

# Psalm 139

*Domine, probasti*

In honor of Missy Daniel, and in thanksgiving  
for her devoted support of music at Christ Church

Chris Biemesderfer (b.1958)

## Unison

*mf* 1) Lord, you have searched me out and known me;

you know my sitting down  
and my rising up; ) you discern my thoughts from a far.

2) You trace my journeys and my resting -places

and are ac - quainted with all my ways.

Psalm 139

**SATB**

3) Indeed, there is not a word on my lips,

but you, O Lord, know it al - to - gether.

4) You press upon me be - hind and be - fore

and lay your hand up - on me.

Psalm 139

**SATB**

*2nd half of chant*

5) Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;

The first system of the musical score is for SATB choir. It consists of two staves, Treble and Bass, with a key signature of one flat (Bb). The time signature is common time (C). The lyrics are: "5) Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;". The melody is simple, with the Treble staff having a half note on G4 for "Such", a half note on A4 for "knowledge", a half note on Bb4 for "is", a half note on C5 for "too", a half note on D5 for "wonderful", a half note on E5 for "for", and a half note on F5 for "me;". The Bass staff has a whole note on G3 for "5)", a whole note on F3 for "Such", a whole note on E3 for "knowledge", a whole note on D3 for "is", a whole note on C3 for "too", a whole note on B2 for "wonderful", a whole note on A2 for "for", and a whole note on G2 for "me;".

it is so high that I cannot at - tain to it.

The second system of the musical score continues the SATB choir. It consists of two staves, Treble and Bass, with a key signature of one flat (Bb). The time signature is common time (C). The lyrics are: "it is so high that I cannot at - tain to it.". The melody continues from the first system, with the Treble staff having a half note on G4 for "it", a half note on A4 for "is", a half note on Bb4 for "so", a half note on C5 for "high", a half note on D5 for "that", a half note on E5 for "I", a half note on F5 for "cannot", a half note on G5 for "at", a half note on A5 for "-", a half note on Bb5 for "tain", a half note on C6 for "to", and a half note on Bb5 for "it.". The Bass staff has a whole note on G3 for "it", a whole note on F3 for "is", a whole note on E3 for "so", a whole note on D3 for "high", a whole note on C3 for "that", a whole note on B2 for "I", a whole note on A2 for "cannot", a whole note on G2 for "at", a whole note on F2 for "-", a whole note on E2 for "tain", a whole note on D2 for "to", and a whole note on C2 for "it.". There is a sharp sign (#) above the Treble staff in the third measure, indicating a key change or a specific harmonic context.

Psalm 139

**TB**

*mp* 6) Where can I go then from your Spirit?

where can I FLEE from your presence?

7) If I climb up to heaven, you are there;

if I make the grave my bed, you are THERE al - so.

Psalm 139

**SA**

8) If I take the wings of the morning

The first system of the musical score for Psalm 139, featuring Soprano (S) and Alto (A) parts. It begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The Soprano part starts with a whole note chord (F4, A4, C5) marked with an '8'. The Alto part starts with a whole note chord (F3, A2, C3) marked with an '8'. The lyrics are: "8) If I take the wings of the morning".

and dwell in the utter - most parts of the sea,

The second system of the musical score. The Soprano part continues with a whole note chord (F4, A4, C5) and then moves to a half note (F4) and a quarter note (A4). The Alto part continues with a whole note chord (F3, A2, C3) and then moves to a half note (F3) and a quarter note (A2). The lyrics are: "and dwell in the utter - most parts of the sea,".

9) Even there your hand will lead me

The third system of the musical score. The Soprano part continues with a whole note chord (F4, A4, C5) and then moves to a half note (F4) and a quarter note (A4). The Alto part continues with a whole note chord (F3, A2, C3) and then moves to a half note (F3) and a quarter note (A2). The lyrics are: "9) Even there your hand will lead me".

and your right hand hold me fast.

The fourth system of the musical score. The Soprano part continues with a whole note chord (F4, A4, C5) and then moves to a half note (F4) and a quarter note (A4). The Alto part continues with a whole note chord (F3, A2, C3) and then moves to a half note (F3) and a quarter note (A2). The lyrics are: "and your right hand hold me fast.".

Psalm 139

**SATB**

*mf* 10) If I say, ``Surely the dark - ness will cover me,

and the light a - round me turn to night,``

11) Darkness is not dark to you; ) the night is as bright as the day;

darkness and light to you are both a - like.

Psalm 139

**SATB** *New chant*

*mf* 12) For you yourself created my in - most parts;

you knit me to - gether in my moth - er's womb.

13) I will thank you because I am marv'lous - ly made;

your works are wonderful, and I know it well.

Psalm 139

**SA**

14) My body was not hidden from you,

This system contains measures 14 through 17 of the SA part. The music is in G major (one sharp) and 8/8 time. Measure 14 has a whole note chord in the treble and a whole note chord in the bass. Measures 15 and 16 have half notes in the treble and half notes in the bass. Measure 17 has a whole note chord in the treble and a whole note chord in the bass.

while I was being made in secret and woven in the depths of the earth.

This system contains measures 18 through 21. Measure 18 has a whole note chord in the treble and a whole note chord in the bass. Measures 19 and 20 have half notes in the treble and half notes in the bass. Measure 21 has a whole note chord in the treble and a whole note chord in the bass.

