

MUSIC FOR THE PSALMS

Psalm 40 and "Birdsong" by Rumi (TTBB)

Birdsong brings relief to my longing
I'm just as ecstatic, 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.

"Birdsong" by Rumi;
and Ps 40, adapted from
The Psalter,
The Book of Common Prayer

Music by Patricia Van Ness (1951)
Score rev. 9 July 2026
*from MUSIC FOR THE PSALMS,
dedicated in its entirety to Peter Sykes

Note: *sempre molto legato; senza vibrato*

♩ = 60

Tenor 1 *mf* Brings re - lief to my

Tenor 2 *mp* *mf* Bird - song brings re - lief to my

Bass 1 *mp* *mf* Bird, bird - - - song *mp*

Bass 2 *mp* *mf* Bird, bird - - - song brings, -

7 **A**

T. long-ing, I'm just as ec - sta - tic with (no) Please

T. long-ing, I'm just as ec - sta - tic with no - thing to say!

B. *mp* *mf* long - ing, Please un-i-

B. *mp* *mf* ec - sta - tic, Please un-i-

2 13

mf

T. (sal soul, _____ prac - tice some song, _____

T. (ver - sal soul, _____ prac - tice some _____ song _____ song _____

B. ver - sal soul _____ prac - tice some _____ prac - tice song _____

B. *mp* ver - sal soul _____ (prac _____ (tice _____ (prac _____ (tice _____ some song _____ song

20

mp [B]

T. _____ some - thing through me! _____

T. *mp* _____ some - thing me! _____

B. *mp* _____ some - thing through me! _____ You _____ heard my cry.

B. *mp* _____ some - thing me! _____ You _____ heard my cry. _____ You,

27 *mf*

T. You _____ you _____ put a new _____ song _____ in _____ my mouth

T. *mf* You _____ you _____ put a new _____ song _____ in _____ my mouth

B. *mp* You, _____ song,

B. *mp* a new

34 **C** *mf*

T. a _____ song of _____ praise _____ to _____ you. A - men, (a

T. _____ song of praise to _____ to _____ you. A - men

B. *mf* a _____ song of praise to _____ to _____ you. A - men,

B. *mf* a _____ song of praise _____ to _____ A - men,

40 rit.

T. _____ a - - - men, a - - - men, _____ a - men.

T. (a _____ a - - - men, _____ a - - - men, _____ a - men.

B. (a _____ a - - - men a - - - men, _____ a - men.

B. a - - - men a - - - men, a - - - men, _____ a - men.