

Lead Me To The Rock

a setting of Psalm 61

SAB, piano, cello obbligato, and congregation
with optional guitar and drums

words based on Psalm 61
music by Sheena Phillips

commissioned by Summit United Methodist Church, Columbus, Ohio
in fond memory of George Ryerson (1934 – 2016)

duration c. 5 minutes

perusal score
not for rehearsal or performance

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Lead Me To The Rock

Hear my cry, O God, and listen to my prayer.
From the end of the earth I am calling out to you.
Lead me to the rock that is higher than I;
For you are my refuge, my shelter, my strength.

Let me abide in your shelter for ever,
Let me find refuge beneath your wings,
For you, O God, have heard my vows;
I will sing praises to you for ever.

Sheena Phillips

A paraphrase of Psalm 61 based on the King James and New Revised Standard Versions of the Bible

Lines 1, 3 and 7 from the New Revised Standard Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Performance notes

Involvement of the congregation is strongly encouraged. Use the a cappella section at E to teach it to them and if possible print or project the congregational insert included with this music.

The addition of drums and guitars is also encouraged. I suggest that, for a gradual build-up of energy, guitars come in at C and drums at F – but you may of course use your discretion.

Lead Me To The Rock

SAB, piano, cello obbligato, congregation, and optional guitar and drums

Psalm 61, based on elements of the
King James and NRSV translations

Sheena Phillips

Moderato maestoso (♩ = c. 48)

Soprano

Alto

Bass

Cello

Piano

con Ped.

7

Hear my cry, Oh God,

Hear my cry, Oh God,

Hear my cry, Oh God,

Hear my cry, Oh God,

Lead Me To The Rock

A

15 *mf*

hear my cry, Hear my cry, Oh God, and lis - ten to my

mf

hear my cry, Hear my cry, Oh God, and lis - ten to my

div. *mf*

hear my cry, Hear my cry, Oh God, and lis - ten to my

f *mf*

21 *f*

prayer, From the end of the earth I am call - ing out to you. *f*

f

prayer, From the end of the earth I am call - ing out to you. *f*

f

prayer, From the end of the earth I am call - ing out to you. *f*

f

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Lead Me To The Rock'. It is a three-part setting for voices and piano. The score is divided into two systems. The first system starts at measure 15 and ends at measure 20. The second system starts at measure 21 and ends at measure 26. The vocal parts (Soprano, Alto, and Bass) have lyrics written below them. The piano accompaniment is shown in grand staff notation. Dynamics include *mf* (mezzo-forte) and *f* (forte). A section marked 'A' is indicated above the first system. A large, semi-transparent watermark 'sample' is overlaid diagonally across the page.

27 *mf* *f*

Lead me to the rock that is high - er than I, For you are my re - fuge, my

mf *f*

Lead me to the rock that is high - er than I, For you are my re - fuge, my

mf *f*

Lead to the rock that is high - er than I, For you are my re - fuge, my

mf *f*

33 S & A merge

shel-ter, my strength.

S & A merge

shel-ter, my strength.

shel-ter, my strength.

mf *f*

$\text{♩} = \text{♩}$. ($\text{♩} = \text{c. } 48$)

B con moto, one in a bar feel

SA

B

Vc.

mf dolce

p subito

lilting

50

mf dolce

Let me a - bide in your shel - ter for ev - er, _____

Vc.

57

Let me find re-fuge be - neath your wings, For you, O God, have heard my

Vc.

65

vows; I will sing prais - es to you for ev - er.

Vc.

C add guitars ad lib

f warmly

I will sing prais - es,

f warmly

I will sing prais - es,

prais - es for ev - er,

mf warmly

Vc.

78

prais - es for ev - er,

For you, O God, — have

For you, O God, — have heard — my vows;

Vc.

84



heard my vows; I will sing praises.

I will sing praises to you for ever.

Vc.

