

Eric Galluzzo

Save Me, O God

for choir

For perusal only

July 2024

Instrumentation

Choir (SSAATTBB) with choral soloists (soprano, tenor, bass)

Piano reduction provided for rehearsal only

Duration

ca. 5'

Program Notes

This work is based on Psalm 54, in which the psalmist cries out for deliverance from his enemies. The setting centers around the three anguished cries in the psalm: “save me, O God”; “hear my prayer”; and “destroy thou them”. These share the same motivic material, but with increasing desperation (and increasingly agitated musical treatment) each time. In between the second and third cries, there is a turbulent interlude depicting the gathering enemies. Finally, as the psalmist reflects upon the fact that he has always been able to rely on God’s care, the music draws to a peaceful close.

Performance Notes

The piano reduction is admittedly rather difficult, and not particularly pianistic – for example, there are passages that employ a 3:4 polyrhythm in the same register. However, I judged that completeness was more important than playability since this piece is sung a capella. Feel free to roll chords or leave notes out as necessary. In the piano part, dynamics inside the staves apply to both staves; dynamics outside the staves apply only to the nearest staff.

Text

¹ *Save me, O God, for thy Name’s sake, and avenge me in thy strength.*

² *Hear my prayer, O God, and hearken unto the words of my mouth.*

³ *For strangers are risen up against me; and tyrants, which have not God before their eyes, seek after my soul.*

⁴ *Behold, God is my helper; the Lord is with them that uphold my soul.*

⁵ *He shall reward evil unto mine enemies: destroy thou them in thy truth.*

⁶ *An offering of a free heart will I give thee, and praise thy Name, O LORD; because it is so comfortable.*

⁷ *For he hath delivered me out of all my trouble; and mine eye hath seen his desire upon mine enemies.*

[Amen.]

Psalm 54 (1928 Book of Common Prayer)

Save Me, O God

Text from Psalm 54 (BCP 1928)

Music by Eric Galluzzo

Anguished ♩ = 50

Soprano
1 Save me, O God,
2 Save me, O God,

Alto
1 Save me, O God,
2 Save me, O God,

Tenor
1 Save me, O God,
2 Save me, O God,

Bass
1 Save me, O God,
2 Save me, O God,

Piano (rehearsal only)
1 Save me, O God,
2 Save me, O God,

p *ff* *fp* *f*

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4

S 1 *sub. p* *pp*
 for thy Name's sake, and a - venge me in thy strength.

S 2 *sub. p* *pp*
 for thy Name's sake, and a - venge me.

A 1 *sub. p* *pp*
 for thy Name's sake, and a - venge me.

A 2 *sub. p* *pp*
 for thy Name's sake, and a - venge me.

T 1
 for thy Name's sake,

T 2
 for thy Name's sake,

B 1
 for thy Name's sake,

B 2
 for thy Name's sake,

sub. p *pp*

A

The musical score is arranged in five systems. The first system is for Soprano (S), the second for Alto (A), the third for Tenor (T), and the fourth for Bass (B). The fifth system is for the Piano accompaniment. Each vocal part has two staves (1 and 2). The piano part has two staves (treble and bass). The lyrics are: "Hear my pray-er, O God, and". The score includes dynamic markings such as *p*, *ff*, and *fp*, and includes a triplet of eighth notes in the first measure of each vocal part. The time signature changes from 7/4 to 4/4, then to 3/4, and finally to 2/4.

1 *p* *ff* *p*
S Hear my pray-er, O God, and

2 *p* *ff* *p*
S Hear my pray-er, O God, and

1 *p* *ff* *p*
A Hear my pray-er, O God, and

2 *p* *ff* *p*
A Hear my pray-er, O God, and

1 *fp* *ff*
T Hear my pray-er, O God,

2 *fp* *ff*
T Hear my pray-er, O God,

1 *fp* *ff*
B Hear my pray-er, O God,

2 *fp* *ff*
B Hear my pray-er, O God,

p *ff* *p*
Piano accompaniment

12

1

S

hear - en un - to the words of ___ my mouth.

2

hear - - - - en.

1

A

hear - - - - en.

2

hear - - - - en.

