



# I WILL LIFT UP MINE EYES

for SATB chorus divisi a cappella

[ 2024-2025 ]

*Commissioned and premiered by  
Modern Sound Collective - Kai Leung, artistic director*

text

PSALM 121 (KJV)

music by

H. ZACK FERNS

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Modern  
Sound  
Collective

## ABOUT THE PIECE

My setting one of the most well-known and beloved Psalms is a musical meditation on its messages of hope, peace, and comfort. In aiming to musically communicate the Psalm's meaning, I emphasized clear delivery of the text, aided by lyrical melodies and lush, full harmonies. It is therefore my hope that this setting only enriches the experience of listening to this beautiful text.

**Performance Notes:** This piece will require frequent stagger breathing from the choir in order to ensure unbroken delivery of the long phrases. Moments where breaths should be taken are indicated by breath marks, and moments where breaths should be avoided are indicated by dashed slurs. These markings should be observed carefully. The contrapuntal lines should create a sort of "wash" of motion that is emphasized without obscuring the melody in the soprano (and occasionally other) parts.

## MSC Presents

*MSC Presents*, launched in 2023 by Toronto's Modern Sound Collective (artistic director: Kai Leung), is a progressive new publication label serving as a professional distribution platform for the music of MSC-affiliated composers. Offering an extremely competitive royalty rate to its artists, this initiative aims to create accessible opportunities for growth and collaboration for the many talented young choral composers in the GTA and beyond.

## ORIGINAL TEXT

### Psalm 121 (KJV)

<sup>1</sup> *I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills,  
From whence cometh my help.*

<sup>2</sup> *My help cometh from the LORD,  
Which made heaven and earth.*

<sup>3</sup> *He will not suffer thy foot to be moved:  
He that keepeth thee will not slumber.*

<sup>4</sup> *Behold, he that keepeth Israel  
Shall neither slumber nor sleep.*

<sup>5</sup> *The LORD is thy keeper:  
The LORD is thy shade upon thy right hand.*

<sup>6</sup> *The sun shall not smite thee by day,  
Nor the moon by night.*

<sup>7</sup> *The LORD shall preserve thee from all evil:  
He shall preserve thy soul.*

<sup>8</sup> *The LORD shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in  
From this time forth, and even for evermore.*

## ABOUT THE COMPOSER

**H. Zack Ferns** (b. 2002) is a composer, music theory student, pianist, and choral singer currently pursuing a Master of Music in Music Theory at Indiana University's Jacobs School of Music. He is an alumnus of Western University's Don Wright Faculty of Music from where he holds a Bachelor of Music in Composition. He also holds the ARCT in Piano Performance from the Royal Conservatory of Music, Toronto. As a composer, Zack mainly composes for



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choir, and he enjoys setting texts by Canadian poets.

Zack grew up in Hamilton, Ontario, and music has always been a large part of his life. He has played the piano since he was four years old, and was always involved in other musical endeavours growing up. Recently, he has enjoyed being a member of the Western University

Singers, and now sings with NOTUS, the Indiana University Contemporary Vocal Ensemble.

## PRINTING

Choral scores distributed by *MSC Presents* are formatted for saddle-stitch 8.5x11 printing.

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Gently, with intention  $\text{♩} = 40$   
*mp*

SOPRANO  
I will lift up mine eyes un - to the hills, From

ALTO  
I will lift up mine eyes un - to the hills, From

TENOR  
I will lift up mine eyes un - to the hills, From

BASS  
I will lift up mine eyes un - to the hills, From

PIANO  
Gently, with intention  $\text{♩} = 40$

6

S. *mf* *p* *pp*  
 whence com-eth my help. My help com-eth from the

A. *mf* *p* *pp*  
 whence com-eth my help. My help com-eth from the

T. *mf* *p* *pp*  
 whence com-eth my help. My help com-eth from the

B. *mf* *p* *pp*  
 whence com-eth my help. My help com-eth from the

Pno.

12

S. *mf* *f* *mp*  
 LORD, Which made heav-en and earth.

A. *mf* *f* *mp*  
 LORD, Which made heav-en and earth.

T. *mf* *f* *mp* *mf*  
 LORD, Which made heav-en and earth. He

B. *mf* *f* *mp* *mf*  
 LORD, Which made heav-en and earth. He

Pno.

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17 Poco rubato, with a speech-like flow  $\text{♩} = 60$

S.

A.

T. will not suf-fer thy foot to be moved: He that keep-eth thee will not slum-ber. Be - hold, he that

B. will not suf-fer thy foot to be moved: He that keep-eth thee will not slum-ber. Be - hold, he that

Poco rubato, with a speech-like flow  $\text{♩} = 60$

Pno.

23 With mystery  $\text{♩} = 55$

S. The LORD is thy keep - er:

A. The LORD is thy keep - er: The

T. keep-eth Is - ra - el shall nei-ther slum-ber nor sleep.---

B. keep-eth Is - ra - el Shall nei-ther slum-ber nor sleep.---

With mystery  $\text{♩} = 55$

Pno.

30

S. *mp* is thy shade up-on thy right hand. The sun shall not smite thee by day, *mf*

A. *mp* LORD is thy shade up-on thy right hand. The sun shall not smite thee by day. *mf*

T.

B.

Pno.

37

S. *mp* Nor the moon by night. *f* The LORD shall pre-serve thee from all *ff* With great passion  $\text{♩} = 50$

A. *mp* Nor the moon by night. *f* The LORD shall pre-serve thee from all *ff*

T. (1.) Nor the moon by night. *mf* The LORD shall pre-serve thee from all *ff*

B. (2.) Nor the moon by night. *mf* The LORD shall pre-serve thee from all *ff*

Pno. *rit.* With great passion  $\text{♩} = 50$

44

*rit.* *p*

S. e - vil He shall pre - serve thy soul. The

A. e - vil: He shall pre - serve thy soul. The

T. e - vil: He shall pre - serve thy soul. The

B. e - vil: He shall pre - serve thy soul. The

Pno.