D *mp* *leggiero*



Let me abide in your shelter for ever, Let me find refuge be -

mf warmly

Lead me to the rock,

Vc.

mf cantabile

mp

95

neath — your wings, For you, O God, — have heard — my vows;

— High - - - - er than

Vc.

This block contains the musical score for measures 95 to 100. It features a vocal line with lyrics, a bass line, and a piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: "neath — your wings, For you, O God, — have heard — my vows;". The vocal line continues with "High - - - - er than". The piano accompaniment consists of a treble clef with eighth-note patterns and a bass clef with sustained chords. A large, semi-transparent watermark "sample" is overlaid on the page.

101

I will sing prais - es to you — for ev - er. —

I.

mf

Vc.

This block contains the musical score for measures 101 to 106. It features a vocal line with lyrics, a bass line, and a piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: "I will sing prais - es to you — for ev - er. —". The vocal line continues with "I.". The piano accompaniment consists of a treble clef with eighth-note patterns and a bass clef with sustained chords. A dynamic marking of *mf* is present. A large, semi-transparent watermark "sample" is overlaid on the page.

Lead Me To The Rock

E This section from memory and a cappella

f

Lead me to the rock that is high - er than I; For you

f

Lead me to the rock that is high - er than I; For you

Vc.

f (play first time only)

repeat section E ad lib to teach the congregation

add drums ad lib

115

are my re - fuge, my shel - ter, my strength. _____ strength. _____

are my re - fuge, my shel - ter, my strength. _____ strength. _____

SA div.

until last time last time

until last time last time

until last time last time

F

Optional: double the bass line with a few sopranos or altos (8va) if it helps the congregation

mf goioso

S I will sing prais-es, *mf goioso* prais-es for ev-er,

A I will sing prais-es, prais-es for

B *f (with congregation)* Lead me to the rock that is high - er than I;

Vc. *f cantabile*

131

S For you, O God, have heard my vows; I will sing prais-es to

A ev-er, For you, O God, have heard my vows;

B For you are my re - fuge, my shel - ter, my

Vc.

The musical score is arranged in four systems. The first system contains the vocal entries for Soprano (S), Alto (A), and Bass (B), along with the Violoncello (Vc.) part. The Soprano and Alto parts begin with the lyrics 'I will sing prais-es, prais-es for ev-er,'. The Bass part begins with 'Lead me to the rock that is high - er than I;'. The Vc. part is marked *f cantabile*. The second system continues the vocal parts and the Vc. part. The Soprano and Alto parts continue with 'For you, O God, have heard my vows; I will sing prais-es to'. The Bass part continues with 'For you are my re - fuge, my shel - ter, my'. The piano accompaniment consists of chords and arpeggiated figures in both hands.

138

you for ev - er!

Praise you for ev - er!

strength.

Vc.

broadly

G

f I will sing prais - es, *f* I will sing prais - es,

f (still with congregation) I will sing prais - es, I will sing prais - es,

Lead me to the rock that is high - er than

Vc.

f

150

prais - es for ev - er, For you, O God, have heard my vows;

prais - es for ev - er, I will sing prais - es, prais - es for ev - er,

I; For you are my re - fuge, my

Vc.

156

I will sing prais - es to you for ev - er! I will sing prais - es,

I will sing prais - es to you for ev - er! I will sing

shel - ter, my strength. Lead me to the

Vc.

H

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of three systems of music. The first system (measures 150-155) features a vocal line with lyrics and a piano accompaniment. The second system (measures 156-161) continues the vocal line and piano accompaniment. The score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. A large, semi-transparent watermark 'SAMPLE' is overlaid diagonally across the page. A rehearsal mark 'H' is placed above the first measure of the second system.

162

I will sing prais - es, I will sing prais - es, I will sing prais - es, rock, Lead me to the rock.

Vc.

168

prais - es for ev - er! prais - es to you for ev - er! A - - - men.

Vc.