

10 150 Psalms

Path of Life

Mon 2 Mar 2020, 8pm, St Francis Xavier Cathedral

The Norwegian Soloists' Choir
Grete Pedersen, conductor
Lars Notto Birkeland, organ

Introduction by Tony Birch

Fartein Valen (1887-1952)	Psalm 121
Arvo Pärt (b. 1935)	Psalm 122, <i>Peace upon you, Jerusalem</i>
Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina (ca.1525-1594)	Psalm 123, <i>Ad te levavi oculos meos</i>
Sir Peter Maxwell Davies (1934-2016) arr. Grete Pedersen	Psalm 124, Old-Scottish tune from Three Organ Voluntaries, part 1
Heinrich Isaac (ca.1450-1517)	Psalm 125, <i>Qui confidunt in Domino</i>
Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)	Psalm 126, <i>Selig sind, die da leid tragen</i>
Heinrich Ignaz von Biber (1644-1704)	Psalm 127, <i>Nisi Dominus</i>
Cristóbal de Morales (ca.1500-1553)	Psalm 128, <i>Beati omnes</i>
Evelin Seppar (b. 1986)	Psalm 129 (Australian premiere)
Ingvar Lidholm (b. 1921)	Psalm 130, <i>De profundis, From A Dream Play</i>
William Mundy (ca.1529-1591)	Psalm 131, <i>Domine, non est exaltatum</i>
Guillaume Bouzignac (ca.1587-ca.1643)	Psalm 132, <i>In pace in idipsum</i>
Jean Richafort (1480-ca.1547)	Psalm 133, <i>Ecce quam bonum</i>
Karin Rehnquist (b. 1957)	Psalm 134, <i>När natten skänker frid</i>

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Tony Birch, speaker

Tony Birch is an academic, activist, curator and author. A recipient of the Patrick White Award in 2017, his books include *Ghost River*, which won the 2016 Victorian Premier's Literary Award for Indigenous Writing, *Blood*, which was shortlisted for the Miles Franklin Award, and his new book *The White Girl*. He joined Victoria University in 2015 as the inaugural recipient of its Dr Bruce McGuinness Indigenous Research Fellowship and is now a Senior Research Fellow.

Programme note by Désanne van Brederode

The people led out of Egypt by Moses wandered long and far, not only then but until very recently. This makes them a symbol for all the other peoples and individuals who for so many centuries have wandered the earth, from country to country and from continent to continent. Swüste: 'In fact the pilgrim's journey serves as a model for the life of every person. The so-called "pilgrimage psalms" (120-134) together describe what happens to you on such a path of life. [...] Each of these psalms is actually a brief moment of reflection on what someone may expect to encounter during his or her life. They are all fairly short psalms which a person can sing on their journey through life.' It goes without saying that the Norwegians have included some Northern European works in their programme, which are more recent in date. In 1909 Norwegian **Fartein Valen** composed his extensive setting of Psalm 121 for choir and orchestra. The version with organ accompaniment is the work of Kjell Mork Karlsen. Psalm 122 by Estonian **Arvo Pärt** was written in 2002.

And Psalm 130 by Swede **Ingvar Lidholm** was composed in 1983, in combination with a text by August Strindberg, taken from the highly expressionistic play *A Dream Play*. If we're willing to describe the Scottish island of Orkney as belonging to the Nordic countries, then **Peter Maxwell Davies** may also join this list. His Old Scottish Tune setting of Psalm 124 is an organ arrangement which Grete Pedersen subsequently reworked for choir as a tribute to 'Max'. And finally, the young Estonian composer **Evelin Seppar** has created a new setting of Psalm 129.

Is this not a golden opportunity to compare these works from the north with Psalm 123 by **Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina** and Psalm 128 by **Cristobal de Morales**? And with the psalms of **Heinrich von Biber** and **Johannes Brahms**, or **Guillaume Bouzignac** and **Jean Richafort**? Just as mankind has roamed from country to country, this programme is in itself a veritable journey.

