

Commissioned by Susan Jane Matthews DMA, ARSCM, and the Choirs of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Burlingame, CA,  
The Rev. Thomas Skillings, Rector

# Psalm 9 (You Will Be a Refuge)\*

Ah, have pity on them.  
You will be a refuge, ah, for they are in need,  
a refuge in their time of trouble,  
for the child shall not always be forgotten.

Music by Patricia Van Ness (1951)  
Score rev. 10 July 2020  
\*from MUSIC FOR THE PSALMS,  
dedicated in its entirety to Peter Sykes

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

♩ = 62 Stagger breathing as needed, including within words;  
*sempre molto legato; mp-mf*, using natural dynamics.

The musical score is written for a choir with six parts: Treble, Soprano 1, Soprano 2, Alto 1, Tenor 1, and Bass. The key signature is B-flat major (two flats) and the time signature is 3/4. The Treble part features a melodic line with lyrics 'Ah, ah ah ah' and dynamic markings *mp*, *mf*, *mp*, and *mf*. A box labeled 'A' is placed at the end of the Treble staff. The Soprano 1 and 2 parts have lyrics 'Have' and 'Have' respectively. The other parts (Alto 1, Tenor 1, Bass) are currently blank.

## Psalm 9 (You Will Be a Refuge)

is one of a ten-psalm collection of anthems composed for children separated from their parents along U.S. borders,  
and for lost children everywhere. This collection of ten psalms is entitled *Child of the Borderlands*

## Van Ness, Psalm 9 (You Will Be a Refuge)

10

S. I  
pi - ty on \_\_\_\_\_ them, have pi - ty on \_\_\_\_\_ them. Ah \_\_\_\_\_

S. II  
pi - ty on \_\_\_\_\_ them, have pi - ty on, \_\_\_\_\_ them. \_\_\_\_\_ You \_\_\_\_\_

A.  
*mf*  
on \_\_\_\_\_ them, have pi - ty on, on \_\_\_\_\_ them. You\_ you\_ you\_

T.  
*mf*  
pi - ty \_\_\_\_\_ on, \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_ them. You you\_ you\_

B.  
*mf*  
\_\_\_\_\_ them. \_\_\_\_\_ You you

18

S. I  
ah \_\_\_\_\_ ah \_\_\_\_\_ ref - uge, a

S. II  
you\_ you\_ you\_ will\_ be \_\_\_\_\_ a ref - uge, a

A.  
\_\_\_\_\_ you\_ you\_ you\_ will will\_ be be\_ a a\_ a (ref \_\_\_\_\_ a

T.  
you you you\_ you will \_\_\_\_\_ be ref - uge, \_\_\_\_\_

B.  
you you you\_ will be a a\_ ref - uge, \_\_\_\_\_

**B**

26

S. I re - - - uge ah ah

S. II ref - - uge, ref will - be a (ref

A. ref - - uge, will will be be a a ref - uge

T. you be ref-uge

B. you you be a ref - -

*mf*

34

**C** **D**

Tr. ah ah

S. I for they are in need, in

S. II for they need,

A. for are in need,

T. for they are need,

B. uge,- for they are in need, in

Van Ness, *Psalm 9 (You Will Be a Refuge)*

43

S. I in in need, a ref - uge in their time of trou-ble

S. II need a ref uge in time of trou - ble,

A. in need, ref - - uge their time trou - ble

T. in need ref - uge in time of trou -

B. need ref - uge in their time trou - ble

51

**E**

S. I trou - ble for the child shall not

S. II trou - ble trou - ble for child shall not

A. trou-ble for for the child shall not

T. - ble trou - ble for for the child shall not

B. (ble for child shall

Van Ness, Psalm 9 (You Will Be a Refuge)

58

*rit.*

S. I  
not \_\_\_\_\_ be for - got - ten.

S. II  
not \_\_\_\_\_ not \_\_\_\_\_ for - got - ten.

A.  
not \_\_\_\_\_ not \_\_\_\_\_ not be for - got - ten.

T.  
not \_\_\_\_\_ not \_\_\_\_\_ not for got - ten.

B.  
*mf*  
not \_\_\_\_\_ not \_\_\_\_\_ not \_\_\_\_\_ not be for - got - ten.

The image shows a musical score for five voices: Soprano I (S. I), Soprano II (S. II), Alto (A.), Tenor (T.), and Bass (B.). The score is in a key with two flats (B-flat and E-flat) and a common time signature. The lyrics are: "not \_\_\_\_\_ be for - got - ten." for S. I; "not \_\_\_\_\_ not \_\_\_\_\_ for - got - ten." for S. II; "not \_\_\_\_\_ not \_\_\_\_\_ not be for - got - ten." for A.; "not \_\_\_\_\_ not \_\_\_\_\_ not for got - ten." for T.; and "not \_\_\_\_\_ not \_\_\_\_\_ not \_\_\_\_\_ not be for - got - ten." for B. A "rit." (ritardando) marking is placed above the first staff, with a dashed line extending across the top of the score. A "mf" (mezzo-forte) marking is placed above the Bass staff. The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and slurs.