - - - men!

A. you praise you! A - - - men!

T. praise praise you! A - - - men!

Bar. praise praise you! A - - - men!

B. praise you! A - - - men!

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

# BIRDS OF THE PSALMS\*

## 8. Psalm 61 (I Will Dwell in Your House Forever)

*I will dwell in your house forever;  
protegar in velamento alarum tuarum / I will be protected under the cover of your wings. Amen.*

Adpted from the Psalter,  
The Book of Common Prayer  
and the Latin Psalter

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

*with intensity; sempre molto legato*  
*mp*  
♩ = 90 approx.

SOPRANO 1  
dwell dwell in

*with intensity; sempre molto legato*  
*mp*  
will dwell in

ALTO  
*with intensity; sempre molto legato*  
*mp*  
I dwell dwell in

7 *f*

S. 1  
your your house for - ev -

S. 2  
your your house for - ev -

A.  
your your for (ev -

13 **A**  $\text{♩} = 76$

S. 1 *mp* *mf*  
er, \_\_\_\_\_ før - ev - - er; Lu \_\_\_\_\_ lu lu \_\_\_\_\_ lu lu \_\_\_\_\_

S. 2 *mp* *mf*  
-er, for - ev - - er; Lu lu lu lu lu lu lu lu \_\_\_\_\_

A. *mp* *in time* *mf*  
(er \_\_\_\_\_ ev - - er; Lu lu lu lu lu \_\_\_\_\_

18 *simile*

S. 1  
lu lu lu lu lu \_\_\_\_\_

S. 2  
lu lu lu lu lu lu \_\_\_\_\_

A. *simile*  
\_\_\_\_\_ lu lu lu lu lu lu lu lu

24 **B** I will be protected under the cover of your wings/protegar in velamento alarum tuarum

S. 1  
(pro \_\_\_\_\_ (pro \_\_\_\_\_ (te - - gar \_\_\_\_\_

S. 2  
(pro \_\_\_\_\_ (pro - te \_\_\_\_\_ (te gar \_\_\_\_\_

A. *mf*  
pro \_\_\_\_\_ pro - te - - gar \_\_\_\_\_



29 protegar in velamento alarum tuarum

S. 1  
in ve - la - men - to a - la - rum

S. 2  
in ve - la - (men (men to a - la - rum

A.  
in in ve - la - men - to ve-la men - to a - la - rum

35

**C** ♩ = 90 approx. freely *mp* (f# is correct)

S. 1  
tu - a - rum. Ah a - men a -

S. 2  
tu - a - rum. Ah a - men a -

A.  
tu - a - rum. Ah ah a - men a -

43

S. 1  
men ah ah

S. 2  
men ah ah ah a -

A.  
- men ah ah ah

49

S. 1  
a - - - men, a - - -

S. 2  
- - - men a - - -

A.  
(men (ah a - - -

52

S. 1  
men, a - - - rit. - - - men. *mp*

S. 2  
- men, a - - - men. *mp*

A.  
- men, a - - - men. *mp*

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

# BIRDS OF THE PSALMS\*

## 9. Psalm 36 (How Priceless is Your Love)

*How priceless is your love!  
I take refuge under the shadow of your wings.*

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

Stagger breathing as needed throughout. Use natural dynamics.

$\text{♩} = 68$

Soprano *mf dolce* How price - - less is your love, *mp*

Alto *mp dolce* Price - - price - - love *mf mp*

Tenor 1 & 2 *mp dolce* How price - - less is your *mf*

Baritone & Bass *mp dolce* How price - - less is your love, *mf*

7

S. *mf* ah ah ah

A. *mf* ah ah ah

T. *mp* ah ah ah

Bar & B. *mp* ah ah ah

Van Ness, Birds of the Psalms, 9. Psalm 36 (How Priceless is Your Love)

2

12 *mp* **A** *mp* < *mf* > *mp*

S. *mp* I \_\_\_\_\_

A. *mp* ah \_\_\_\_\_ ah \_\_\_\_\_

T. *mp* < *mf* > *mp* *mp* < *mf* > I \_\_\_\_\_ I \_\_\_\_\_ take re -

Bar & B. *mf* I take re -

---

18 *mp* < *mf* > *mp*

S. I \_\_\_\_\_ take re - - - fuge \_\_\_\_\_

A. *mf* take re - - - fuge \_\_\_\_\_ *mp*

T. *mp* fuge \_\_\_\_\_ I \_\_\_\_\_ (no break between 23-24)

Bar & B. *mp* fuge \_\_\_\_\_ take

---

24

S. your wings. —

A. 3 un-der the shad - ow of

T.