1

T

2

1

B

2

pp

Oo, -

1

2

pp

pp

B

Poco più animato ♩ = 60

1 S
2 S
1 A
2 A
solo T
altri T
1 B
2 B

For stran - gers have ri - sen

pp
mp
solo mp

00, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00,

00, 00, 00, 00,

3

16

f > *p* *f* > *p*

1 2

S
stran - gers, stran - gers,

2
stran - gers, stran - gers,

1
stran - gers, stran - gers,

A
2
stran - gers, stran - gers,

mf *mp*

solo
up a - gainst me, and

T
altri Tenor 1, 2 altri *p*
a - gainst

1
oo, oo, oo,

B
2
oo, oo, oo,

mf *mp*

18

1 S 2 A 1 A 2 solo T altri 1 B 2

ty - rants, ty - rants, ty - rants, ty - rants, ty - rants, ty - rants, ty - rants, ty - rants,

ty - rants, ty - rants, ty - rants, ty - rants,

ty - rants, ty - rants, ty - rants, ty - rants,

ty - rants, ty - rants,

ty - rants which have not God be - fore their

me. God

oo, oo, ah, ah, oo, ah, ah, ah,

oo, ah, ah, ah,

mp

f

mp

f

mp

if there are only two tenors, Tenor 2 should sing the bottom note

20

1 S 2 A 1 2 solo T altri B 1 2

p For

mp

eyes, seek af - ter my soul.

p *pp* ah, ah, oo, oo,

p *pp* ah, oo, oo, oo,

mp *p*

pp

Detailed description: This is a page of a musical score for the hymn 'Save Me, O God'. The page is numbered 8 and contains measures 20 through 23. The score is arranged for Soprano (S), Alto (A), Tenor (T), Bass (B), and Piano. The Soprano part begins with the word 'For' in measure 20. The Tenor part has lyrics 'eyes, seek af - ter my soul.' in measures 20-21. The Bass part has vocalizations 'ah, ah, oo, oo,' in measures 20-21. The Piano part provides accompaniment with various dynamics including piano (p), mezzo-piano (mp), and pianissimo (pp). A large watermark 'For Personal Use Only' is overlaid diagonally across the page.

C

1
S
stran - gers have ri - sen up a - gainst me

2
For stran - gers have ri - sen up a - gainst me

1
A
up a - gainst me

2
up a - gainst me

1
T
Tenor 1 tutti
ri - sen up a -

2
Tenor 2 tutti
ri - sen up a -

1
B
oo, oo, oo, oo,

2
oo, oo, oo, oo,

mf

p

pp

p

24 *mp*

1 *mp*

S and ty - - - rants

2 *mp*

and ty - - - rants

1 *mp*

A and ty - - - rants

2 *mp*

and ty - - - rants

1 *p*

T gainst me

2 *p*

gainst me

1 *pp*

B oo, oo, oo,

2 oo, oo, ah,

mp

pp

26

1 S
which have not God be - fore their

2 S
which have not God be - fore their

1 A
which have not God

2 A
which have not God

1 T
mf which have not *f* God, ah, ah,

2 T
mf which have not *f* God, ah, ah,

1 B
ah, ah, God,

2 B
ah, God,

f

28 *dim.*

1
S
eyes seek af - ter my

2
eyes seek af - ter my

1
A
be - fore their eyes seek af - ter my

2
be - fore their eyes seek af - ter my

1
T
dim.
ah, ah, ah, oo,

2
dim.
ah, ah, oo, *p* oo,

1
B
be - fore their eyes seek af - ter my

2
be - fore their eyes seek af - ter my

dim.

The musical score is arranged in a system with five vocal parts and a piano accompaniment. The Soprano (S) and Alto (A) parts have lyrics: "eyes seek af - ter my". The Tenor (T) and Bass (B) parts have lyrics: "be - fore their eyes seek af - ter my". The piano accompaniment features a melodic line in the right hand and a rhythmic accompaniment in the left hand. Dynamic markings include *dim.* (diminuendo) and *p* (piano). There are also triplet markings (3) over the final notes of several phrases.

