

Andrew Mark Sauerwein

Out of Psalm 63

for
String Orchestra

2017

Program Note

Out of Psalm 63 is not so much a “setting” or commentary as it is an inner response to the relationship described by the psalmist. The music is a slow chant, elaborated with resonant echoes and various harmonic colors. The expressive landscape does not follow the sequence of ideas in the psalm, particularly: instead, the music impulsively and longingly ponders the psalms imagery. It seems best for listeners to read the text, savor the sound, and engage with the relationships.

Psalm 63

A psalm of David, when he was in the Desert of Judah.

You, God, are my God,
earnestly I seek you;
I thirst for you,
my whole being longs for you,
in a dry and parched land
where there is no water.

I have seen you in the sanctuary
and beheld your power and your glory.
Because your love is better than life,
my lips will glorify you.
I will praise you as long as I live,
and in your name I will lift up my hands.
I will be fully satisfied as with the richest of foods;
with singing lips my mouth will praise you.

On my bed I remember you;
I think of you through the watches of the night.
Because you are my help,
I sing in the shadow of your wings.
I cling to you;
your right hand upholds me.

Those who want to kill me will be destroyed;
they will go down to the depths of the earth.
They will be given over to the sword
and become food for jackals.

But the king will rejoice in God;
all who swear by God will glory in him,
while the mouths of liars will be silenced.

Out of Psalm 63

(For String Orchestra)

Andrew Mark Sauerwein

(♩ = ca. 60-66) Fluidly, With Calm Intensity

Violin I: *p*

Violin II: *pp*, Div. *pp*, Unis. *V*

Viola: *pp*

Cello: *pp*

Contrabass: *pp*

Violin I: *pp*, *p*

Violin II: *ppp*, *pp*

Viola: *pp*, *pp*

Cello: *p*, *pp*

Contrabass: *p*, *pp*

Section A

Tempo changes: Slightly Slower, *a tempo*

Out of Psalm 63 ~ 2

11

Slightly Slower

B *a tempo*

Vln. I *pp* *p*

Vln. II *ppp* *ppp* *mp* *p*

Vla. *pp* *Unis.*

Vc. *pp*

Cb. *pp*

16

Vln. I *p* *mp*

Vln. II *p* *mp*

Vla. *p* *mp*

Vc. *p*

Cb. *p*

Out of Psalm 63 ~ 3

21

Vln. I *pp* *p* *mp* *p*

Vln. II *pp* *p* *mp* *p*

Vla. *pp* *p* Div.

Vc. *p*

Cb. *p*

26

Vln. I *pp* *mp* *mf*

Vln. II *pp* *mp* *mf*

Vla. Unis. *pp* Div. *mp* *mf*

Vc. *pp* *mp* *mf*

Cb. *mp* *mf*

More Insistently

32

Vln. I *f* *p* *mp* *p*

Vln. II *f* *pp*

Vla. *f* Div. *pp* Unis. *p* Div.

Vc. Div. *f* *p*

Cb. *f*

More Calmly & Slowly

a tempo

D

Violins I and II, Viola, Violoncello, and Contrabasso. The score is in 3/4 time, key of D major (F# C# G#), and measures 38 to 41. Violins I and II play a melodic line starting on G#4, moving up to A#4 and then B5. Viola plays a supporting line starting on G#3, moving up to A#3 and then B4. Violoncello and Contrabasso play a supporting line starting on G#2, moving up to A#2 and then B3. Dynamics include mp, mf, pp, p, and cresc. (crescendo).

E

poco rit. ----- **Decisively**

Somewhat More Calmly
(*a tempo*)

Out of Psalm 63 ~ 5

Calmly, Slowly

F

Tempo I

54

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

mp

p

mp

p

mp

p

Div.

Unis. V

60

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

mp

p

mp

p

mp

ppp

mp

Unis. V

Unis. V

3

G

66

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

pp

p

pp

pp

p

pp

p

pp

p

Div.

Out of Psalm 63 ~ 6

72

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

Unis. V

mp

p

pp

p

p

p

3

[illegible][illegible]