

*for Cristi Catt and Viriditas,
Night Song, Daryl Bichel, Artistic Director*

MUSIC FOR THE PSALMS

Psalm 40 and "Birdsong" by Rumi

Birdsong brings relief to my longing
I'm just as ecstatic as they are, but with nothing to say!
Please universal soul,
practice some song or something through me!
You heard my cry. You put a new song in my mouth,
a song of praise to you: amen.

*Rumi; and Ps 40
adapted from
The Psalter,
The Book of Common Prayer*

Music by Patricia Van Ness (1951)

Score rev. 28 February 2018

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

The musical score consists of four staves. The top staff is for Soprano, the second for Alto, and the bottom two are for Soprano voices. The music is in common time, with various key changes indicated by key signatures and numerals. Dynamics include *mp* (mezzo-forte) and *mf* (mezzo-forte). The lyrics are as follows:

Soprano 1: Bird (bird) bird-song brings re - lief to my
Soprano 2: Bird bird brings re - lief to my
Alto: Bird - - - song (re
Soprano 1: Bird - - - song brings (lief, lief

7
S. long-ing, I'm just as ec sta - tic (no Please
S. long-ing, I'm just as ec sta - tic with no - thing to say,
S. long - ing (sta - tic Please un-i-
A. just (tic

A square box labeled 'A' is located above the first soprano's vocal line.

Van Ness, *Music for the Psalms, Psalm 40 and "Birdsong" by Rumi*

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S. (sal soul, _____) prac - tice some song,
S. (ver - sal soul, _____) prac - tice some song song
S. ver - sal soul, _____ prac - tice some______ prac - tice song
A. ver - sal soul_____ (prac - tice_____) (tice_____) (prac - tice_____) (tice_____) some.. song

19 B

S. some - thing through me!
S. some - thing me! You
S. some - thing through me! You
A. song some - thing me! You

25

S. heard You you put a new
S. cry. You you put a new
S. heard my cry. You you, you new, new
A. heard my cry. You you put new, new

32

S. song,— on a— of praise
S. song,— in my mouth,— song of praise
S. ————— a———— song of praise to
A. ————— song a———— song of praise

37

S. to you: a - men, (a ————— a -
S. to ————— you a - men (a —————
S. to ————— you a - men, (a —————
A. to ————— (a ————— a - men, (a —————

41

S. ————— men, a - ————— men.
S. a ————— men, a ————— men.
S. a ————— men a ————— men.
A. men a ————— men, a ————— men.