Fartein Valen (1887-1952) Psalm 121

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| 1. Ich hebe meine Augen auf zu den Bergen;
wovon wird mir Hilfe kommen? | 1. I shall raise my eyes to the mountains,
from where will my help come? |
| 2. Meine Hilfe kommt von dem Herrn
der Himmel und Erde gemacht hat. | 2. My help is from the Lord,
the maker of heaven and earth. |
| 3. Er wird deinen Fuß nicht gleiten lassen,
und der dich behütet, schläft nicht. | 3. He will not allow your foot to falter;
your guardian will not slumber. |
| 7. Der Herr behüte dich von allem Übel.
er behüte deine Seele. | 7. The Lord will guard you from all evil;
He will guard your soul. |
| 8. Er behüte deinen Ausgang und Eingang
von nun an und in Ewigkeit. | 8. The Lord will guard your going out and
your coming in from now and to eternity. |

Arvo Pärt (b. 1935), Psalm 122, Peace upon you, Jerusalem

1. I rejoiced that they said to me,
'Let us go to the house of Yahweh.'
2. At last our feet are standing
at your gates, Jerusalem!
3. Jerusalem, built as a city,
in one united whole,
4. there the tribes go up,
the tribes of Yahweh,
a sign for Israel to give thanks
to the name of Yahweh.
5. For there are set the thrones of judgement,
the thrones of the house of David.
6. Pray for the peace of Jerusalem,
prosperity for your homes!
7. Peace within your walls,
prosperity in your palaces!
8. For love of my brothers
and my friends I will say,
'Peace upon you!'
9. For love of the house of Yahweh our God
I will pray for your well-being.

Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina (ca.1525-1594) Psalm 123, Ad te levavi oculos meos

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| 1. Ad te levavi oculos meos,
qui habitas in caelis. | 1. To You I lift up my eyes,
to You enthroned in the heavens. |
| 2. Ecce sicut oculi servorum,
in manibus dominorum suorum,
sicut oculi ancillae
in manibus dominae suae;
ita oculi nostri ad Dominum Deum
nostrum donec misereatur nostri. | 2. As the eyes of servants
look to the hand of their masters,
and the eyes of a maid
to the hand of her mistress.
So our eyes look to the Lord our God,
until He shows us his mercy. |

Sir Peter Maxwell Davies (1934-2016) arr. Grete Pedersen, Psalm 124,
Old-Scottish tune from Three Organ Voluntaries, part 1

1. Let Israel now say in thankfulness that if the
Lord had not our right maintained,
2. and if the Lord had not with us remained,
when cruel men against us rose to strive,
3. we'd surely had been swallowed up alive.

Heinrich Isaac (ca.1450-1517) Psalm 125, *Qui confidunt in Domino*

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| 1. Qui confidunt in Domino,
sicut mons Sion:
non commovebitur in aeternum,
qui habitat | 1. Those who trust in the Lord
are like Mount Zion,
which cannot be moved,
but stands fast for ever. |
| 2. in Ierusalem.
Montes in circuitu eius:
et Dominus in circuitu populi sui,
ex hoc nunc et usque in saeculum. | 2. The hills stand
about Jerusalem;
so does the Lord stand round about His
people,
from this time forth for evermore. |

Johannes Brahms (1833-1897) Psalm 126, *Selig sind, die da Leid tragen*

Matthaus 5:4 Selig sind, die da Leid tragen,
denn sie sollen getröstet werden.

5. Die mit Tränen säen,
werden mit Freuden ernten.
6. Sie gehen hin und weinen
und tragen edlen Samen,
7. und kommen mit Freuden
und bringen ihre Garben.

Matthew 5:4 Blessed are they that mourn,
for they shall be comforted.

5. They that sow in tears
shall reap in joy.
6. He that goeth forth and weepeth,
bearing precious seed,
7. shall doubtless come again with rejoicing,
bringing his sheaves with him.

Heinrich Ignaz von Biber (1644-1704) Psalm 127, *Nisi Dominus*

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Nisi Dominus aedificaverit domum,
in vanum laboraverunt qui aedificant
eam.
Nisi Dominus custodierit civitatem,
frustra vigilat qui custodit eam.2. Vanum est vobis ante lucem surgere:
surgite postquam sederitis
qui manducatis panem doloris.
Cum dederit dilectis suis somnum:3. Ecce hereditas Domini filii:
mercis fructum ventris4. Sicut sagittae in manu potentis:
ita filii excussorum.5. Beatus vir qui implevit desiderium suum
ex ipsis:
non confundentur cum loquentur inimicis
suis in porta. | <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. If the Lord will not build a house,
its builders have toiled at it in vain;
if the Lord will not guard a city,
its watcher keeps his vigil in vain.2. It is futile for you who arise early,
who sit late, who eat the bread of toil,
so will the Lord give to one
who banishes sleep from himself.3. Behold, the heritage of the Lord is sons,
the reward is the fruit of the innards.4. Like arrows in the hand of a mighty man,
so are the sons of one's youth.5. Praiseworthy is the man who has filled his
quiver with them;
they will not be ashamed
when they talk to the enemies in the gate. |
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doxology

Gloria Patri et Filio et Spiritu 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.

