

Psalm 46

God is our Refuge and our Strength

*Commissioned by the Congregation of
St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania.*

Alan Hack, Director of Music

Text: King James Version

Kirk O'Riordan (2007)

majestic, freely (♩ = 66)

The musical score is arranged in five systems. The first system is for Choir A, with a treble and bass staff. The second system is for Choir B, also with treble and bass staves. The third system is for Handbells, with treble and bass staves. The fourth system is for the Organ, with treble and bass staves. The fifth system is a continuation of the Organ part, specifically the bass line. The tempo is marked 'majestic, freely' with a quarter note equal to 66 beats per minute. The time signature is 4/4, with a 3/4 measure in the middle of each system. Dynamic markings include *ff* (fortissimo) and *l.v. sempre* (lento vivace sempre). The organ part includes a *long* marking and a sharp sign (#) in the bass line.

6

Choir A

Choir B

H-bells.

Org.

The musical score for page 2, measures 6-7, is divided into four main sections: Choir A, Choir B, H-bells, and Organ. Each section consists of two staves (treble and bass clef). The time signature changes from 4/4 to 3/4 and back to 4/4. The Organ part features complex chords and a bass line with a large brace. The H-bells part features a simple melody. The Choir parts are currently silent.

A

12 *ff*

Choir A

God is our re-fuge and strength a

ff

Choir B

God is our re-fuge and strength a

H-bells.

A

12 *f*

Org.

17

Choir A

ve - ry pre - sent help in trou - ble

Choir B

ve - ry pre - sent help in trou - ble

H-bells.

Org.

Detailed description of the musical score: The score is for page 4, measures 17-20. It features four main parts: Choir A, Choir B, H-bells, and Organ. The lyrics for the choir parts are 've - ry pre - sent help in trou - ble'. The music is written in 4/4 time, with a 2/4 time signature change in the final two measures. The organ part includes a large bracketed section at the bottom, likely indicating a specific organ registration or a large interval. The H-bells part is marked with rests, indicating that the bells are silent during these measures.

20 **B**

Choir A *mp* There -

mp There - fore will not we fear though the

Choir B *mp* There -

mp There - fore will not we fear though the

H-bells.

Org. *pp*

23 *cresc. poco a poco*

Choir A

fore will not we fear_____ though the earth be re - moved_____ and

cresc. poco a poco

earth be re - moved_____ and though the moun - tains be car - ried in -

cresc. poco a poco

Choir B

fore will not we fear_____ though the earth be re - moved_____ and

cresc. poco a poco

earth be re - moved_____ and though the moun - tains be car - ried in -

H-bells.

23

Org.