

Commissioned by Elizabeth Bradley and Coro Allegro, David Hodgkins, Artistic Director,  
and Premiered on 20 May 2018 by Coro Allegro, Sonja Dutoit Tengblad, soprano, Church of the Covenant, Boston  
In Memory of Our Foremothers, Who Fought For Our Deliverance

# PSALMS OF LUMINOUS RESCUE\*

## 8. Psalm 118 (The Evil Surround Me)

*The evil surround me; they hem me in, they hem me in on every side;  
they blaze like a fire of thorns.  
But you came to my help.  
You are my strength, my song, my salvation  
I shall not die, but shall live.*

Music by Patricia Van Ness (1951)

Score rev. 14 February 2019

\*from MUSIC FOR THE PSALMS,  
dedicated in its entirety to Peter Sykes

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

*mf*  
♩ = 60

Soprano Solo  
The e - vil sur - round sur-

Soprano

Alto

Tenor/Bass

Oboe  
♩ = 60

Violoncello  
*mp*

Van Ness, *Psalms of Luminous Rescue*, 8. Psalm 118 (The Evil Surround Me)

2

7

S. Solo

round \_\_\_\_\_ me, \_\_\_\_\_ they hem me in, hem me on ev - 'ry side;

S.

they

A.

mf senza vibrato

side; they \_\_\_\_\_

T/B.

Ob.

mf

Vc.

mf

A



13

S. Solo

they blaze \_\_\_\_\_

S.

blaze \_\_\_\_\_ blaze \_\_\_\_\_ blaze \_\_\_\_\_

A.

note *tenutos*: slight emphasis

they \_\_\_\_\_ blaze \_\_\_\_\_ blaze \_\_\_\_\_ blaze \_\_\_\_\_

T/B.

mp

they \_\_\_\_\_ blaze \_\_\_\_\_ blaze \_\_\_\_\_ blaze \_\_\_\_\_

**B**

19

S. Solo  
blaze \_\_\_\_\_ like \_\_\_\_\_ a fire \_\_\_\_\_ of thorns.

S.  
blaze

A.  
like fire thorns. you \_\_\_\_\_

T/B.  
blaze \_\_\_\_\_ like a fire thorns. But \_\_\_\_\_ you \_\_\_\_\_ you

26

S.  
you \_\_\_\_\_ you But \_\_\_\_\_ you came \_\_\_\_\_ to my help my

A.  
\_\_\_\_\_ you \_\_\_\_\_ you \_\_\_\_\_ came \_\_\_\_\_ my

T/B.  
\_\_\_\_\_ you \_\_\_\_\_ you \_\_\_\_\_ came \_\_\_\_\_ my

**C**

32

S. Solo  
You are my strength, my strength

S.  
help my help. \_\_\_\_\_

A.  
help \_\_\_\_\_

T/B.  
*p* help. \_\_\_\_\_ *mf* You are my strength,

Van Ness, *Psalms of Luminous Rescue*, 8. Psalm 118 (The Evil Surround Me)

4

38

S. Solo

my song my sal - va - tion.

S.

song sal - va -

A.

*mf*  
sal - va -

T/B.

song my sal - va - tion (va

44

S. Solo

I shall not die

S.

tion shall not

A.

tion shall not not

T/B.

I I shall not die not

48

S. Solo I shall not die but shall live.

S. shall live.

A. shall live.

T/B. die shall live.

*T/B poco cres b. 50-51*

*mp*