

Sarah Riskind

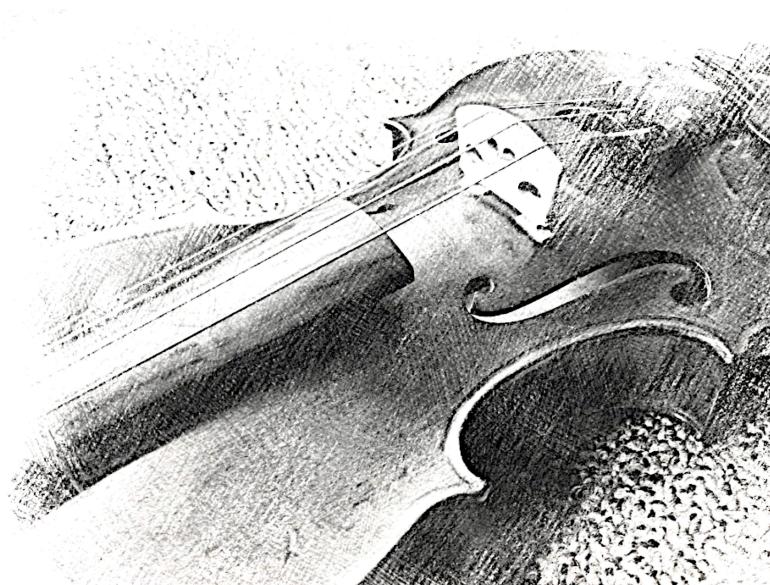
re-voicing of TBB work for Ensemble X at St. Xavier High School

Psalm of the Sky

for SAB chorus, piano, and violin

2020

S. D. R.



SWIRLY MUSIC

www.sarahriskind.com

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In the poem "Psalm of the Sky," Rabbi Rachel Barenblat reimagines "The Lord is My Shepherd" (Psalm 23) in a contemporary context. Performers should highlight the many instances of text painting and create contrast between moments of gentleness, boldness, and carefree movement. I chose to include the last verse of Psalm 23 in Hebrew as a coda in a similar style to many prayers sung in Jewish worship; this allusion to Barenblat's textual inspiration is intended to express the enduring human need for comfort and hope despite changing modes of worship.

The original TBB version of Psalm of the Sky was commissioned by the Creative Commissions Project at the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music, sponsored by the Harmony Fund.

- Sarah Riskind, September 2019/July 2020

Duration: 5 min.

Previously based in Seattle and Boston, conductor and composer Sarah Riskind (b.1987) is the Director of Choral Activities at Eureka College in central Illinois and a faculty member at The Walden School. Riskind's compositions are featured in the Project Encore catalogue of contemporary choral music and available at www.sarahriskind.com as well as Swirly Music. Among her works are Jewish and Judeo-Christian music, secular pieces with improvisatory elements, and choral settings with string obbligato parts. She holds degrees from the University of Washington, the University of Wisconsin at Madison, and Williams College.

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Psalm of the Sky
*for those who dwell in
uncertainty*

You are my parachute
I will not fall

in Your arms I float easy
and the air buoys me

I can do backflips, I can wave
to my fellow skydivers

I can sink into unknowing
without freezing

though I have no idea
how distant the ground

or where I will land
I am not afraid

Your silent presence
comforts me

when You dance with me
I forget to feel ungainly

You will cradle me
all the days of my life

spin with me
in the stratosphere forever

*Ach, tov vachedes yird'funi-
kol- y'mei chayai;
v'shavti b'veit- Adonai,
l'orech yamim. [Amen]*

- Psalms 23:6

Translation:

Surely goodness and kindness shall
follow me all the days of my life;
and I shall dwell in the house of the
Lord forever.

