

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

*mp*

quakes

Soprano 2  
*mf with intensity*

My heart quakes

Soprano 3/  
Alto 1  
*mf with intensity*

My heart quakes

Alto 2  
*mf*

*mf with -*

5

S. 1  
and the

S. 2  
*3*  
with - in me,

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

A. 2  
*3*  
- 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."

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."