

## 6

# 150 Psalms

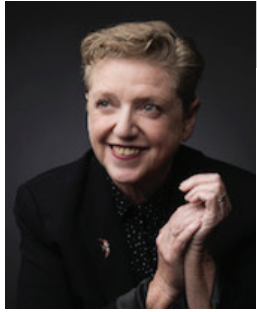
## Gratitude

Sun 1 Mar 2020, 2pm, Adelaide Hebrew Congregation

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

### Introduction by Robyn Archer AO FAHA

<b>Claudio Merulo</b> (1533-1604)	Psalm 18, <i>In tribulatione mea</i>
<b>Tomás Luis de Victoria</b> (ca.1548-1611)	Psalm 116, <i>Credidi</i>
<b>Joseph Haydn</b> (1732-1809)	Psalm 41, <i>Maker of all! Be Thou my guard</i>
<b>Orlando Gibbons</b> (1583-1625)	Psalm 30, <i>Sing unto the Lord</i>
<b>Philippe de Monte</b> (1521-1603)	Psalm 107, <i>Donnez au Seigneur gloire</i>
<b>Mogens Pedersøn</b> (1583-1623)	Psalm 103, <i>Min Siel nu loffue herren</i>
<b>Samuel Sebastian Wesley</b> (1810-1876)	Psalm 32
<b>Jean Mouton</b> (ca.1459-1522)	Psalm 34, <i>Benedicam Dominum in omni tempore</i>
<b>Francisco Guerrero</b> (1528-1599)	Psalm 138, <i>In conspectu angelorum</i>
<b>Salamone Rossi</b> (ca.1570-1630)	Psalm 118, <i>Odecha ki anitani</i>
<b>Franz Schubert</b> (1797-1828)	Psalm 92
<b>Nico Muhly</b> (b. 1981)	Psalm 63 (Australian premiere)
<b>Pierre de la Rue</b> (ca.1450-1518)	Psalm 146, <i>Lauda anima mea Dominum</i>



**Robyn Archer AO FAHA, speaker**

**Robyn Archer AO FAHA** is a multi-award-winning singer, writer, artistic director and public advocate for the arts. She has performed in numerous Adelaide Festivals since 1976, including 2019's *Picaresque*, and was artistic director for 1998 and 2000. Robyn released her latest album *Classic Cabaret Rarities* in 2019, currently tours three recitals (French, German and American) and has a new show premiering in June 2020. She has been honoured by the French and Belgian governments and holds honorary doctorates from six Australian universities.

Good afternoon. The theme of this concert is gratitude and today it gives us a moment to remind ourselves just how many things there are in our lives to be grateful for.

One of them is that we live in a country where we now have the privilege to acknowledge the First Peoples of this place. Over recent years they have guided us to this protocol, and I notice with pleasure that while a few years ago when I opened a large conference in New York with an acknowledgement of their First Peoples this was a rarity, it is now becoming more common in the United States, something they have taken up from Australia and Aetearoa New Zealand.

I gladly make the acknowledgement today, by paying respect to the elders, past, present and emerging, of the original custodians of the land we gather on, the Kuarna people of the Adelaide Plains and by expressing sincere gratitude for their resilience in surviving so many assaults, over the last two hundred and thirty-two years, on their way of life which had evolved over tens of thousands of years. I am particularly grateful that, in the light of recent dramatic climatic events, their ancient wisdom and knowledge of caring

for this land may at last have a chance of being respected and learned from. And it is their spiritual attachment to country, their kinship with the earth, that made them such great carers for so many millennia.

The psalms you hear today uniformly give thanks to God. I know that we in this audience will not share a uniform idea of God, and some will resist the very idea of a God. But I think it's easy for us to extrapolate from the particular form of the psalm, to a more general notion of gratitude. For some I think it's difficult to admit or even feel gratitude. It's perhaps the most humbling of human experiences. For in feeling gratitude we are implicitly admitting that someone or something external has granted to us the thing we are incapable of giving ourselves, either all the time or just in a particular moment of time. We are hungry, someone feeds us, we behave badly, someone loves us and forgives us. We feel no lack at all, but every now and then something comes along to lift us up to heights and thoughts and aspirations we might never have found by ourselves.

