

Gerald Cohen

*A Psalm for Pittsburgh -
Esa Einai*

(I will lift my eyes - Psalm 121)

for solo voice, treble choir,
string trio, and piano

(2023)

FULL SCORE

PERUSAL SCORE

A Psalm for Pittsburgh - Esa Einai (I will lift my eyes)

Composer's note:

A Psalm for Pittsburgh - Esa Einai (I will lift my eyes) was commissioned by Tree of Life Congregation, Pittsburgh, in memory of the eleven victims of the October 27, 2018 shooting. Rabbi/Hazzan Jeffrey Myers of Tree of Life requested a setting of Psalm 121, with its famous opening line of “I lift my eyes to the mountains - from where will my help come?” This Psalm was for him a vital link in seeking solace, and is a way to focus both on those who died and on the survivors.

In the piece, the tenor solo begins tentatively, attempting to find music and words that will allow for expression of the depth of emotional loss, and the attempt to begin the process of healing. The children’s chorus respond with words and music of comfort and hope—and eventually the soloist, supported by the chorus, begins to find a way forward to renewed faith and hope for the future.

A Psalm for Pittsburgh received its premiere at an interfaith concert in Pittsburgh in November 2023 commemorating the fifth anniversary of the tragedy. Rabbi/Hazzan Jeffrey Myers was the tenor soloist, with The Pittsburgh Youth Chorus, conducted by Flavio Chamis.

—Gerald Cohen

Text and translation: (Psalm 121, verses 1-2, 8)

*Esa einai el heharim -
me'ayin yavo ezri?
Ezri me'im Adonai,
oseh shamayim va'arets*

*Adonai yishmor tzetecha uvo'echa
me'ata v'ad olam.*

I lift my eyes to the mountains -
from where will my help come?
My help is from Adonai,
maker of the heavens and the earth.

Adonai will watch over your coming and your going
from this time forth, and ever and ever.

In Memory of the Eleven Victims

A Psalm for Pittsburgh - Esa Einai

(I will lift my eyes - Psalm 121)

Text: Psalm 121

for tenor solo, treble choir, and chamber ensemble

Music: Gerald Cohen

Slow, unsettled ♩ = 50

p as if trying to find the ability to express the words

Tenor solo

Soprano

Chorus

Alto

Violin

Viola

Cello

Piano

Running English translation: *I lift...*

very gradually growing in strength

Solo

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

Pno.

The score is written for a tenor soloist, soprano, chorus, alto, violin, viola, cello, and piano. The tempo is 'Slow, unsettled' with a metronome marking of ♩ = 50. The key signature has one flat (B-flat) and the time signature is 4/4. The vocal parts feature 'ah' and 'e - sa' lyrics. The instrumental parts include dynamics like *p* and *pp*, and performance instructions such as *pizz.* and *arco*. A large diagonal watermark 'PERUSAL SCORE' is overlaid on the page.

13 *I lift my eyes...* *poco cresc.* *to the mountains —*

Solo
8 sa (ah) ei - nai (ai) e - sa ei - nai el he - ha - rim el he - ha -

Vln. *pp*

Vla. *p*

Vc. *pizz*

Pno. *p*

18 *from where* *cresc.*

Solo
8 rim me a yin me - a -

S *p cresc.*

Ch. *ah*

A *p cresc.*

Vln. *p cresc.*

Vla. *p cresc.*

Vc. *arco* *p cresc.*

Pno. *p cresc.*

22 *mf* from where will it come? from where will my help come?

Solo
- yin me - a-yin ya-vo me - a-yin ya-vo me - a - yin ya - vo ez -

S
mf
ya - vo ya - vo ya - vo ez -

Ch.
mf
ya - - - vo ya - vo ez -

A
ya - - - vo ya - vo ez -

Vln.
mf *mp cresc.*

Vla.
mp *cresc.*

Vc.
mp *cresc.*

Pno.
mp *cresc.*

27 *mf* *rit.*

Solo
ri? - ri?

S
ri? ez - ri? *p* Ez -

Ch.
ri? ez - ri? *p* Ez -

A
ri? ez - ri? Ez -

Vln.
mf

Vla.
mf

Vc.
mf *rit.*

Pno.
mf *rit.*

My help is from Adonai,

Somewhat more movement, encouraging ♩ = 63

cresc.

S
Ch.
A

ri me - im A - do - nai, Ez - ri me - im A - do - nai, o -

ri me - im A - do - nai, Ez - ri me - im A - do - nai,

Vln.
Vla.
Vc.

Somewhat more movement, encouraging ♩ = 63

Pno.

With pedal

Maker of the heavens and the earth.

