

Sarah Riskind

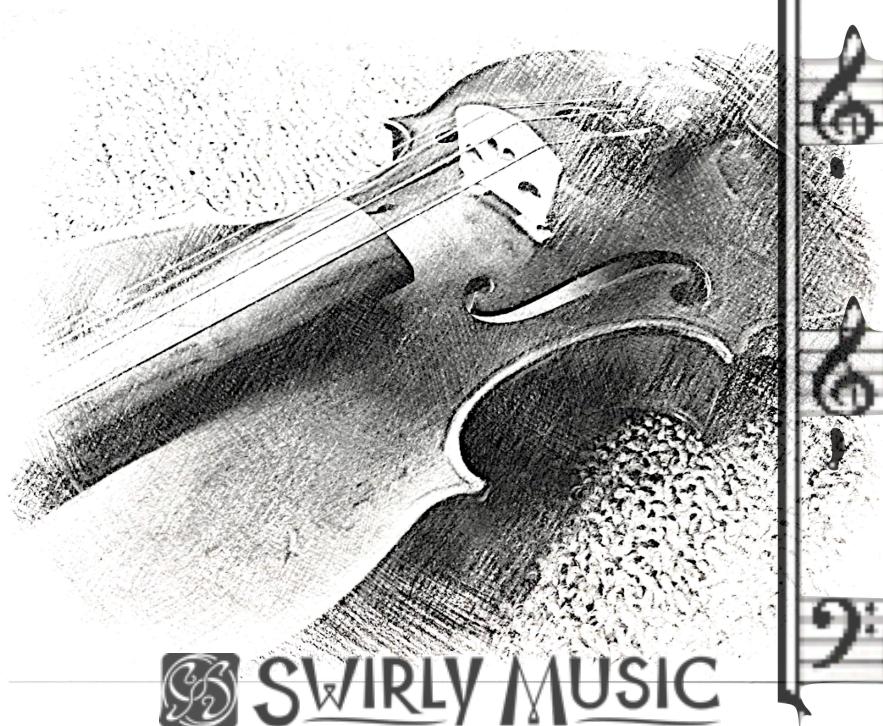
re-voicing of TBB work for Ensemble X at St. Xavier High School

Psalm of the Sky

for SSA 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 vachesed 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

Freely, approx. $\text{♩} = 48$

Violin



rit.

Fluid, Floating

A

$\text{♩} = 60$

Soprano 1

Soprano 2

Alto

Piano

Freely, approx. $\text{♩} = 48$

rit.

A

Fluid, Floating

Vln.



S1.

You are my para chute I will not fall

S2.

You are my para chute I will not fall

A.

You are my para chute I will not fall

Pno.



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11

Vln.

S1. *mp*
in Your arms I float ea - sy and the air buoys me

S2. *mp*
in Your arms I float ea - sy and the air buoys me

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

Pno.

15

Vln. *mp*

S1. *f* *mf* *subito legato* wave

S2. *mf* *subito legato* I can do back-flips, I can wave

A. *mf* *subito legato* I can do back-flips, I can wave,

Pno. **B** *boisterously* *f* *mf* *subito legato*

19

Vln.

S1.

S2.

A.

Pno.

to my fel-low sky - di- vers

sky - di- vers I can

I can wave sky - di- vers

mf

p

23

Vln.

S1.

S2.

A.

pp *very still, non espressivo*

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

Pno.

pp

ff

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

Vln.

S1.

S2.

A.

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

Pno.

Vln.

S1.

S2.

A.

Pno.

rit.

D

43

Vln.   

S1. I am not a - fraid

S2. I am not a - fraid

A. land I am not a - fraid

Pno. rit.  