I was just speaking this morning with a dear relative at an extended family brunch,

and she said that feeling gratitude often inspires a kind of hopefulness; this is particularly true for those doing it so tough that feelings of gratitude are hard to come by. This relative also happens to work for an organisation called Container of Hope which fills shipping containers with all manner of useful goods and ships them to various places in Africa, especially the Republic of Congo. She had some especially alarming recent, very close-at-hand reports of the horrific conditions in southern Sudan, a place that doesn't get a lot of media attention.

There are so many things in our lives of material comfort, so many other humans – those close to us, and those we will never meet but thank for their contributions to our society, to be grateful for. But it's wise to reflect today on all those fellow-humans, from the poor and ill in our own society to those suffering the extreme deprivations of war and exile in other countries, and even on our borders, and wish for them things that allow them too, some day soon, to experience the luxury of feeling gratitude.

The human experience of gratitude comes in all shapes and sizes. For me, music itself approaches the divine, especially when it comes from the invention of composers like Hadyn, Gibbons or Schubert, and through the exquisite craftsmanship of singers like the Tallis Scholars. This music gives us the opportunity to retreat from the busy-ness of the world and our busy lives, and reflect on all those things we can be grateful for.

Precisely because this so-called Lucky Country has recently experienced threats of biblical proportions – drought, fire, flood, plague (both here and in so many other countries) now pestilence (the locusts are on the move in Africa in proportions not seen for seventy years) - I find myself feeling gratitude for the times I have lived in. I've started to think that perhaps these

may have been the very best of times.

We here, unlike so many other places on Earth have lived in a time without war in our country, we have had good food to eat, we have had trees, and a miraculous diversity in nature – and we have taken those things for granted. We now see that none of those things are guaranteed – neither peace, nor food, nor trees – nor even koalas, or Holden cars, things we thought would last forever. The last of these, alas, is lost: and we know now we will have to work harder to ensure the survival of the rest. Our gratitude should extend to thanks for the strength of body and mind, the energy and moral courage to do that.

For myself, I'm grateful to be a minuscule part of an unimaginably infinite system of life. I am akin to the smallest flower and the most enormous star in that system. There is an unbelievable dimension of consistency in the dynamic of life. We are seeded, we come to life, we are young, and beautiful, we start to age and wither, and we die and return as ashes or dust to that infinite system. For me, this is enough. I don't need explanation or reason more than this. And along the way, I get to make and hear that extraordinary thing called music. How thankful I am for the millions of coincidental seconds that eventually led two specific humans to meet, to like each other, to couple and eventually produce another life-form that turned out to be me, a creature these two encouraged to be whatever she wanted to be, and encouraged her love of music, and of showing off. I know award-winners always love to thank their Mum and Dad publicly, but today I go beyond the love and care of just those two very cool, very funny people, and give thanks for the whole ridiculously complex business of life in this universe.

In this one hour, of this one day, of so many privileged days of my life, my gratitude today extends to the composers, the

singers, Tido Visser for putting together this superb series based on the Psalms, the pilots and drivers who got them here, the behind the scenes Festival crews, the people who fed them along the way, the Festival that invited them and created this context for us, the workers who built this place for us to gather in, the community of people who had the energy to make a place of their own, for their worship... If we are mindful, the list goes on ad infinitum, and could do so every hour of every day of our lives. We are usually too busy to reflect on all there is to be grateful for, but I know that in this next hour or so we will have that golden opportunity, and I'm grateful to be sharing it with you.

#### Programme note by Ramsey Nasr

Gerard Swüste: 'In the songs of praise man voices his realization of just how much he has received. Life, a new opportunity in life, the feeling that things are going well, that success is assured. You could say that the psalms of thanks result from the feeling that not everything is man-made, that though we as people are capable of a lot, we are also given a lot.'

