

DANIEL ELDER MUSIC

MY HEART SHALL NOT FEAR

FOR SATB VOICES
AND PIANO

Program Notes

Mark Twain once wrote that "courage is resistance to fear, mastery of fear—not absence of fear." Psalm 27 intimately evokes the struggle of finding courage, replete with its trials and temptations along the way. The inwardly-asked question "whom shall I fear?" posed twice in short succession in the psalm itself, becomes something of a mantra of confidence throughout the musical setting. A fixation on the light amid the darkness guides this journey, with the Lord serving as a beacon, inspiration, and a model of strength from which courage may blossom. All along the way fear rears its head, repeatedly sowing doubt, but each time this fixation on light and strength lends the fortitude to overcome despair, no matter the challenge or the odds. Musically, this struggle reaches its zenith at the phrase "I will be confident," signalling a victory over these battles with fear. That accomplished, a sense of peace falls in the final verse, with the beauty of the Lord illuminating his temple—a place only the courageous may enter. Struggles for fortitude and faith amidst fear lie all around us in the modern world. "My Heart Shall Not Fear" is a song of resilience and a call for courage in this time rife with adversity and the ever-present temptation to despair. Because through these may be glimpsed the most radiant of the Lord's blessings: Hope.

About the Composer

Truth into emotion. Emotion into music. Music into emotion. Emotion into truth. Done perceptively, this cycle never ends. As a writer and lover of both vocal and instrumental idioms, Daniel Elder (b. 1986) delights in crossing the boundaries of these worlds to create music that speaks outside its niche. Asked of his style, Daniel's goal is simple: "In my writing I seek to avoid the common focus on 'my voice'—rather I attempt to tap the emotions a poet once put into words, or to tell a story with no words at all through the complex feelings of orchestral color. Through the pursuit of emotion I chase truth. The notes are merely the language." Emerging from rural Georgia Daniel's music quickly attracted the attention of renowned American choral directors and catapulted him to the international stage within three years of writing his first work. His catalogue is printed by Carus Verlag, Edition Peters, GIA Publications, Hal Leonard, Walton Music, Wingert-Jones Publications, and self-published through J.W. Pepper and SMP Press. Learn more at www.danieleldermusic.com

Psalm 27

1. The Lord is my light and my salvation;
whom shall I fear?
The Lord is the stronghold of my life;
of whom shall I be afraid?
2. When evildoers assail me
to devour my flesh—
my adversaries and foes—
they shall stumble and fall.
3. Though an army encamp against me,
my heart shall not fear;
though war rise up against me,
yet I will be confident.
4. One thing I asked of the Lord;
this I seek:
to live in the house of the Lord
all the days of my life,
to behold the beauty of the Lord,
and to inquire in his temple.

MY HEART SHALL NOT FEAR

Psalm 27:1–4 (NRSV)

Daniel Elder (b. 1986)
(ASCAP)

Con moto timido (♩ = c. 84)

ritenuto

p

Soprano

Alto

Tenor

Bass

The —

The —

Con moto timido (♩ = c. 84)

ten.

ten.

ritenuto

p rubato

mf espress.

Piano

Red.

Red.

Red. ad lib.

a tempo

ritenuto

6 a tempo

4 *mp*

mp

mp

Lord, —

The — Lord is — my

Lord, —

The — Lord is — my

a tempo

ritenuto

6 a tempo

4 *p leggero, a tempo*

mp cantabile

p leggero, a tempo

Piano

7 *p*

light and my sal - va - tion; whom shall I

light and my sal - va - tion; whom shall I

8 *p*

...whom shall I

p

...whom shall I

7 *mf*

mf

10 *mf*

fear?

mf

fear?

mf

fear?

mf

fear?

mp

of

10 *mf* *mp* *p* più lontano

13 Più ritmato (l'istesso tempo)

mp *mp* *mp*

The —
The —
whom shall I — fear?

whom shall I be a - fraid? of whom shall I be a - fraid? of whom shall I be a - fraid? of

13 Più ritmato (l'istesso tempo)

(p) leggero

16 *mf* *mf*

Lord is — my light,
Lord is — my light,
whom shall I — fear? whom shall I — fear? whom shall I — fear?

whom shall I be a - fraid? of whom shall I be a - fraid? of whom shall I be a - fraid? of

16

21

19

mf

The Lord is the strong - hold

mf

The Lord is the strong - hold

whom shall I fear? whom shall I fear? whom shall I fear?

whom shall I be a - fraid? of whom shall I be a - fraid? of whom shall I be a - fraid? of

21

19

mp

22

mf

of my life,

mp

of my life,

mf

of my life,

whom shall I fear? whom shall I fear? whom shall I fear?

whom shall I be a - fraid? of whom shall I be a - fraid? of whom shall I be a - fraid? of

22

25 *p* poco rall.

life; _____ ...whom—

life; _____ ...whom—

whom shall I _____ fear? whom shall I _____ fear? whom shall I _____ fear?

whom shall I be a - fraid? of whom shall I be a - fraid? of whom...

25 *p* poco rall.

