

# 3 150 Psalms Safety

Sat 29 Feb 2020, 6pm, St Peter's Cathedral

The Tallis Scholars  
Peter Phillips, conductor  
Lars Notto Birkeland, organ

## Introduction by Mireille Juchau

<b>Tiburcio Massaino</b> (before 1550-ca.1609)	Psalm 16, <i>Conserva me Domine</i>
<b>Thomas Ravenscroft</b> (1582/83-ca.1635)	Psalm 4, <i>Oxford</i>
<b>Ferdinando di Lasso</b> (1560-1609)	Psalm 62, <i>Sperate in Domino</i>
<b>Melchior Franck</b> (ca.1579-1639)	Psalm 71, <i>Quantas ostendisti</i>
<b>Herbert Howells</b> (1892-1983)	Psalm 27, <i>One thing I have desired</i>
<b>Marcin Leopoldita</b> (1537-ca.1584)	Psalm 139, <i>Mihi autem</i>
<b>Giovanni Croce</b> (1557-1609)	Psalm 51, <i>Miserere mei</i>
<b>Paul Schoenfield</b> (1947)	Psalm 86, <i>Hateih hashem</i>
<b>Carlo Gesualdo</b> (1566-1613)	Psalm 61, <i>Exaudi, Deus</i>
<b>Alexander Horologius</b> (ca.1550-1633)	Psalm 57, <i>Miserere mei, Deus</i>
<b>Caspar Othmayr</b> (1515-1553)	Psalm 91
<b>Carl Nielsen</b> (1865-1931)	Psalm 23, <i>Dominus regit me</i>

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### Mireille Juchau, speaker

**Mireille Juchau's** third novel, *The World Without Us*, was published internationally and won the Victorian Premier's Literary Award. Her essays and reviews are most recently published in *The New Yorker*, *LA Review of Books*, *LitHub*, *The Monthly* and *Best Australian Essays*. In 2018 Mireille was writer in residence at the Charles Perkins Centre, University of Sydney, researching a novel on epigenetics and historical memory.

### Programme note by Désanne van Brederode

Roaming through the country, searching for better land, for a niche of your own, threatened by wars, or surrounded by lions —everyone continues to seek security, trust and a safe haven. Might that not be a nice task for a confidence-inspiring god? Swüste: 'In a number of psalms, trust in God is expressed in song. It is a matter of a "soul that has come to rest". The poet of these psalms feels safe, sheltered, no harm will befall him. There is also the realization that man does not stand alone in life: God knows you through and through, knows everything about you, and still loves you.'

In the 17th century, the English musician **Thomas Ravenscroft** had a huge following as a collector, arranger and tunesmith of popular street songs and rounds (most famously *Three Blind Mice*). His *Whole Booke of Psalmes* (1621) is still today of great influence on English psalm singing. The new Protestant churches were demanding singable versions of the psalms in the vernacular and he modelled his 'metric psalter' (what we know as hymns) on those from the Huguenots of Geneva.

A salient feature of this programme is the great similarity in the polyphonic techniques employed in, for instance, Psalm 16 by **Tiburcio Massaino** and Psalm

62 by his contemporary **Ferdinando di Lasso** (indeed, Orlando's son), or Psalm 139 by the Polish composer **Marcin Leopolita** and Psalm 51 by the Venetian **Giovanni Croce**. As was customary within the tradition of the Counter-Reformation, both **Alessandro Orologio** (Horologius), in Psalm 57, and, somewhat surprisingly given his extremely expressive madrigals, his contemporary **Carlo Gesualdo da Venosa**, in Psalm 61, stuck closely to the agreements made at the Council of Trent: hearing emotions – even in elegies or a heartrending appeal to the deity – does not belong in church.

More than three centuries later, **Carl Nielsen** no longer needed to abide by these rules, but in Psalm 23 he also proved himself a master of what by then was called the Palestrina style. Aged 18, the gifted student **Herbert Howells** sat next to **Vaughn Williams** for the premiere of the *Fantasia on a Theme of Thomas Tallis*. Thirty years of largely instrumental output followed, and he seemed to be fulfilling the expectations that he would become his mentor's successor. Poor physical and mental health however saw him confine himself to the niche of Anglican choral and organ music. His gifts flourished there for the rest of his long life as the superb setting of Psalm 27, written when he was 76, attests.