**Haydn** sets the tone in Psalm 41: simplicity and clarity, after the 18th-century English model. **Gibbons** follows another tradition. He set Psalm 30 as a verse anthem, with a splendid polyphonic vocal exchange between soloists and choir, supported by an organ. Frenchmen **Jean Mouton**, **Flemings Pierre de la Rue** and **Philippe de Monte**, Italian **Claudio Merulo** and Spaniards **Francisco Guerrero** and **Tomás de Victoria** likewise follow the rich examples of Franco-Flemish polyphony, with sophisticated vocal imitations in all parts.

Danish composer and instrument maker **Mogens Pedersøn**, who learned his trade from Giovanni Gabrieli in Venice, chose to set Psalm 103 in a somewhat tauter homophonic manner, whereby the Danish text, entirely in accordance with the Lutheran tradition, would sound as clear as possible, almost like a chorale.

**Salamone Rossi's** beautiful Psalm 118 and **Franz Schubert's** Hebrew Psalm 92 form a special pair. Around 1600 **Mantua Rossi** was the only composer who served the ducal family whilst also having permission to practise his Jewish faith publicly and in his music. Schubert composed his psalm for the Viennese reformist cantor Salomon Sulzer. This concert also includes the Australian premiere by the successful young American composer **Nico Muhly**.

#### Claudio Merulo (1533-1604) Psalm 18, *In tribulatione mea*

7. In tribulatione mea invocavi Dominum,  
et ad Deum meum clamavi:  
et exaudivit de templo sancto suo vocem meam;  
et clamor meus in conspectu ejus, introivit in  
aures ejus.

7. When I am in distress, I call upon the Lord;  
yes, I cry out to my God;  
out of His temple He hears my voice,  
and my cry comes before Him in His ears.

#### Tomás Luis de Victoria (ca.1548-1611) Psalm 116, *Credidi*

10. Credidi propter quod locutus sum  
ego autem humiliatus sum nimis.

10. I believed so that I spoke;  
'I humble myself exceedingly.'

12. Quid retribuam Domino:  
pro omnibus quae retribuit mihi?

12. How can I repay the Lord  
for all His favors upon me?

14. Vota mea Domino reddam  
coram omni populo eius.

14. I shall pay my vows to the Lord now  
in the presence of all His people.

15. Pretiosa in conspectu Domini  
mors sanctorum eius.

15. Difficult in the eyes of the Lord  
is the death of His pious ones.

16. Dirupisti vincula mea,

16. You have loosed my thongs.

17. hostiam laudis;  
et nomen Domini in vocabo.

17. To You I shall slaughter a thanksgiving  
offering,  
and I shall call out in the name of the Lord.

*doxology*

Gloria Patri et Filio et Spiritu Sancto.

Glory to the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

#### Joseph Haydn (1732-1809) Psalm 41, *Maker of all! Be Thou my guard*

*free after source text*

Maker of all! Be Thou my guard,  
give me, my strength by Thee repaired,  
give me to teach the faithless band  
to own the justice of Thy hand.  
So, while my prayers indulged approve,  
my soul the object of Thy love,  
my foes, with inward anguish torn,  
shall each his blasted triumphs mourn.

O thankful bless the Almighty Lord,  
the God by Jacob's sons adored;  
with joyful hearts His love proclaim,  
and praise, O praise his holy name.

And I, for Thou Thy aid shalt yield,  
in innocence of heart, upheld,  
Thy courts shall ever tread,  
and there the fullness of Thy presence share.

His fame, ere time its course began,  
over heaven wide region echoing ran;  
to Him through endless ages  
raise one song of oft repeated praise,  
Maker of all! Be Thou my guard.

**Orlando Gibbons (1583-1625) Psalm 30, *Sing unto the Lord***

5. Sing to the Lord, His pious ones,  
and give thanks to His holy name.

6. For His wrath lasts but a moment;  
life results from His favor;  
in the evening, weeping may tarry,  
but in the morning there is joyful singing.

