

Psalm 137 (By the Waters of Babylon)*

By the waters of Babylon we sat down and wept
when we remembered you, O Zion, we remembered you.

As for our harps, we hung them upon the trees in foreign land,
for our oppressors called for a song,
but how shall we sing your song on an alien soil?

If I forget you, O Jerusalem, may I forget how to play and sing,
if I forget you, O Jerusalem.

Adapted by Patricia Van Ness
from *The Psalter*,
The Book of Common Prayer

Music by Patricia Van Ness (1951)
Score rev. 21 July 2020
*from *MUSIC FOR THE PSALMS*,
dedicated in its entirety to Peter Sykes

Soprano 1
♩ = 60
mf *senza vibrato*
By the wat - ers of Ba - by - lon, we sat down and wept, _____ when

Violin 1
♩ = 60
p

Violoncello

9
S.
mf _____ *f* _____ *mf*
we re-mem-bered you, _____ O _____ O _____ Zi-on, _____

Vln. 1

Vc.

18
S.
mf _____ *mf*
we re-mem-bered you. _____ **A** As for our harps we hung them up on, _____ the

Vln. 1
mf

Vc.
mp

Van Ness, Psalm 137 (By the Waters of Babylon)

2

26

S. trees in that for - eign land, _____ for our op - pres - sors_ called for a song, but

Vln. 1

Vc.

34 *mf* _____ *f* *mf*

S. how shall we sing your song, _____ on an al - ien soil? _____

Vln. 1

Vc.

43 **B**

S. If I for - get you, _____ O Je - ru - sa - lem, _____ may I for -

Vln. 1

Vc.

52 *mf* _____ *f*

S. get how_ to play and sing, _____ if I for - get _____

Vln. 1

Vc.

59 *mf* rit.

S. — you, — O, O, O, — — — — — Je - ru - sa - lem. —

Vln. 1

Vc.

rit.