**Tiburcio Massaino** (before 1550-ca.1609) Psalm 16, *Conserva me Domine*

I

1. Conserva me Domine, quoniam in te speravi.
2. Dixi Domino: Deus meus es tu, quoniam bonorum meorum non egres.
3. Sanctis, qui in terra sunt ejus, mirificavit omnes voluntates meas in eis.
4. Multiplicatae sunt infirmitates eorum: postea acceleraverunt. Non congregabo conventicula eorum in sanguinibus: nec memor ero nomina eorum per labia mea.
5. Dominus pars haereditatis meae, et calicis mei: tu es, qui restitues haereditatem meam mihi.
6. Funes ceciderunt mihi in praeclaris: aetenim hereditas mea praeclara est mihi.

II

7. Benedicam Dominum, qui tribuit mihi intellectum: insuper et usque ad noctem increpaverunt me renes mei.
8. Providebam Dominum in conspectu meo semper: quoniam a dextris est mihi, ne commovear.
9. Propter hoc laetatum est cor meum, et exultavit lingua mea: insuper et caro mea requiescet in spe.
10. Quoniam non derelinques animam meam in inferno: nec dabis sanctum tuum videre corruptionem. Notas mihi fecisti vias vitae adimplebis me laetitia cum vultu tuo delectationes meae usque in finem.

I

1. Protect me, O God, for I take refuge in You;
2. I have said to the Lord, 'You are my Lord, my good above all other.'
3. All my delight is upon the godly that are in the land, upon those who are noble among the people.
4. But those who run after other gods shall have their troubles multiplied. Their libations of blood I will not offer, nor take the names of their gods upon my lips.
5. O Lord, You are my portion and my cup; it is You who uphold my lot.
6. My boundaries enclose a pleasant land; indeed, I have a goodly heritage.

II

7. I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel; my heart teaches me, night after night.
8. I have set the Lord always before me; because He is at my right hand I shall not fall.
9. My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spirit rejoices; my body also shall rest in hope.
10. For You will not abandon me to the grave, nor let Your holy one see the pit.

**Thomas Ravenscroft** (1582/83-ca.1635) Psalm 4, *Oxford*

*free after source text*

2. O God that art my righteousness,  
Lord hear me when I call;  
Thou hast set me at liberty when  
I was bound and thrall.

Have mercy Lord therefore on me,  
and grant me my request:

3. for unto Thee incessantly  
to cry I will not rest.

O mortal men how long  
will ye my glory thus despise?  
Why wander ye in vanity,  
and follow after lies?

4. Know ye that good and godly men,  
the Lord doth take and choose.  
And when to Him I make complaint,  
He doth me not refuse.

5. Sin not, but stand in awe therefore,  
examine well your heart;  
And in your chamber quietly  
see yourselves convert.

6. Offer to God the sacrifice,  
of righteousness and praise,  
And look that in the living Lord  
ye put your trust always.

7. The greater sort crave worldly goods  
and richness do embrace;  
But Lord grant us Thy countenance,  
Thy favour and Thy grace.

8. For Thou thereby shalt make my heart  
more joyful and more glad:  
then they that of their corn and wine  
full great increase have had.

9. In peace therefore lie down will I,  
taking my rest and sleep:  
for Thou only dost me O Lord,  
preserve and safely keep.

**Ferdinando di Lasso** (1560-1609) Psalm 62, *Sperate in Domino*

I  
9. Sperate in Domino et omnis congratio populi,  
effundite coram illo corda vestra:  
Deus adiutor noster in aeternum.

II  
11. Nolite sperare in iniquitate,  
et rapinas nolite concupiscere;  
divitiarum si affluent, nolite cor apponere.

I  
9. Trust in Him at all times;  
people, pour out your hearts before Him.  
God is our shelter forever.

II  
11. Do not trust in oppression,  
and do not put vain hope in robbery;  
if wealth burgeons, pay it no heed.

**Melchior Franck** (ca.1579-1639) Psalm 71, *Quantas ostendisti*

20. Quantas ostendisti mihi tribulationes multas  
et malas!

Et conversus vivificasti me,  
et de abyssis terrae iterum reduxisti me.

21. Multiplicasti magnificentiam tuam;  
et conversus consolatus es me.

22. Nam et ego confitebor tibi  
in vasis psalmi veritatem tuam, Deus;  
psallam tibi in cithara, sanctus Israël.

23. Exsultabunt labia mea  
cum cantavero tibi in vasis psalmi.  
Et anima mea quam redemisti.

24. Sed et lingua mea tota die  
meditabitur justitiam tuam, cum mihi,  
cum confusi et reveriti fuerunt qui quaerunt mala  
mihi.