7. And I said in my tranquility,  
'I will never falter.'

8. O Lord, with Your will,  
You set up my mountain to be might,  
You hid Your countenance  
and I became frightened.

9. To you, O Lord, I would call,  
and to the Lord I would supplicate.

10. 'What gain is there in my blood,  
in my descent to the grave?  
Will dust thank You; will it recite Your truth?

11. Hear, O Lord, and be gracious to me;  
O Lord, be my helper.'

**Philippe de Monte (1521-1603) Psalm 107, *Donnez au Seigneur gloire***

1. Donnez au Seigneur gloire, il est doux et  
clément; et sa bonté notoire dure éternellement.

2. Ceux qu'il a rachaptez, qu'ils chantent sa  
hautesse, et ceux qu'il a jectez hors de la main  
d'opresse.

3. Les ramassant ensemble, d'Orient,  
d'Occident, de l'Aquilon qui tremble et du Midi  
ardent.

4. Si d'aventure errans, par les déserts se  
treuvent, de meurance cherchans, et que  
trouver n'en peuvent.

1. Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good,  
and His mercy endures for ever.

2. Let all those whom the Lord has redeemed  
proclaim that He redeemed them from the hand  
of the foe.

3. He gathered them out of the lands; from the  
east and from the west,  
from the north and from the south.

4. Some wandered in desert wastes;  
they found no way to a city where they might  
dwell.

**Mogens Pedersøn (1583-1623) Psalm 103, *Min Siel nu loffue herren***

1. Min Siel nu loffue herren,  
huad I mig er hans hellig naffn.

2. Sin godhed hand oss giffuer,  
ti skalt du altid tacke ham.

3. Din synd har hand vdslettit,  
oc laegt dine store saar.

4. Dit arme lifff husualit,  
tager dig vdi for suar.

5. Med veldig trøst beskermer,  
som en Ørn sin unger gjør.

1. Now praise, my soul, the Lord,  
all that is in me praise His name!

2. He adds to his acts of kindness,  
do not forget this, oh my heart!

3. He has forgiven you your sins,  
and healed your great weakness.

4. He rescues your poor life,  
He takes you into His bosom,

5. pours down just consolation,  
renews you like the eagle,

6. Herrens hans Christne vel trøster,  
som trengis i verden her.

7. Sin loff har hadnd os giffuit,  
sit hellig ord og sammelund

8. Sin godhed oss indliffuit,  
hans naade see wi allen stund

9. Sin vrede lader hand fare,  
lønner icke som vi haffue tient

10. Sin miskund ingen vill spare,  
till de ydmyg har hand sig vend

11. Hans godhed er offuer alle,  
som gjerne frycte hannem

12. Vor synd lader hand bortfalde,  
oc aldrig vil tencke den.

13. Som sig en fader forbarmer,  
offuer sin vnge børn og smaa  
Saa gjør oc Herren oss arme,  
naar wi hannem ret frycte saa

14. Hand ved vor skabning er ringe,  
slett støff oc muld foruist

15. Ret som gres udi enge,  
oc en urt som blomstrit har mist

16. Naar værit hart paafalder,  
da findis det icke meer,  
Saa gaar det med vor alder,  
vort endelig er oss nær.

17. Herrens miskund allene,  
bliffuer nu oc euindelig

18. Alt hos sin brud den rene,  
som hannem frycter hiertelig

19. Oc holder hans bud oc villie, hand boer i  
Himmelen vist

20. Hans engle hannem tiene,  
oc prise med høyer røst

21. Den store Herre til ære,  
oc siunge hans hellig ord.

22. Min Siel hans loff skal lære,  
nu offuer den gandske Jord.

6. the King acts justly,  
protects those who suffer in His Kingdom.

