# 7 **150 Psalms** Powerlessness

Sun 1 Mar 2020, 5pm, Adelaide Hebrew Congregation

The Song Company Antony Pitts, conductor Anthony Hunt, organ

# Introduction by Nam Le

Johannes Ockeghem (ca.1410-1497)	Psalm 42, <i>Sicut cervus</i>
John Everet (fl. 1725-1760)	Psalm 56
Robert Parsons (1535-1572)	Psalm 59, Deliver me from mine enemies
<b>Charles Ives</b> (1874-1954)	Psalm 54
François Regnard (ca.1535-ca.1595)	Psalm 64, Domine exaudi orationem meam
<b>Jean Philippe Rameau</b> (1683-1764)	Psalm 69, <i>Laboravi</i>
Benjamin Britten (1913-1976)	Psalm 70, Deus in adjutorium meum
Sigismondo d'India (1582-1629)	Psalm 55, <i>Timor et tremor</i>
Christoph Buel (1574-1631)	Psalm 88, Domine Deus salutis meae
<b>Orlando di Lasso</b> (1532-1594)	Psalm 140, Custodi me, Domine
Sven-David Sandström (1942-2019)	Psalm 102, Hear my prayer, O Lord
William Knyvett (1779-1856)	Psalm 108
Josquin des Prez (ca.1450-1521)	Psalm 38, Domine, ne in furore

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#### Nam Le, speaker

**Nam Le**'s first book, *The Boat*, was translated into fifteen languages and received over a dozen major awards in Australia, America and Europe. Its stories have been widely anthologised, adapted and taught internationally. Le's second book, *On David Malouf*, was published in May 2019. He lives in Melbourne.

# Programme note by Ramsey Nasr

The fight against evil people has been fought throughout history. But who decides what is good and what is evil? The supreme judge! Swüste: 'Man in distress. In the Psalms this means almost dead, with one foot in the grave. There is nonetheless often faith that things will turn out fine. But in Psalm 88, for example, that is not the case. [...] There is the conviction that you can always turn to God with what has befallen you. Both with your sadness and your anger, even though the latter is not always reasonable. There is absolutely no question of "love your enemy". [...] Man clamours, shouts out what troubles him. To God you can say or shout anything.'

This programme is full of bemoaning and clamouring. After all, somewhere there is a listening ear. On the other hand, many composers, up until the 20th century, knew that a genuine lament did not belong in the liturgy. Practically nowhere was so much emotion permitted. And many a composer who did yield to the temptation was called to account by the powers that be. But the tiniest nuance can conceal a great

deal of emotion. Johannes Ockeghem, Josquin des Prez, Robert Parsons, François Regnard, Orlande de Lassus, Sigismondo d'India and Christoph Buel were all masters of that art. They abided by the rules of polyphony and modality, while at the same time managing to remain true to themselves. Rameau is also remarkably reflective in his lamentation Laboravi clamans. On the other hand, Charles Ives. Beniamin Britten and Sven-Arne **Sandström** are a little bolder. lyes with his trademark clashing harmonies and stacked chords. Britten opted for a varied and highly linguistic rendering of the text, based on unison singing. And Sandström took another well-known psalm as his starting point, namely *Hear my prayer* by Purcell, and allowed it to burst its banks.

#### Johannes Ockeghem (ca.1410-1497) Psalm 42, Sicut cervus

2. Sicut cervus desiderat ad fontes aquarum, ita desiderat anima mea ad te, Deus.

2. As a hart longs for the flowing streams, so longs my soul for Thee, O God.

#### John Everet (fl. 1725-1760) Psalm 56

12. I'll trust God's word and so despise the force that man can raise;

13. to Thee, O God, my vows are due, to Thee I'll render praise;

14. Thou hast retrieved my soul from death and Thou will still secure the life Thou hast so oft preserved and make my footsteps sure; that thus protected, by Thy power, I may this light enjoy: and in the service of my God my lengthened days employ.

#### Robert Parsons (1535-1572) Psalm 59, Deliver me from mine enemies

2. Deliver me from mine enemies, O God: defend me from them that rise up against me.

3. O deliver me from the wicked doers: and save me from all blood-thirsty men.

60:13 O be Thou our help in trouble: for vain is the help of man.

#### Charles Ives (1874-1954) Psalm 54

3. Save me, O God, by Thy name, and judge me by Thy strength.

4. Hear my prayer, O God; give ear to the words of my mouth.

5. For strangers are risen up against me, and oppressors seek after my soul: they have not set God before them.

6. Behold, God is mine helper: the Lord is with them that uphold my soul.

7. He shall reward evil unto mine enemies: cut them off in Thy truth.

8. I will freely sacrifice unto Thee: I will praise Thy name, O Lord; for it is good.

9. For He hath delivered me out of all trouble: and mine eye hath seen His desire upon mine enemies.

Amen.

### François Regnard (ca.1535-ca.1595) Psalm 64, Domine exaudi orationem meam

2. Domine exaudi orationem meam, auribus percipe obsecratronem meam.

Quia persecutus est inimicus animam meam, humiliavit in terra vitam meam.

3. Collocavit me in obscuris sicut mortuos sæculi, et anxiatus est super me spiritus meus, in me turbatum est cor meum.

#### II

143:6 Expandi manus meas ad te, anima mea sicut terra sine aqua tibi.

143:7 Velociter exaudi me Domine, defecit spiritus meus. Non avertas faciem tuam a me, et similis ero descendentibus in lacum.

143:8 Auditam fac mihi manè misericordiam tuam, quia in te speravi.

### L

2. Hear, O God, my voice in my prayer; from fear of the enemy You shall guard my life.

3. You shall hide me from the counsel of evildoers, from the gathering of workers of iniquity.

Ш

or I hope in You:

143:6 I spread out my hands to You; my heart is like a weary land to You forever.