20. You showed me great and evil troubles,  
You will revive me again, and from the depths of  
the earth

You will again raise me up.

21. You will increase my greatness,  
and You will turn and comfort me.

22. I too shall thank You with a stringed  
instrument for Your truth, my God; I shall play  
music to You with a harp, O Holy One of Israel.

23. My lips will sing praises  
when I play music to You,  
and my soul, which You redeemed.

24. Also my tongue will utter Your righteousness  
all the days,  
for those who seek my harm are shamed,  
yea, for they are disgraced.

**Herbert Howells** (1892-1983) Psalm 27, *One thing I have desired*

4. One thing have I desired of the Lord, which I  
will require  
even that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all  
the days of my life,  
to behold the fair beauty of the Lord, and to visit  
his temple.

5. For in the time of trouble he shall hide me in  
his tabernacle  
yea, in the secret place of his dwelling shall he  
hide me,  
and set me up upon a rock of stone.

6. And now shall he lift up mine head  
above mine enemies round about me.

7. Therefore will I offer in his dwelling an oblation  
with great gladness  
I will sing, and speak praises unto the Lord.



**Carlo Gesualdo (1566-1613) Psalm 61, *Exaudi, Deus***

2. Exaudi, Deus, deprecationem meam:  
intende voci orationis meae et miserere mei.

2. Hear my cry, O God,  
and listen to my prayer, and have mercy on me.

**Alexander Horologius (ca.1550-1633) Psalm 57, *Miserere mei, Deus***

2. Miserere mei, Deus, miserere mei,  
quoniam in te confidit anima mea.  
Et in umbra alarum tuarum sperabo,  
donec transeat iniquitas.

3. Clamabo ad Deum altissimum,  
Deum qui benefecit mihi.

4. Misit de coelo, et liberavit me;  
dedit in opprobrium conculcantes me.

2. Miserere mei Deus, miserere mei.

2. Have mercy on me, my God, have mercy on  
me, for in You I take refuge.  
I will take refuge in the shadow of Your wings  
until the disaster has passed.

3. I cry out to God Most High,  
to God, who vindicates me.

4. He sends from heaven and saves me,  
rebuking those who hotly pursue me

2. Have mercy on me, my God, have mercy on  
me.

**Caspar Othmayr (1515-1553) Psalm 91**

1. Wer in dem Schutz des Höchsten ist,  
und sich Gott tut ergeben,  
2. der spricht: Du, Herr, mein Zuflucht bist,  
mein Gott, Hoffnung und Leben,  
3. der du ja wirst erretten mich  
vons Teufels Stricken gnädiglich  
und von der Pestilenz.

10. Kein Übel wird begegnen dir,  
kein Plag dein Haus wird rühren,  
11. denn er seinen Engeln für und für  
befiehet dich zu führen,  
und zu behüten vor Unfall,  
12. auf Händen tragen überall,  
daß kein Stein dein Fuß letze.

13. Auf Löwen und Ottern wirst du gehn  
und treten auf die Drachen,  
auf jungen Löwen wirst du stehn,  
14. ihr Zahn und Gift verlachen.  
Denn dir der keines schaden kann,  
kein Seuch kömmt den vom andern an,  
der auf Gott tut vertrauen.

1. He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High,  
abides under the shadow of the Almighty.  
2. He shall say to the Lord, "You are my refuge  
and my stronghold,  
my God in whom I put my trust."  
3. He shall deliver you from the snare of the  
hunter  
and from the deadly pestilence.

10. There shall no evil happen to you,  
neither shall any plague come near your dwell-  
ing.  
11. For He shall give His angels charge over you,  
to keep you in all your ways.  
12. They shall bear you in their hands,  
lest you dash your foot against a stone.

13. You shall tread upon the lion and the adder;  
you shall trample the young lion and the serpent  
under your feet.  
14. You mock his teeth, his poison,  
because he is bound to Me in love,  
therefore will I deliver him;  
I will protect him, because he knows My name.

**Carl Nielsen (1865-1931) Psalm 23, *Dominus regit me***

1. Dominus regit me,  
2. in loco pascuae ibi me collocavit.  
Super aquam refectionis educavit me.

1. The Lord is my shepherd.  
2. He makes me lie down in green pastures  
and leads me beside still waters.

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