7. He has let us know  
His marvelous justice and His court,

8. and also His boundless kindness,  
nothing is lacking in His compassion,

9. He lets us off His anger,  
He does not punish us according to our guilt,

10. He is unstinting in His mercy,  
to the foolish He is graceful.

11. His kindness is valued highly  
by those who fear Him.

12. As far as the east is from the west,  
our sins are from Him.

13. As a man feels compassion for his little chil-  
dren, so does the Lord for us poor people.

14. He knows our poor strength  
and is aware that we are only dust,

15. like the grass, swept away,  
a flower and falling leaves,

16. the wind has only to blow over them,  
then they are there no more:  
so mankind passes on.  
His end is near to him.

17. Only God's mercy remains  
fixed and firm for ever

18. for His dear congregation who stand ready in  
reverence for Him, who keep His covenant.

19. He rules in the Kingdom of Heaven.

20. You mighty angels, act in His praise  
and also by Your service

21. honour the great Lord  
and promote His holy word.

22. My soul also must increase  
His praise everywhere.

**Samuel Sebastian Wesley (1810-1876) Psalm 32**

2. Blessed is the man unto whom  
the Lord imputeth no sin,  
and in whose spirit is no guile.

**Jean Mouton** (ca.1459-1522) Psalm 34, *Benedicam Dominum in omni tempore*

2. Benedicam Dominum in omni tempore;  
semper laus ejus in ore meo.

4. Magnificate Dominum mecum;  
et exaltemus nomen ejus in idipsum.

9. Gustate, et videte quoniam suavis est Dominus;  
beatus vir qui sperat in eo.

2. I will bless the Lord at all times;  
His praise is always in my mouth.

4. magnify the Lord with me,  
and let us exalt His name together.

9. Taste, and see how sweet the Lord is;  
blessed is the man who trusts in Him.

**Francisco Guerrero** (1528-1599) Psalm 138, *In conspectu angelorum*

1. In conspectu angelorum psallam tibi;

2. adorabo ad templum sanctum tuum,  
et confitebor nomini tuo;  
super misericordia tua et veritate tua;  
quoniam magnificasti super omne, nomen  
sanctum tuum.

1. I shall thank You with all my heart;  
before the angels I shall sing Your praises.

2. I shall prostrate myself toward Your holy  
temple,  
and I shall give thanks to Your name  
for Your kindness and for Your truth,  
for you magnified Your word over all Your names.

**Salamone Rossi** (ca.1570-1630) Psalm 118, *Odecha ki anitani*

העוֹשִׂי לִי יְהוָה יִתְּנֵנִי יְכֻדָּא  
הַבֵּי שְׂאֵרֵי הַתֵּיבָה מִיְנוּבָה וּסְאָמָה נִבְאָ  
וּנְיִינֵי עֵבֶר תֵּאֱלָכֶנּוּ אִיֶּה תֵאֵלֹז הַתֵּיבָה הַזֹּהִי תֵאֱמָר  
וְבַּחֲמֻשָׁנָה הַלֵּיגָה הַזֹּהִי הִשְׁעָה מִוֵּיֶה הַזֶּה