49 *Slightly slower*  $\text{♩} = 45$

*mf*

S. LORD shall pre - serve thy go - ing out and thy com - ing in From this time

A. LORD shall pre - serve thy go - ing out and thy com - ing in From this time

T. LORD shall pre - serve thy go - ing out and thy com - ing in From this time

B. LORD shall pre - serve thy go - ing out and thy com - ing in From this time

*Slightly slower*  $\text{♩} = 45$

Pno.

55

S. *mp* *p* *pp*  
forth, and e - ven for - ev - er - more.

A. *mp* *p* *pp*  
forth, and e - ven for - ev - er - more.

T. *mp* *p* *pp*  
forth, and e - ven for - ev - er - more.

B. *mp* *p* *pp*  
forth, and e - ven for - ev - er - more.

Pno.

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TITLE	COMPOSER	VOICING/INSTRUMENTATION	TEXT	DUR.	YEAR	SKU
<a href="#"><u>The Affable Enigma</u></a>	<b>Danial Sheibani</b>	SSSAAATTTBB a cappella	Rūmī	3 min	2021	MSC0009
<a href="#"><u>Dawn, Where Are You Now?</u></a>	<b>Sami Anguaya</b>	SSAATTBB, piano, 2 woodblocks	Sami Anguaya	4 min	2024	MSC0013
<a href="#"><u>Generation 2.5</u></a>	<b>Kai Leung</b>	SSAATTBB a cappella	Kai Leung	7 min	2024	MSC0014
<a href="#"><u>Gratitude</u></a>	<b>H. Zack Ferns</b>	SATB a cappella	L.M. Montgomery	4 min	2024	MSC0017
<a href="#"><u>Hope is the Thing with Feathers</u></a>	<b>Rémi St-Jacques</b>	SATB a cappella	Emily Dickinson	3.5 min	2020	MSC0019
<a href="#"><u>I.</u></a>	<b>Michael Nunes</b>	SSAATTBB a cappella	Erica Kath	3 min	2019	MSC0018
<a href="#"><u>I Will Lift Up Mine Eyes</u></a>	<b>H. Zack Ferns</b>	SSAATTBB a cappella	Psalm 121 (KJV)	3 min	2024	MSC0022
<a href="#"><u>In the Lemon Groves</u></a>	<b>Kento Stratford</b>	SSAATTBB & piano	James Clarke	7 min	2024	MSC0023
<a href="#"><u>Jabberwocky</u></a>	<b>Nicholas Wanstall</b>	SATB & piano	Lewis Carroll	6 min	2024	MSC0024
<a href="#"><u>Lying Awake, Waiting</u></a>	<b>Sami Anguaya</b>	SSAATTBB a cappella	Tom Robinson & Sami Anguaya	4 min	2022	MSC0001
<a href="#"><u>May This Place</u></a>	<b>Nicholas Wanstall</b>	SSAATB a cappella	Nicholas Wanstall	3 min	2018	MSC0006
<a href="#"><u>Ah, Moon of My Delight!</u></a>	<b>Hirad Moradi</b>	SSAATTBB a cappella	Omar Khayyam	8 min	2022	MSC0015
<a href="#"><u>Le Pont Mirabeau</u></a>	<b>Nicholas Wanstall</b>	SATB, soloist, & piano	Guillaume Apollinaire	4 min	2024	MSC0016
<a href="#"><u>Remember</u></a>	<b>Madox Terrell</b>	SSAATTBB a cappella	Christina Rossetti	2.5 min	2020	MSC0010
<a href="#"><u>The Sirens' Song</u></a>	<b>Carol Kayee Mak</b>	SSATBB & piano	William Browne	5 min	2019	MSC0008
<a href="#"><u>Somewhere in Space</u></a>	<b>Emily Green</b>	SSAA & percussion trio	Edith Södergran	3.5 min	2023	MSC0002
<a href="#"><u>Spring and Fall</u></a>	<b>Elizabeth Legierski</b>	SSAATTBB a cappella	Gerard Manley Hopkins	3 min	2018	MSC0007
<a href="#"><u>That Shadow, My Likeness</u></a>	<b>Francesca Hauser</b>	SSAATTBB & piano	Walt Whitman & Christina Rossetti	4 min	2024	MSC0013
<a href="#"><u>This is Not Love</u></a>	<b>Tyrese Walters</b>	SSAATTBB a cappella	Elsa Gidlow	3 min	2024	MSC0020
<a href="#"><u>'Tis Moonlight</u></a>	<b>Pari Bahrami</b>	SSAATTBB & piano	Emily Jane Brontë	6 min	2024	MSC0021
<a href="#"><u>Too Still for Dreams</u></a>	<b>E.K.R. Hammell</b>	SSAATTBB & piano	A.E. Wetherald	4.5 min	2022	MSC0003
<a href="#"><u>Twilight</u></a>	<b>Francesca Hauser</b>	SSAATTBB & piano	Sara Teasdale	3.5 min	2022	MSC0004
<a href="#"><u>What the Silence Offers</u></a>	<b>Emily Green</b>	SSAATTBB, soloist, & amplified speaker	Erica Kath	9 min	2022	MSC0012
<a href="#"><u>When David Heard</u></a>	<b>Kai Leung</b>	SSAATTBB a cappella	2 Samuel 18:33	3 min	2022	MSC0005