143:7 Answer me quickly,O Lord, my spirit pines.Do not hide Your countenance from me,lest I be likened to those who descend into the pit.143:8 Let me hear Your kindness in the morning,

#### Jean Philippe Rameau (1683-1764) Psalm 69, Laboravi

4. Laboravi clamans, raucæ factæ sunt fauces meæ; defecerunt oculi mei, dum spero in Deum meum.  I have become weary from calling out; my throat has become parched; my eyes fail while I wait for my God.

#### Benjamin Britten (1913-1976) Psalm 70, Deus in adjutorium meum...

2. Deus, in adjutorium meum intende, Domine ad adjuvandum me festina.

3. Confundantur et revereantur qui quaerunt animam meam. Avertantur retrorsum, et erubescant, qui volunt mihi mala.

4. Avertantur statim erubescentes, qui dicunt mihi: euge.

5. Exsultent et laetentur in te omnes qui quaerunt te, et dicant semper: 'Magnificetur Dominus', qui diligunt salutare tuum.

6. Ego vero egenus et pauper, Deus, adjuva me. Adjutor meus et liberator meus es tu; Domine, ne moreris. 2. Haste Yhee, O God, to deliver me: make haste to help me, O Lord.

3. Let them be ashamed and confounded that seek after my soul: let them be turned backward and put to confusion that wish me evil.

4. Let them for their reward be soon brought to shame: that cry over me, there, there.

5. But let all those that seek Thee be joyful and glad in Thee: and let all such as delight in Thy salvation say always, the Lord be praised.

6. As for me, I am poor and in misery: haste Thee unto me, O God. Thou art my helper and my redeemer: O Lord, make no long tarrying.

#### doxology

Gloria Patri et Filio et Spiritui Sancto. Sicut erat in principio, et nunc et semper, et in saecula saeculorum.

Amen.

Glory to the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

#### Sigismondo d'India (1582-1629) Psalm 55, Timor et tremor

6. Timor et tremor venerunt super me, et contexerunt me tenebræ.

7. Et dixi: quis dabit mihi pennas sicut columbæ, et volabo, et requiescam?

6. Fear and trembling come upon me, and horror overcomes me.

7. And I said, 'If only I had wings like a dove! I would fly away and be at rest.'

#### Christoph Buel (1574-1631) Psalm 88, Domine Deus salutis meae

2. Domine Deus salutis meæ, in die clamavi et nocte coram te.

3. Intret in conspectu tuo oratio mea, inclina aurem tuam ad precem meam.

4. Quia repleta est malis anima mea, et vita mea inferno appropinquavit.

2. O Lord, the God of my salvation! I cried by day; at night I was opposite You.

3. May my prayer come before You; extend Your ear to my supplication.

4. For my soul is sated with troubles, and my life has reached the grave.

#### Orlando di Lasso (1532-1594) Psalm 140, Custodi me, Domine

5. Custodi me, Domine, de manu peccatoris, et ab hominibus iniquis eripe me.

5. Keep me, O Lord, from the hands of the wicked; protect me from the violent.

#### Sven-David Sandström (1942-2019) Psalm 102, Hear my prayer, O Lord

2. Hear my prayer, O Lord, and let my cry come unto thee.

#### William Knyvett (1779-1856) Psalm 108

4. I will praise Thee, O Lord, among the people:

and I will sing praises unto Thee among the nations.

5. For Thy mercy is great above the heavens: and Thy truth reacheth unto the clouds.

6. Be Thou exalted, O God, above the heavens: and Thy glory above all the earth;

7. that Thy beloved may be delivered: save with Thy right hand, and answer me.

8. God hath spoken in His holiness; I will rejoice, I will divide Shechem, and mete out the valley of Succoth.

9. Gilead is mine; Manasseh is mine; Ephraim also is the strength of mine head; Judah is my lawgiver; 10. Moab is my washpot; over Edom will I cast out my shoe; over Philistia will I triumph.

11. Who will bring me into the strong city? Who will lead me into Edom?

12. Wilt not Thou, O God, who hast cast us off? And wilt not Thou, O God, go forth with our hosts?

13. Give us help from trouble: for vain is the help of man.

14. Through God we shall do valiantly: for He it is that shall tread down our enemies.

### Josquin des Prez (ca.1450-1521) Psalm 38, Domine, ne in furore

I

2. Domine, ne in furore tuo arguas me, neque in ira tua corripias me:

3. quoniam sagittae tuae infixae sunt mihi, et confirmasti super me manum tuam.

4. Non est sanitas in carne mea, a facie irae tuae; non est pax ossibus meis, a facie peccatorum meorum:

7. Miser factus sum et curvatus sum usque in finem;

tota die contristatus ingrediebar.

#### II

11. Cor meum conturbatum est; dereliquit me virtus mea,

et lumen oculorum meorum, et ipsum non est mecum.

22. Ne derelinquas me, Domine Deus meus; ne discesseris a me.

23. Intende in adjutorium meum, Domine Deus salutis meae.

#### L

2. O Lord, do not reprove me with Your anger, nor chastise me with Your wrath.

3. For Your arrows have been shot into me, and Your hand has come down upon me.

4. There is no soundness in my flesh because of Your fury;

there is no peace in my bones because of my sin.

7. I am very much stunned and bowed; all day I go around in gloom.

# II

11. My heart is engulfed; my strength has left me,

and the light of my eyes, they too are not with me.

22. Do not forsake me, O Lord, my God; do not distance Yourself from me.

23. Hasten to my aid, O Lord, my salvation. DANCE / FRANCE

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