

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\*

## 6. Psalm 139 (Where Can I Go From Your Spirit?)

Where can I go from your spirit?  
If I climb to heaven, or if I take the wings of the morning, even there your hand will lead me, and hold me fast.  
And if I fear the dark will cover me, I know darkness is not dark to you;  
the dark is as bright as day to you, and your hand will lead me, and hold me fast.  
Where can I go from your spirit?

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

Music by Patricia Van Ness (1951)  
Score rev. 13 February 2019  
\*from *MUSIC FOR THE PSALMS,*  
dedicated in its entirety to Peter Sykes

The musical score is for Psalm 139, 'Where Can I Go From Your Spirit?'. It is in G major (two sharps) and 4/4 time. The tempo is marked as quarter note = 60. The score includes parts for Soprano Solo, two Soprano voices, Alto, Oboe, Viola, and Violoncello. The Soprano Solo part begins with the lyrics 'Where can I go from your spirit,' and features a triplet of eighth notes. The Oboe, Viola, and Violoncello parts have dynamic markings of *mf* *senza vibrato* and *mp*. The Viola and Violoncello parts include the instruction 'Bowings optional.' with a bowing symbol.

Van Ness, Psalms of Luminous Rescue, 6. Psalm 139 (Where Can I Go From Your Spirit?)

2

6

S. Solo

from your spi - rit? If

Ob.

Vla.

Vc.

*mp*

*mf*

12

S. Solo

I climb if I climb to hea - - ven, or take the wings of the

Ob.

Vla.

Vc.

*mp*

*mf*

*f*

**A**

**B**

Note: bars 17- 23 Soloist must be heard over other musicians.

17

S. Solo *mf* *mp* *mf*  
 morn - ing, morn - ing e'en there your hand will lead me, hold me fast. And

S. *mf* *mp*  
 morn - ing, morn - ning e'en there your hand lead hold fast.

S. *mf* *mp*  
 (mor e'en there your lead me, hold fast.

A. *mf* *mp*  
 (mor e'en there your lead hold me fast.

Ob. *mp*  
 (mor e'en there your lead hold me fast.

Vla. *mp*  
 (mor e'en there your lead hold me fast.

Vc. *mp*  
 (mor e'en there your lead hold me fast.

**C**

24

S. Solo *mf*  
 if I fear that the dark will co-ver me I know dark-ness is not dark to

Ob. *mf*

Vla. *mf*

Vc. *mf*

**D**

Note: bars 30- 36 Soloist must be heard over other musicians.

28

S. Solo *f* you, the night's as bright as day as bright as day, as bright as day to you, and your hand will *mf*

S. *mf* day\_ bright\_ day, bright\_ day to you, your hand

S. *mf* day\_ day to you your

A. *mf* day\_ day to you your

**D** day\_ day to you your

Ob.

Vla.

Vc.

34

S. Solo *mp* **E** *mf*  
lead me, hold me fast. Where \_\_\_\_\_ where

S. *mp*  
lead hold fast.

S. *mp*  
lead me, hold fast.

A. *mp*  
lead hold me fast.

Ob. *mp* **E** *mf*

Vla. *mp* *mf*

Vc. *mp*

39

S. Solo *mp* *rit.* *mf*  
can I go, from your spi - rit?

Ob. *mp*

Vla. *mp* *rit.*

Vc. *mp* 3 3 3