21. I thank You that You have answered me  
and brought salvation to me.

22. The stone which the builders rejected  
has become the cornerstone.

23. This is God's doing;  
it is marvellous in our eyes.

24. This day God has made;  
let us rejoice and delight in it.

**Franz Schubert** (1797-1828) Psalm 92

וְיִלְעַר רְמֵשׁ לִי רִמְזֵלִי הַזֹּהִי לִי תוֹדֵהֵל בּוֹט  
- תּוֹלֵי־לֵב רְתֻנּוֹמָא וְדָסַח רְקֻבֵב דִּיגְהֵל  
רוֹנֵכֵב וְיִגְהֵ יִלְעַר לִבִּי יִלְעוּ רוֹשְׁעֵי יִלְעַר  
וְנִרְאָ רִידֵי יִשְׁעֵמֵב רְלַעֲפֵב הַזֹּהִי יִגְתַּחֲמֵשׁ יֵכ  
רִיתְבִּשְׁחַמֵּי וּקְמִיעַ דְּאָמֵי הַזֹּהִי רִישְׁעֵמֵי וּלְדָגֵי הַיָּם  
תֵּאֵלֹז תֵּאֵלֹז יִבְיֵי אֵל לִי־סִכּוֹ עֵדֵי אֵל רַעֲבֵי שִׂיא  
סְדִמְשֵׁהֵל נוֹא יִלְעַר לִיכֵּי וְצִיִּצְיוֹ בְּשַׁע וּמִכֵּי | מִיעֶשֶׁר הַרְפֵּב  
דַּע יִדַּע  
הַזֹּהִי סְלַעֵל מִוִּרְמֵי הַתֵּאֵלֹז

2. It is good to give thanks to the Lord,  
and to sing to Your name, O Most High.

3. To declare in the morning Your kindness  
and Your faith at night.

4. Upon a ten-stringed harp and upon a psaltery,  
with speech upon a harp.

5. For you have made me happy O Lord, with  
Your work;  
with the work of Your hands I shall exult.

6. How great are Your works, O Lord!  
Your thoughts are very deep.

7. A boorish man does not know;  
neither does a fool understand this.

8. When the wicked flourish like grass,  
and all workers of violence blossom, only to be  
destroyed to eternity.

9. But You remain on high forever, O  
Lord.

**Nico Muhly** (b. 1981) Psalm 63 (Australian premiere)

2. O God, Thou art my God:  
early will I seek Thee.  
My soul thirsteth for Thee,  
my flesh also longeth after Thee:  
in a barren and dry land where no water is.

3. Thus have I looked for Thee in holiness:  
that I might behold Thy power and glory.

6. My soul shall be satisfied,  
even as it were with marrow and fatness:  
when my mouth praiseth Thee with joyful lips.

7. Have I not remembered Thee in my bed:  
and thought upon Thee when I was waking?

8. Because Thou hast been my helper:  
therefore under the shadow of Thy wings will I rejoice.

**Pierre de la Rue** (ca.1450-1518) Psalm 146, *Lauda anima mea Dominum*

I

2. Lauda anima mea Dominum.  
Laudabo Dominum in vita mea;  
psallam Deo meo quamdiu fuero.
3. Nolite confidere in principibus:  
in filiis hominum, in quibus non est salus.
4. Exhibet spiritus ejus, et revertetur in terram  
suam; in illa die peribunt omnes cogitationes  
eorum.
5. Beatus cujus Deus Iacob adjutor ejus  
spes ejus in Domino Deo ipsius:
6. qui fecit caelum et terram, mare,  
et omnia quae in eis sunt.

II

7. Qui custodit veritatem in saeculum;  
facit iudicium in iuriam patientibus;  
dat escam esurientibus.  
Dominus solvit compeditos.
8. Dominus inluminat caecos.  
Dominus erigit elisos;  
Dominus diligit iustos.
9. Dominus custodit advenas,  
pupillum et viduam suscipie,  
et vias peccatorum disperdet.
10. Regnabit Dominus in saecula;  
Deus tuus, Sion, in generationem et genera-  
tionem.

I

2. I will praise the Lord as long as I live;  
I will sing praises to my God while I have my  
being.
3. Put not your trust in rulers, nor in any child of  
earth, for there is no help in them.
4. When they breathe their last, they return to  
earth, and in that day their thoughts perish.
5. Happy are they who have the God of Jacob  
for their help, whose hope is in the Lord their  
God;
6. who made heaven and earth, the seas,  
and all that is in them;  
who keeps his promise for ever;

II

7. who gives justice to those who are oppressed,  
and food to those who hunger.
8. The Lord sets the prisoners free;  
the Lord opens the eyes of the blind;  
the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;
9. the Lord loves the righteous; the Lord cares  
for the stranger;  
He sustains the orphan and widow, but  
frustrates the way of the wicked.
10. The Lord shall reign for ever,  
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations.