

*For Peter Sykes and the Choir of First Church in Cambridge, MA*

## Psalm 84 (How Dear to Me is Your Dwelling)

*How dear to me is your dwelling;  
how my soul has longed for your holy place.  
The joyful sparrow and the swallow have found nests  
beside your alter.  
Happy are we who dwell in your house!  
We will always be praising you.  
Happy are we whose strength is in you!  
Our feet are set upon your path.  
One day in your courts is better than  
a thousand in my own room!*

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

Music by Patricia Van Ness (1951)  
Score rev. 20 April 2022  
\*from *MUSIC FOR THE PSALMS*,  
dedicated in its entirety to Peter Sykes

$\text{♩} = 120$  (dance-like; in one; baroque)

A

Flute

Drum

Tambourine

Harp

Soprano & Alto

Tenor & Bass

Violin

*f* Harp solo bars 1-6

Note: Sopranos drop out when too low, altos when too high.  
Tenors drop out when too low, basses when too high.

*mf* on string

Van Ness, Psalm 84 (*How Dear To Me is Your Dwelling*)

2

9

Fl.

Drum

Tamb.

Hp.

S.&A.

T.&B.

Vln.

Harp solo b. 13-14

==

16

B

Fl.

Drum

Tamb.

Hp.

S.&A.

T.&B.

Vln.

f

mf

How  
mf

How\_\_\_

f

## Van Ness, Psalm 84 (How Dear To Me is Your Dwelling)

3

23

Fl.

Drum

Tamb.

Hp.

S.&A.

T.&B.

Vln.

dear to me is your dwell - ing;

dear to me is your dwell - ing;

=

30

Fl.

Drum

Tamb.

Hp.

S.&A.

T.&B.

Vln.

mp

how my soul has longing, longing for your ho - ly place

how my soul has longing, longing for your ho - ly place!

Van Ness, Psalm 84 (*How Dear To Me is Your Dwelling*)

4

37

C

Fl.

Drum

Tamb.

Hp.

S.&A.

The joy - ful spar-row\_\_\_\_ and\_\_\_\_ the swal - low have found their nests

T.&B.

The joy - ful spar-row\_\_\_\_ and\_\_\_\_ the swal - low have found their nests\_\_\_\_

Vln.

C

f



43

Fl.

Drum

Tamb.

Hp.

Harp solo b. 43-44

S.&A.

be-side your al - ter.

T.&B.

be-side your al - ter.

Vln.

Van Ness, Psalm 84 (*How Dear To Me is Your Dwelling*)

5

49

Fl. sempre **D** *mf* Flute and violin solo b. 50-61

Drum

Tamb.

Hp.

S.&A.

T.&B.

Vln. **D** *mf* Flute and violin solo b. 50-61

**E**

55

Fl. sempre on beat 1

Drum

Tamb.

Hp.

S.&A.

T.&B.

Vln. **E**

Van Ness, Psalm 84 (*How Dear To Me is Your Dwelling*)

6

62 F

Fl.

Drum

Tamb.

Hp.

S.&A. *mf*  
Happy are we who dwell in your house; we will al-ways be\_ prais-ing you!

T.&B.

Vln. *f*



68 G H

Fl. *mf* Flute and violin duet  
bars 68-79

Drum

Tamb.

Hp.

S.&A.

T.&B.

Vln. *mf* Flute and violin duet  
bars 68-79

## Van Ness, Psalm 84 (How Dear To Me is Your Dwelling)

7

75

Fl.

Drum

Tamb.

Hp.

S.&A.

T.&B.

Vln.

I

Hap-py are we whose

Hap-py are we whose

**f**

82

Fl.

Drum

Tamb.

Hp.

S.&A.

T.&B.

Vln.

**mf** Flute and violin duet bars 88-93

strength is in you! Our feet are set up - on your path.

strength is in you! Our feet are set up - on your path.

**mf** Flute and violin duet bars 88-93

J

Van Ness, Psalm 84 (*How Dear To Me is Your Dwelling*)

8

89

Fl.

Drum

Tamb.

Hp.

S.&A.

T.&B.

Vln.

K

f

f

f

One day in your

K One day in your

f

≡

96

Fl.

Drum

Tamb.

Hp.

S.&A.

T.&B.

Vln.

Harp solo b. 99-101

courts is bet - ter than a thou - sand,

courts is bet - ter than a thou - sand,

## Van Ness, Psalm 84 (How Dear To Me is Your Dwelling)

9

102

Fl.

Drum

Tamb.

Hp.

S.&A.

T.&B.

Vln.

thou - - sand, thou-sand in my own room, than a thou - sand,  
thou - - sand, thou-sand in my own room than a thou - sand,

L

108

Fl.

Drum

Tamb.

Hp.

S.&A.

T.&B.

Vln.

Harp solo b. 108-109

f

thou - sand, thou-sand in my own room!

M

ff

thou - sand, thou-sand in my own room!

M

ff

Van Ness, Psalm 84 (*How Dear To Me is Your Dwelling*)

10

114

Fl.

Drum

Tamb.

Hp.

S.&A.

Thou - - sand, thou - sand in my

T.&B.

Thou - - sand, thou - sand in my

Vln.

rit.



118

Fl.

Drum

Tamb.

Hp.

S.&A.

own

T.&B.

own room!

Vln.