E

49

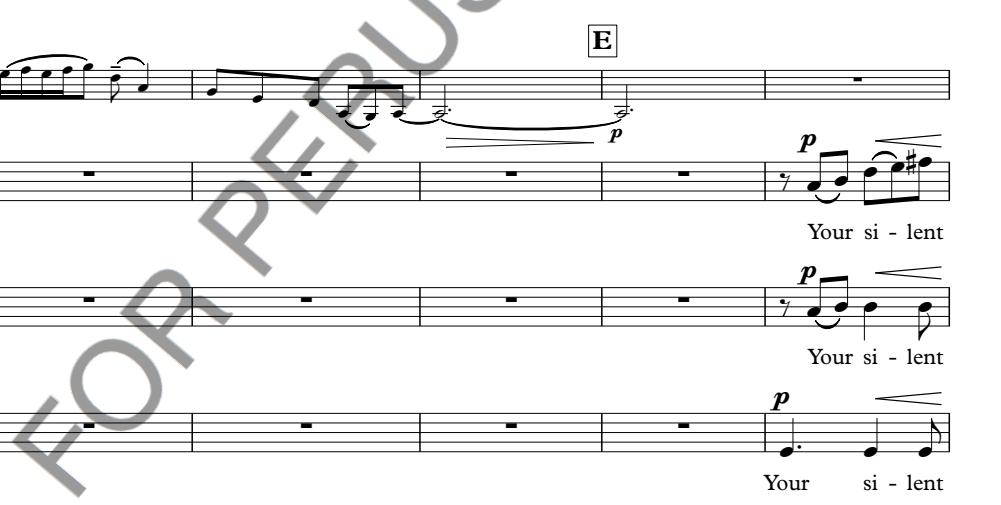
Vln. 

S1. Your si - lent

S2. Your si - lent

A. Your si - lent

Pno. 



54

Vln.

S1.

S2.

A.

Pno.

presence com - forts me when You
presence com - forts me when
presence com - forts me when

59

Vln.

S1.

S2.

A.

Pno.

rit.

mf

mf

mf

mf

mf

mf

rit.

dance with me I for-get to feel un - gain - ly
You dance with me I for-get to feel un - gain - ly
You dance with me un - gain - ly

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

Vln. - - - - - $\frac{1}{2}$ mf

S1. You will cra - dle me all the days of my

S2. You will cra - dle me all the days of my

A. You will cra - dle me all the days of my

Pno. **ff** *submf* bell-like

71 **G** $\text{♩} = 72$ *Lilting Motion*

Vln. mf p rit.

S1. life mp light, articulate spin

S2. life

A. life mp light, articulate spin

Pno. p rit. **G** $\text{♩} = 72$ *Lilting Motion* mp light, playful

78

Vln.

S1. — with me, — spin with me, spin, —

S2. *mp light, articulate* spin with me, spin, —

A. — with me, — spin, — spin

Pno.

83

Vln.

S1. spin with me, — spin,

S2. spin with me, — spin,

A. — with me, — spin, — spin,

Pno.

H

mf

87

Vln.

S1.

S2.

A.

Pno.

spin,

spin,

spin,

spin,

subp

subp

92

Vln.

S1.

S2.

A.

Pno.

rit.

Ecstatically $\text{♩} = 66$

subp

spin,

spin,

spin

with me

subp

spin,

spin,

spin

with me

ff

ff

ff

ff

ff

ff

I

rit.

Ecstatically $\text{♩} = 66$

ff

97

Vln.

S1.

S2.

A.

Pno.

J Tenderly =66
sempre pp

in the stratosphere for - e - ver

in the stratosphere for - e - ver

in the stratosphere for - e - ver

FOR PERUSAL USE ONLY

101

Vln.

S1.

S2.

A.

Pno.

FOR PERUSAL USE ONLY

106

K

Vln.

S1. *sempre pp*
Ach, tov va-che-sed yir-d' fu - ni kol- y'-mei cha-

S2. *sempre pp*
Ach, tov va-che-sed yir-d' fu - ni kol- y'-mei cha-

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

Pno.

K

sempre pp

111

Vln.

S1. yai; v' - shav - ti b' - veit- A-do - nai, l' - o - rech ya -

S2. 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 -

Pno.

115

Vln. rit.

S1. *mim.* A *men.*

S2. *mim.* A *men.*

A. *mim.* A *men.*

Pno. rit.

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