S
Ch.
A

seh sha - ma - yim o - seh sha - ma - yim o - seh sha - ma - yim va - a - retz,

cresc. o - seh sha ma yim o - seh sha - ma - yim sha - ma - yim va - a - retz, sha -

Vln.
Vla.
Vc.

cresc. *mf*

cresc. *mf*

cresc. *mf*

Pno.

mf

40 *dim.* *p*

S o - seh sha - ma - yim va - a - retz.

Ch.

A *dim.* *p*

ma - yim o - seh sha - ma - yim va - a - retz.

Vln. *dim.* *p*

Vla. *p*

Vc. *p*

Pno. *dim.* *p*

My help is from Adonai, Maker of the heavens and the earth.

45 *mp agitated* *mp* $\text{♩} = 72$

Solo Ez - ri me - im A - donai, o - seh sha - ma - yim va -

Vln. *mp*

Vla. *mp agitated*

Vc. *mp agitated*

Pno. *mp* $\text{♩} = 72$

48 *cresc.*

Solo
a - retz, Ez - ri me-im A-do - nai, o - seh sha-ma - yim va -

Vln. *cresc.*

Vla. *cresc.*

Vc. *cresc.*

Pno. *cresc.*

52

Solo
a - retz!

Vln. *dim.*

Vla. *dim.*

Vc. *f* *dim.*

Pno. *f* *dim.*

I lift my eyes
Slower, but with more motion than Tempo I ♩ = 63
mp

to the mountains -

56 *rit.*

Solo
8 E - sa ei - nai el he - ha -

S
Ch.
A
mp E - sa ei - nai
mp E - sa ei - nai

Vln.
mp

Vla.
p 1.
pizz.

Vc.
mp

Pno.
56 *rit.* Slower, but with more motion than Tempo I ♩ = 63
p *mp* *p*

from where?

Adonai will watch over your going
a tempo
Same tempo, tenderly ♩ = 63

62

Solo
8 rim me - a - yin? me - a - yin?

S
Ch.
A
el he - ha - rim A - do - nai yish-mor tze -
el he - ha - rim A - do - nai yish-mor tze -

Vln.
p *pp* *pp*

Vla.
mp *p* *pp*

Vc.
6. *mp* arco *p* *pp*

Pno.
62 *molto rit.* *a tempo*
Same tempo, tenderly ♩ = 63
p

will watch over your going and your coming from this time forth, and ever and ever.

67

S
Ch.
A

te - cha yish - mor tze - te - cha u - vo - e - cha me - a - ta v - ad o - lam, me - a - ta v - ad o -

te - cha yish - mor tze - te - cha u - vo - e - cha me - a - ta v - ad o - lam, me - a - ta v - ad o -

Vln.
Vla.
Vc.

Pno.

Same tempo, with growing hope ♩ = 63

Adonai will watch over your going

will watch over your going and your coming

73

S
Ch.
A

lam. A - do - ni yish - mor tze - te - cha yish - mor tze - te - cha u - vo -

lam.

Vln.
Vla.
Vc.

Pno.

mp

cantabile

mp

cantabile

mp

mp

78 *mp*

Solo

S

Ch.

A

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

Pno.

A - do - nai yish-mor tze -
e - cha A - do - nai yish-mor tze - te - cha yish -
A - do - nai yish-mor tze - te - cha yish -

81 *mf*

Solo

S

Ch.

A

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

Pno.

te - cha yish - mor tze - te - cha u - vo - e - cha me - a -
mor tze - te - cha u vo e - cha
mor tze - te - cha u - vo - e - cha

from this time forth, and ever and ever.
with growing confidence

84

Solo *mf* with growing confidence *cresc.*
ta v - ad o -

S
Ch. *mf* with growing confidence
me - a - ta

A
me - a - ta

Vln. *mp* *cresc.*

Vla. *mp* *cresc.*

Vc. *mp* *cresc.*

Pno. *mp* *cresc.*

87

Solo lam, ah, me - a - ta

S
Ch. me - a - ta ah, me - a -

A
me - a - ta ah, me - a -

Vln. *mf*

Vla. *mf*

Vc. *mf*

Pno. *mf* *With pedal*

90

Solo

S

Ch.

A

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

me - a - ta v - ad o -

ta v - ad o - lam,

ta v - ad o - lam,

Pno.

93

Solo

S

Ch.

A

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

lam, me - a - ta v - ad o - lam, v -

me - ta v - ad o - lam,

me - a - ta v - ad o - lam,

p *mp* *a tempo*

Pno.

mp *p* *mp* *a tempo*

96

I lift my eyes...
freely *rit.*

Solo
S
Ch.
A
Vln.
Vla.
Vc.
Pno.

ad o - lam, E - sa ei -
ah, ah, ei -
ah, ah, ei -

p
p
p
p
p
p
p

100

a tempo *p* *rit.*

Solo
S
Ch.
A
Vln.
Vla.
Vc.
Pno.

nai...
nai...
nai...
nai...

pp
pp
pp
pp