Cristóbal de Morales (ca.1500-1553) Psalm 128, *Beati omnes*

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Beati omnes, qui timent Dominum,
qui ambulant in viis eius.2. Labores manuum tuarum quia mandu-
cabis:
beatus es, et bene tibi erit.3. Uxor tua sicut vitis abundans,
in lateribus domus tuae:
Filii tui sicut novellae olivarum,
in circuitu mensae tuae. | <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Praiseworthy is every man who fears the
Lord, who walks in His ways.2. If you eat the toil of your hands,
you are praiseworthy,
and it is good for you.3. Your wife will be as a fruitful vine
in the innermost parts of your house;
your sons will be like olive shoots
around your table. |
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Evelin Seppar (b. 1986) Psalm 129 (Australian premiere)

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| <p>2. Sie haben mich oft gedrängt...
...ach...
...alle...
Sie haben mich oft gedrängt,
aber sie haben mich nicht übermocht.
but also they have not prevailed against
me.</p> | <p>2. Much have they distressed me from my
youth, but also they have not prevailed
against me.</p> |
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Ingvar Lidholm (b. 1921) Psalm 130, *De profundis, From A Dream Play*

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| <p>1. De profundis clamavi ad te;
Domine exaudi vocem meam:</p> <p>2. Fiant aures tuae intendentes,
in vocem deprecationis meae.</p> <p>5. Sustinuit anima mea in verbo ejus.</p> <p>6. Speravit anima mea in Domino.</p> | <p>1. From the depths I have called You, O
Lord. O Lord, hearken to my voice;</p> <p>2. may Your ears be attentive
to the voice of my supplications.</p> <p>5. I hoped, O Lord; yea, my soul hoped,
and I wait for His word.</p> <p>6. My soul is to the Lord.</p> |
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Förbarma dig! Hör oss!
Medlidande med de dödlige!
Evige! Evige! Hör oss!
Ja, ur djupen ropa vi: nåd,
Evige! Fräls os för din
barmhärtighets skull!
Förskona dina barn, Herre,
och var icke vredgad emot oss!

Have mercy! Hear us!
Pity the mortals!
Eternal God! Eternal God! Hear us!
Yes, out of the depths we cry:
mercy, Eternal God! Save us,
for the sake of Thy mercy!
Spare Thy children, oh Lord,
and be not angry with us!

Text: August Strindberg

William Mundy (ca.1529-1591) Psalm 131, *Domine, non est exaltatum*

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| <p>1. Domine, non est exaltatum cor meum,
neque elati sunt oculi mei,
neque ambulavi in magnis,
neque in mirabilibus super me.</p> <p>2. Si non humiliter sentiebam,
sed exaltavi animam meam:
sicut ablactatus est super matre sua,
ita retributio in anima mea.</p> <p>3. Speret Israel in Domino,
ex hoc nunc et usque in sæculum.
Amen.</p> | <p>1. O Lord, my heart was not haughty,
nor were my eyes raised on high,
and I did not pursue matters greater
and more wondrous than I.</p> <p>2. I swear that I calmed
and quieted my soul
like a suckling on its mother;
like a suckling was my soul with me.</p> <p>3. Israel, hope to the Lord
from now to eternity.</p> |
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Guillaume Bouzignac (ca.1587-ca.1643) Psalm 132, *In pace in idipsum*

5:9 In pace in idipsum dormiam et requiescam.

5:9 I will both lay me down in peace, and sleep.

4. Si dederō somnum oculis meis
et palpebris dormitationem.

4. I will not give sleep to mine eyes or slumber
to mine eyelids.

Jean Richafort (1480-ca.1547) Psalm 133, *Ecce quam bonum*

1. Ecce quam bonum,
et quam iucundum habitare fratres in
unum.
Alleluia.

1. Behold how good and how pleasant it is for
brothers to dwell together!
Hallelujah.

Karin Rehnquist (b. 1957) Psalm 134 / *När natten skänker frid*

1. Behold, bless the Lord, all servants of the Lord
who stand in the house of the Lord at night.
2. Lift your hands in the holy place
and bless the Lord.
3. May the Lord bless you from Zion,
He who made heaven and earth.

När natten skänker frid,
låt dagen vara all
när dag ej plågar mer,
och lugn mitt öga bjuder
när hjärtat är med tröst,
med mod
och livet utan sorg mig minner
när natten skänker frid.

Text: Gunnar Björling

When night confers repose,
let the day then conclude
day's suffering is past,
and peace my eye affords
my heart heavy with solace,
heavy with courage
and life awakened without grief
when night confers repose.

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