D Tempo I ♩ = 50

30 *p* *cresc.* 3

S
1 soul. Be - hold, God is my hel - per: the Lord is with
2 soul. Be - hold, God is my hel - per: the Lord is with

A
1 soul. Be hold, God is my hel - per: the Lord is with
2 soul. Be hold, God is my hel - per: the Lord is with

T
1 oo, Be - hold, God is my hel - per: the Lord is with
2 Be - hold, God is my hel - per: the Lord is with

B
1 soul. Be - hold, God is my hel - per: the Lord is
2 soul. Be - hold, God is my hel - per: the Lord is

p *cresc.* 3

The musical score is arranged for Soprano (S), Alto (A), Tenor (T), Bass (B), and Piano. It features a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 3/4 time signature. The tempo is marked 'Tempo I' with a quarter note equal to 50 beats per minute. The score begins at measure 30. The vocal parts (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) all start with a piano (*p*) dynamic and include a crescendo (*cresc.*) marking. The piano accompaniment also starts piano and includes a crescendo. The lyrics are: 'soul. Be - hold, God is my hel - per: the Lord is with'. The Soprano and Alto parts have a '3' above the final measure, indicating a triplet. The Tenor part has an '8' below the first measure, indicating an octave. The Bass part has a '3' above the final measure, indicating a triplet. The piano accompaniment has a '3' above the final measure, indicating a triplet.

34

mf

1
S
them that up - hold my soul.

mf

2
them that up - hold my soul.

mf

1
A
them that up - hold my soul.

mf

2
them that up - hold my soul.

mf *p*

1
T
them that up - hold my soul. He shall re - ward

mf *p*

2
them that up - hold my soul. He shall re-ward

mf *p*

1
B
with them that up - hold my soul. He shall re-ward

mf *p*

2
with them that up - hold my soul. He shall re-ward

mf *p*

E

38

1
S
2
1
A
2
1
T
2
1
B
2

De - stroy them
De - stroy them
De - stroy them
De - stroy them
e - vil un-to mine e - ne - mies. De - stroy them
e - vil. De - stroy them
e - vil. De - stroy them
e - vil. De - stroy them

p *ff* *p* *ff* *p* *ff* *pp* *fp* *ff* *pp* *fp* *ff* *pp* *fp* *ff* *p* *ff* *f*

use diaphragm to accent each note;
try to minimize glissando and "h" sound

The musical score is arranged in a standard SATB format with piano accompaniment. It begins at measure 42. The vocal parts (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) each have two staves, labeled 1 and 2. The piano part consists of two staves, treble and bass clef. The lyrics are: "thou, _____ in thy truth. An of - fer-ing of a". The music is in 2/4 time, with a key signature of one flat (B-flat major/D minor). The piano part features a melodic line with accents and slurs, and a harmonic accompaniment. The vocal parts also have accents and slurs. The piano part includes a triplet of eighth notes in the final measure of the phrase. The dynamic marking *p* (piano) is used throughout. The score is watermarked with "MusicalScoreOnline.com".

46

cresc. *mp*

1
S free heart will I give — thee, and praise thy Name, and praise thy Name, O

cresc. *mp*

2
S free heart will I give — thee, and praise thy Name, and praise thy Name, O

cresc. *mp*

1
A free heart — will I give thee, and praise thy Name and praise thy Name, O

cresc. *mp*

2
A free heart — will I give thee, and praise thy Name and praise thy Name, O

cresc. *mp*

1
T free heart will I give thee, and praise thy Name, and praise thy Name, O

cresc. *mp*

2
T free heart will I give thee, and praise thy Name, and praise thy Name, O

cresc. *mp*

1
B free heart — will I give thee, — and praise thy Name, and praise thy Name, O

cresc. *mp*

2
B free heart will I give thee, — and praise thy Name, and praise thy Name, O

cresc. *mp*

The image shows a page of a musical score for the hymn "Save Me, O God". It is page 17 of a larger work, starting at measure 46. The score is arranged for SATB voices and piano accompaniment. Each voice part (Soprano 1 & 2, Alto 1 & 2, Tenor 1 & 2, Bass 1 & 2) has its own staff with lyrics underneath. The piano part is at the bottom, with treble and bass staves. The lyrics are: "free heart will I give — thee, and praise thy Name, and praise thy Name, O". The music includes dynamics such as *cresc.* (crescendo) and *mp* (mezzo-piano). There are also hairpins for crescendo and decrescendo. A triplet of eighth notes is marked with a '3' above it in the first few measures of each part. The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is common time (C).