**TB**

15) Your eyes beheld my limbs,  
yet unfinished in the womb; )  
all of them were written in your book;

This system contains measures 22 through 25. Measure 22 has a whole note chord in the treble and a whole note chord in the bass. Measures 23 and 24 have half notes in the treble and half notes in the bass. Measure 25 has a whole note chord in the treble and a whole note chord in the bass.

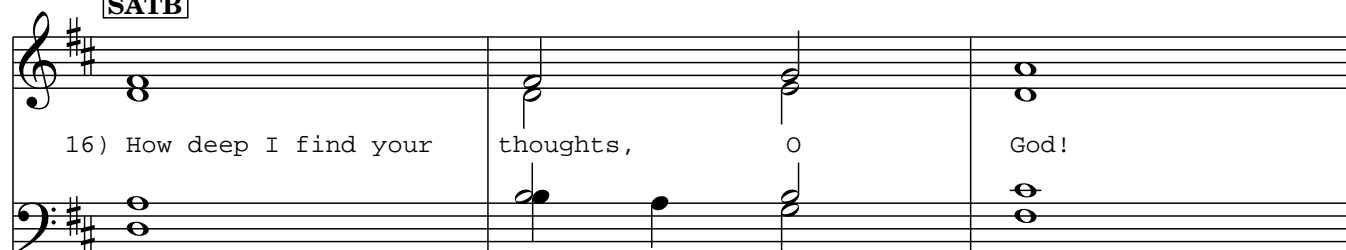
they were fashioned day by day, when as YET there was none of them.

This system contains measures 26 through 29. Measure 26 has a whole note chord in the treble and a whole note chord in the bass. Measures 27 and 28 have half notes in the treble and half notes in the bass. Measure 29 has a whole note chord in the treble and a whole note chord in the bass.



Psalm 139

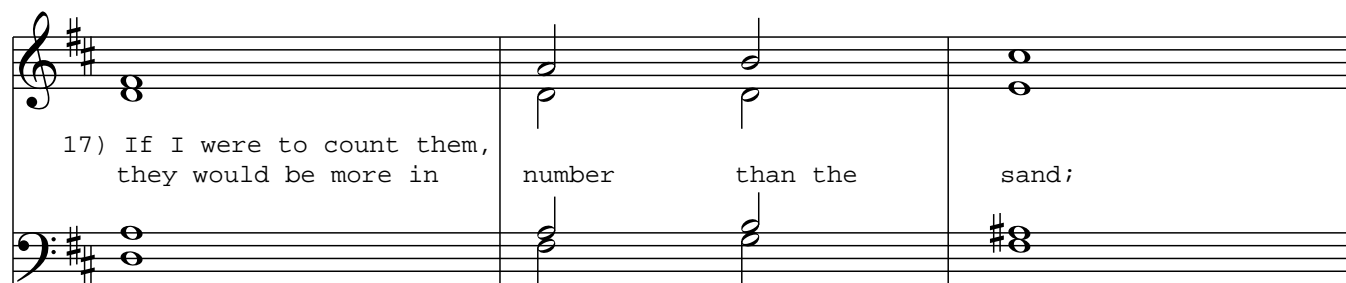
**SATB**



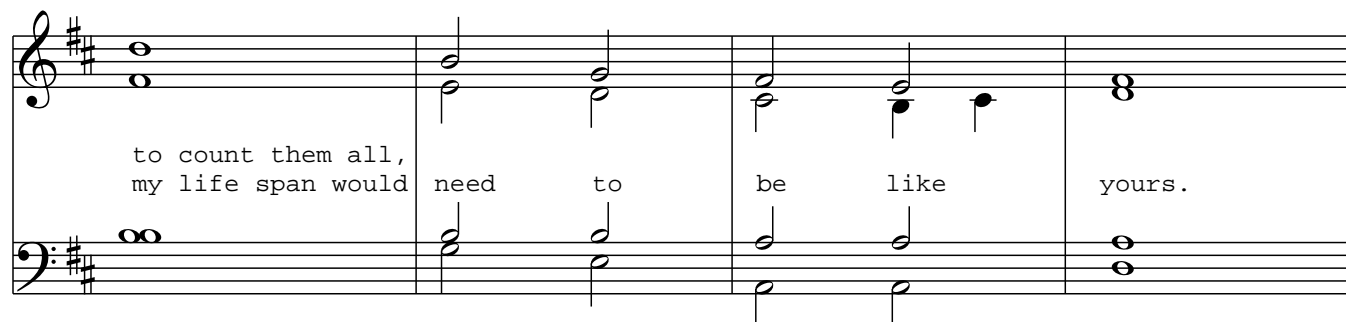
16) How deep I find your thoughts, O God!



how GREAT is the sum of them!



17) If I were to count them, they would be more in number than the sand;



to count them all, my life span would need to be like yours.

Psalm 139

**SA**

18) Oh, that you would slay the wick - ed, O God!

You that thirst for blood, de - part from me.

**TB**

19) They speak de - spitefully a - gainst you;

your enemies take your Name in vain.

Psalm 139

**SATB**

*p* 20) Do I not hate those, O Lord, who hate you?

and do I not loathe those who rise up a - gainst you?

21) I hate them with a per - fect hatred;

they have be - come my OWN enemies.

Psalm 139

**Unison**

*mf* 22) Search me out, O God, and know my heart;

try me and know my rest - less thoughts.

23) Look well whether there be any wickedness in me

and lead me in the way that is ev - er - lasting.

Psalm 139

**SATB**

Glory to the Father, and to the Son,

and to the Ho - ly Spirit:

as it was in the be - ginning, is now,

and will be for - ever. ) A - men.