

*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)

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

Score rev. 14 February 2019

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

Musical score for Psalm 118, featuring six staves:

- Soprano Solo: Melodic line with lyrics "The e - vil sur - round". Dynamics: *mf*.
- Soprano: Mostly silent.
- Alto: Mostly silent.
- Tenor/Bass: Mostly silent.
- Oboe: Sustained note.
- Violoncello: Sustained note.

Key signature: B-flat major (two flats). Time signature: Common time (4/4).

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

2

7

S. Solo

A

S.

A.

T/B.

*mf* senza vibrato

side; they

*mf*

Ob.

Vc.



13

S. Solo

they blaze

S.

A.

T/B.

blaze  
note tenutos: slight emphasis

they blaze

*mp*

they 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\_\_\_\_\_ came\_\_\_\_\_ my

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

==

32

S. Solo      You are my strength, my strength

S.      help my help.

A.      help

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

C

*mf*

*p*

*mf*

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

4

38

S. Solo

S.

A.

T/B.

— my song — my sal - va - tion.

song

sal - va -

*mf*

sal - va -

song

my\_ sal - va - tion (va)

2

44

S. Solo

The musical score consists of four staves. The top staff is for Soprano Solo (S. Solo) in treble clef, with lyrics: "I shall \_\_\_\_\_ not die". The second staff is for Soprano (S.) in treble clef, with lyrics: "tion shall \_\_\_\_\_ not". The third staff is for Alto (A.) in treble clef, with lyrics: "tion shall \_\_\_\_\_ not". The bottom staff is for Tenor/Bass (T/B.) in bass clef, with lyrics: "I \_\_\_\_\_ shall not die \_\_\_\_\_ not". The music includes various note heads, stems, and rests, with some notes connected by horizontal lines. The key signature is B-flat major (two flats), and the time signature is common time (indicated by '44').

Van Ness, *PSALMS OF LUMINOUS RESCUE*, 8. Psalm 118 (The Evil Surround Me)

5

48

S. Solo

S.

A.

T/B.

I shall not die but shall live.  
shall live.  
shall live.  
T/B poco cres b. 50-51  
die shall live.

mp

mp

mp

mp

die shall live.