51

f *dim.* *p*

1 Lord, _____ be - cause it is so com-fort - a - ble.

S

f *dim.* *p*

2 Lord, _____ be - cause it is so com-fort - a - ble.

A

f *dim.* *p*

1 Lord _____ be - cause it is so com-fort - a - ble.

f *dim.* *p* *pp*

2 Lord _____ be - cause it is so com-fort - a - ble. Oo, _

T

f *dim.* *p*

1 Lord _____ be - cause it is so com-fort - a - ble.

f *dim.* *p*

2 Lord _____ be - cause it is so com-fort - a - ble.

B

f *dim.* *p*

1 Lord _____ be - cause it is so com-fort - a - ble.

f *dim.* *p*

2 Lord _____ be - cause it is so com-fort - a - ble.

f *dim.* *p* *pp*

F

Tempo II ♩ = 60

The musical score is arranged in a system with the following parts from top to bottom:

- Soprano (S):** Two staves, both containing whole rests.
- Alto (A):** Two staves. The first staff begins with a *pp* dynamic and contains a melodic line with lyrics "Oo, Oo, Oo, Oo,". The second staff contains a similar melodic line with lyrics "Oo, Oo, Oo, Oo,".
- Tenor (T):** Two staves, both containing whole rests.
- Bass (B):** One staff. It contains a solo part starting with a *p* dynamic and the lyrics "For he hath de - liv - ered". The word "altri" is written below the staff.
- Altri:** One staff, containing a whole rest.
- Piano:** A grand staff (treble and bass clefs) at the bottom. The right hand has a complex melodic line, and the left hand has a bass line. A *p* dynamic is indicated at the start of the piano part.

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Save Me, O God

58 *solo* *p* 3 3

S He hath de - liv - ered me out of all my

altri

A 1 00, 00, 00, 00,

2 00, 00, 00, 00,

T 1 *pp* He hath de -

2 *pp* He hath de -

B solo me out of all my

altri

p 3 3

Detailed description of the musical score: The score is for a piece titled 'Save Me, O God'. It features a vocal solo part and a piano accompaniment. The vocal solo part (Soprano) begins at measure 58 with a triplet of eighth notes (F#, G, A) followed by a half note (B) and a quarter note (A). The lyrics are 'He hath de - liv - ered me out of all my'. The piano accompaniment consists of two staves. The right hand plays a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes, often in triplets, with a dynamic of *p*. The left hand provides harmonic support with chords and single notes. The Tenor 1 and Tenor 2 parts enter later with the lyrics 'He hath de -'. The Bass part also has lyrics 'me out of all my'. The score includes various musical notations such as triplets, dynamics (*p*, *pp*), and articulation marks.

60

solo S trou - ble;

altri

1 00, 00, 00, 00,

2 00, 00, 00, 00,

1 T liv - ered me

2 liv - ered me

solo B trou - ble; and mine eye hath seen his de -

altri

3

62 *p*

S
mine eye hath seen his de - sire up - on mine

altri *p*
Soprano 1, 2 altri
Mine eye hath seen his de - sire up - on mine

A
1 00, 00, 00, 00,
2 00, 00, 00, 00,

T
1 *p*
from mine en - - -
2 *p*
from mine en - - -

B
solo
sire up - on mine

altri

p

G

64

p *pp*

S en - - - em - ies. A -

p *pp*

altri en - - - em - ies. A -

1 *pp*

A oo, oo, oo, A -

2 *pp*

oo, oo, A -

1 *pp*

T em - - - em - ies. A -

2 *pp*

em - - - em - ies. A -

p *pp* Bass 1 tutti

solo B en - - - em - ies. A -

pp Bass 2 tutti

altri A -

p *pp*

molto rit.

ppp

67

solo S
men, a - men, a - - - men.

altri
men, a - men, a - men.

A
1
men, a - men, a - men.

2
men, a - men, a - men.

T
1
men, a - men, a - men.

2
men, a - men, a - men.

B
1
men, a - men, a - men.

2
men, a - men, a - men.

ppp