Bar & B. *mf* 3 *mp* *mf* *mp* un-der the shad - ow of your wings, your wings

**B**

Dynamics for all at B as is tenor (natural dynamics) and continue in same manner.

29

S. Ah ah ah

A. ah ah ah

T. Ah ah ah

Bar & B. Ah ah ah ah ah

Ten 2 join alto if desired bars 30-37

*mp* *mf*

Bar Ah (B&B no breaks) *mp* Bass Bar ..... Bass Bar

35

S. ah ah ah ah

A. ah ah

T. ah ah

Bar & B. ah ah ah ah

*mf*

39

S. ah of your wings.

A. un-der the shad - dow of your wings.

T. ah your wings.

Bar & B. shad - ow of your wings. of wings.

*rit.* *mp*

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

# BIRDS OF THE PSALMS\*

## 10. Beauty Flew to Me (Reprise of Psalm 91)

*In the green-clad, quiet twilight  
beauty flew to me,  
and I awakened thrice:  
to it, to love, to hope.  
Deep, deep below,  
a slow chant sings  
as I breathe sweet air  
under the shelter of your wing.*

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

$\text{♩} = 60$

The musical score is written for five vocal parts: Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Baritone, and Bass. The key signature is three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat) and the time signature is 4/2. The tempo is marked as quarter note = 60. The Soprano and Alto parts are mostly rests. The Tenor and Baritone parts have lyrics: "In in in in". The Bass part has lyrics: "In, in, in". Performance instructions include "Stagger breathing as needed throughout" and "sempre molto legato" for the Tenor and Bass parts. Dynamics are marked as *mf*.

**A**

4

*expansive*

S. In the green, green

*expansive*

S. In the green green

*expansive*

A. the green

*expansive*

T. in in green green

Bar. in

Next bar: Baritone joins Bass to end

B. in, in green

*expansive*

7

S. green green - clad

S. green green green - clad

A. green green green - clad

T. green green green - clad

B. (ee green - - clad

10

*mp* *mf*

S. qui - - - et beau - - -

*mp* *mf*

S. qui - et twi - light light

*mp* *mf*

A. qui - et (beau

*mp* *mf*

T. qui - - et beau - ty beau-ty flew to

*mp* *mf*

B. qui - et twi - light beau -



**B**

12

*mp*

S. - ty beau-ty flew to me

*>mp*

S. beau - ty beau-ty flew to me me

*>mp*

A. me

*>mp*

T. me me

*>mp*

B. ty beau - ty flew to me and



14 *cresc. to letter C*

S. — (wak - ened thrice — thrice —

S. *cresc. to letter C*  
and I a- wak - - - ened — thrice —

A. *cresc. to letter C*  
and I a- wak - - - ened — thrice thrice —

T. *cresc. to letter C*  
— (wak — (ened — thrice thrice —

B. *cresc. to letter C*  
— I — thrice —



17 *mf* **C**

S. — to it to love love — to —

S. *mf*  
— to — it — to love — to —

A. *mf*  
thrice, to — it — to love — to —

T. *mf*  
— to to — it — to love — love — to —

B. *mf*  
— to — it — love — love — to —

21

S. — hope ————— hope

S. — hope ————— hope ————— hope. ————— Deep —————

A. ————— hope, ————— hope, —————

T. ————— hope ————— hope ————— Deep —————

B. ————— hope ————— hope ————— hope ————— Deep —————

24

**D**

S. Deep ————— be - low

S. ————— deep —————

A. Deep ————— deep ————— be - low

T. ————— deep ————— be - low

B. ————— a

26

S. *mp*  
slow slow

S. *mp*  
slow chant slow sings

A. *mp*  
a slow sings

T. *mp*  
slow slow chant sings

B. *mp*  
slow chant sings

29

S. *mf*  
a slow slow chant

S. *mf*  
a slow slow - chant

A. *mf*  
sings slow chant slow

T. *mf*  
sings chant sings

B. *mf*  
sings chant sings

32

S. sings I breathe sweet air

S. sings I sweet air

A. sings as breathe sweet

T. sings i breathe sweet air

B. as I sweet air

35

S. shel - - - ter of your wing. *rit.* *mp*

S. shel - - - ter of your wing. *mp*

A. un - der the shel - - - ter of wing. *mp*

T. un - der shel - - - ter wing. *mp*

B. un - der the shel - ter shel - - - ter your wing. *mp*