28 **Meno mosso, pesante** (♩ = c. 72)

mp espress.

shall I fear? _____ When e - vil - doers as-sail me to de - vour my flesh—

shall I fear? _____

28 **Meno mosso, pesante** (♩ = c. 72)

(*p*) *più rubato* *mp*

31

p

my ad - ver - sar - ies and my foes—

p *espress.*

...I fear my foes—

p

whom shall I fear?

31

ten.

34 Con moto vivace (♩ = 78)

molto rall.

p *mf*

they shall... ...stum - ble and fall... ...stum - ble and fall...

p *mf*

they shall... ...stum - ble and fall... ...stum - ble and fall...

p *mf*

...they shall... ...stum - ble and fall... ...stum - ble and fall...

p *mf*

...they shall... ...stum - ble and fall... ...stum - ble and fall...

34 Con moto vivace (♩ = 78)

molto rall.

p

37 A tempo, appassionato

whom shall I _____ fear?

whom shall I _____ fear?

whom shall I _____ fear?

whom shall I _____ fear?

37 A tempo, appassionato

f *brioso*

42 Molto liberamente

40 *mf* *f*

whom shall I _____ fear? of whom shall I be a - fraid?

mf *f*

whom shall I _____ fear? of whom shall I be a - fraid?

mf *f*

whom shall I _____ fear? of whom shall I be a - fraid?

mf *f*

whom shall I _____ fear? of whom shall I be a - fraid?

42 Molto liberamente

40

sfz

44 A tempo, con spirito

43

ten. *mp*

46

mp

Though an ar - my en - camp a-against me, an ar - my,

mp

Though an ar - my en - camp a-against me, an ar - my,

46

p *mp*

49

mp

...though war rise up a-against me,

mp

...though war rise up a-against me,

mf *p* *sfz*

my heart shall not fear; war, war,

mf *p* *sfz*

my heart shall not fear; war, war,

49

p *cresc. poco a poco*

52

f

rise up a-against me, war, war,

f

rise up a-against me, war, war,

sfz *sfz* *f*

war, war, war,

sfz *sfz* *f*

war, war, war,

52

mf

poco rall. [56] **Meno mosso, grandioso** (♩ = c. 72)

55

war — rise, — yet I, — I — will be, *fp*

war — rise, — yet I, — I — will be, *fp*

war — rise, — yet I, — I — will be, *fp*

war — rise, — yet I, — I — will be, *fp*

poco rall. [56] **Meno mosso, grandioso** (♩ = c. 72)

55

f

The image displays a musical score for a voice and piano ensemble. The top system consists of four vocal staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The lyrics are 'war — rise, — yet I, — I — will be, fp'. The bottom system shows the piano accompaniment, with a grand staff (treble and bass clefs) and a key signature of one flat. The tempo and mood markings are 'poco rall.' and 'Meno mosso, grandioso (♩ = c. 72)'. The piano part features a strong dynamic 'f' (forte) in the right hand. A large red watermark 'For Review Only' is diagonally across the page.

molto rall.

60 *Molto liberamente*

58

be con - - - fi - dent.

f

be con - fi - dent.

f

be con - - - fi - dent.

f

be con - - - fi - dent.

molto rall.

60 *Molto liberamente*

58

sfz mf sfz

61 A tempo brillante (♩ = 84)

f

One thing — I asked of the Lord; — this I

f

One thing — I asked of the Lord; this I

f

One thing — I asked of the Lord; — this I

f

One thing — I asked of the Lord; this I

61 A tempo brillante (♩ = 84)

sfz mf

64

seek: to live in the house — of the

seek: to live in the house of the

seek: to live in the house — of

seek: to live in the house of the

64

sfz mf

67 *mp*
Lord... ..my life, ...

mf *mp*
Lord all the days of my life,

mf *mp*
whom shall I _____ fear? whom shall I _____ fear? whom shall I _____ fear?

mp
Lord _____ ...of whom shall I be a - fraid? of whom shall I be a - fraid? of

67 *mp*

70 *poco rall.* [72] *Meno mosso, liberamente*

whom shall I _____ fear? whom shall I _____ fear?

whom shall I be a - fraid? of whom...

70 *poco rall.* [72] *Meno mosso, liberamente*

p *mf* *espress.*

73 *ritenuto*

p lontano *mp* cantabile *p* lontano

76 *Meno mosso, molto grazioso* (♩ = c. 72)

p *ma non troppo*

...the Lord

p *ma non troppo*

...the Lord...

p dolce *ma non troppo*

to be-hold the beau-ty of the Lord,

p dolce *ma non troppo*

to be-hold the beau-ty of the Lord,

76 *Meno mosso, molto grazioso* (♩ = c. 72)

(p) dolce *mf* espress.

Red.

79 poco rall. 80 a tempo

is my light... ..in

and to in - quire in his tem - ple, in -

and to in - quire in his tem - ple, in -

79 poco rall. 80 a tempo

p dolce

82 sim. poco rall. 84 A tempo, più dolce

quire... ..

quire... ..

quire... ..

quire... ..

quire... ..

82 poco rall. ten. 84 A tempo, più dolce

mf espress.

sub. p

Red. sim.

85 *mf* *ten.* *sub. p*



88 *molto rall.* **89** *Meno mosso, dolcissimo* (♩ = c. 66) *sfz* *sub. p* *ten.* *ten.*



91 *più p*



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