- Rabbi Rachel Barenblat,
from *Open My Lips*
velveteenrabbi.blogspot.com

re-voicing of TBB work for the St. Xavier High School Chorus
Psalm of the Sky

Rabbi Rachel Barenblat; Psalms 23:6

Sarah Riskind

Violin *Freely, approx. L=48* *mp* *rit.* **A** *Fluid, Floating* *L=60*

Soprano

Alto

Baritone

Piano *Freely, approx. L=48* *mp* *rit.* **A** *Fluid, Floating* *L=60*

Vln. *mp*

S. You are my pa-ra chute I will not fall

A. You are my pa-ra chute I will not fall

B. You are my pa-ra chute I will not fall

Pno.



11

Vln.

S. *mp*
in Your arms I float ea - sy and the air buoys me

A. *mp*
in Your arms I float ea - sy and the air buoys me

B. *mp*
in Your arms I float ea - sy buoys me

Pno. *mp*

15

Vln. *mp* [B] *f* *boisterously* *mf*

S. (b) (b)

A. (b) (b) *mf*
I can do back-flips,

B. (b) (b) *mf*
I can do back-flips,

Pno. *f* *boisterously* *mf*

18

Vln. *mf subito legato*

S. wave to my fel-low sky - di-vers

A. *subito legato*

I can wave sky - di-vers

B. *subito legato*

I can wave, I can wave sky - di-vers

Pno.

22

Vln. *p*

S.

A. *p* *pp very still, non espressivo*

I can sink in-to un-know-ing with-out free-zing

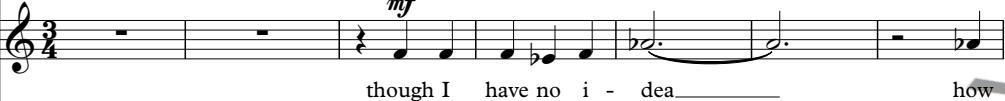
B.

Pno. *p* *pp* *ff*

27 **C** Intense, Deliberate $\text{♩}=120$

Vln. 

S. 

A. 

B. 

Pno. 

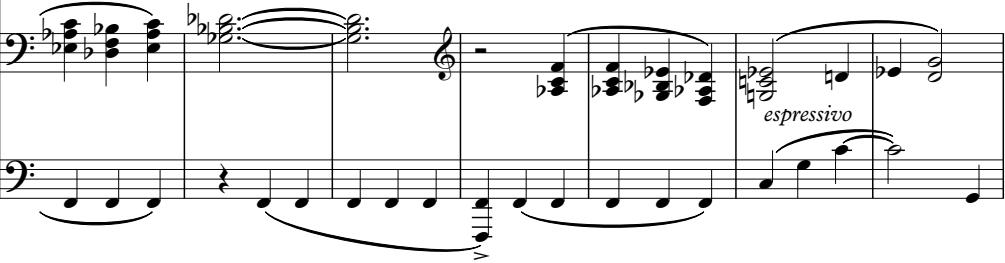
34 

Vln. 

S. 

A. 

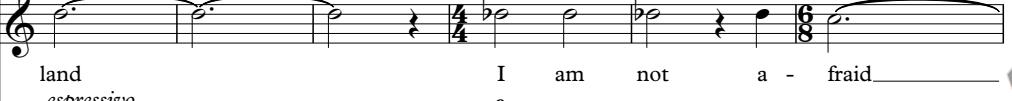
B. 

Pno. 

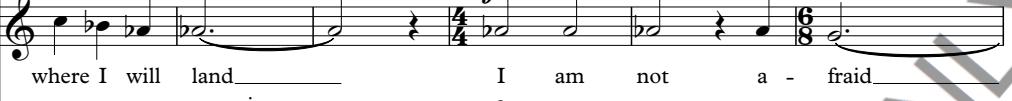
rit.

D

Vln. 

S. 

land
espressivo I am not a - fraid

A. 

where I will land
espressivo I am not a - fraid

B. 

where I will land I am not a - fraid

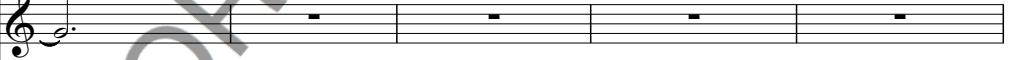
rit.

D

Pno. 

Vln. 

S. 

A. 

B. 

Pno. 

52 [E]

Vln. *p*

S. *p*
Your si - lent pre sence com - forts me

A. *p*
Your si - lent pre sence com - forts me

B. *p*
Your si - lent pre - sence com - forts me

Pno.

57

Vln.

S. *mf*
when You____ dance____ with me____ I for-get to

A. *mf*
when____ You dance with me____ I for-get to

B. *mf*
when____ You dance with me____

Pno.

61 rit.

F Intense, Deliberate $\text{♩} = 120$

Vln.

S. feel un - gain - ly You will cra -

A. feel un - gain - ly You will cra -

B. *mf* un - gain - ly You will cra -

rit.

F Intense, Deliberate $\text{♩} = 120$

Pno. *ff* *submf*

67

Vln. *mf* *mf* $\gg p$

S. - dle me all the days of my life

A. - dle me all the days of my life

B. - dle me all the days of my life

Pno. *bell-like* *p*

rit.

Lilting Motion J.=72 **G**

Vln. 75

S. *mp light, articulate*
spin _____ with me, _____ spin _____

A. *mp light, articulate*
spin _____ with me, _____

B. *mp light, articulate*
spin _____ with me, _____

rit.

Lilting Motion J.=72 **G**

Pno. *mp light, playful*

Vln. 80 *mp*

S. _____ with me, _____ spin, _____ spin _____ with me,

A. _____ spin, _____ spin _____ with me,

B. _____ spin, _____ spin _____ with me, _____ spin, _____

Pno.

85 **H**

Vln. *mf*

S. *mf*
— spin, — spin,

A. *mf*
— spin, — spin,

B. *mf*
— spin, — spin,

*E-F# should be lowest sounding.
Others are alternatives if needed for vocal ranges available.

Pno. **H**

mf

90 **I**

Vln. *subp* — *mf* —

S. — *subp* — spin, — spin, — spin

A. — *subp* — spin, — spin, — spin

B. — *subp* — spin, — spin, — spin

Pno. **I**

subp —

rit.

Ecstatically ♩=66

Vln. ff

S. ff

with me in the stra-tos-sphere for - e - ver

A. ff

with me in the stra-tos-sphere for - e - ver

B. ff

spin with me in the stra-tos-sphere for - e - ver

rit.

Ecstatically ♩=66

Pno. ff

99 J Tenderly ♩=66
sempre pp

Vln.

S. pp

A. pp

B. pp

J Tenderly ♩=66
sempre pp

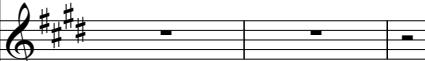
Pno.

105

K

Vln. 

S. 
sempre pp
 Ach, tov va-che-sed yir-d' fu - ni kol-y' mei cha
sempre pp

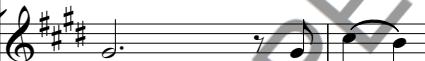
A. 
 Ach, tov va-che-sed yir-d' fu - ni kol-y' mei cha
sempre pp

B. 
 Ach, tov va-che-sed yir-d' fu - ni kol-y' mei cha

Pno. 
sempre pp

111

Vln. 

S. 
 yai; v' - shav - ti b' - veit- A - do - nai, l' - o - rech ya -

A. 
 yai; v' - shav - ti b' - veit- A - do - nai, l' - o - rech ya -

B. 
 yai; v' - shav - ti b' - veit- A - do - nai, l' - o - rech ya -

Pno. 

115

Vln. rit.

S. mim. A men.

A. mim. A men.

B. mim. A men.

Pno. rit.

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