

Andrew Mark Sauerwein

PSALM 46

For
SATB Choir
a cappella

(Revised 2016)

Psalm 46

(Hebrew transcription, with Kohlenberger's English equivalents)

(English translation adapted from JPS and NIV)

1	Lam-natzay-ach	liv-nay	korach	מור למנצח לבני־קרח
	for the one directing	of sons of	Korah	
	al	alamot	shir	על־עלמות שיר:
	according to	alamoth	song	
2	Elohim	lanu	machaseh va-oz	אלהים לנו מחסה ועז
	God	to us	refuge and strength	
	ezra	b'tzarot	nimtzā m-od.	עזרה בצרות נמצא מאד:
	help	in troubles	one being present ever	
3	al	kayn	lo nira	על־כֵּן לא־נִירָא
	for	this	not we will fear	
	b'hamir	aretz		בְּהִמִּיר אֶרֶץ
	though to give way	earth		
	uv-mot	harim	b'levv yamin.	ובמוט הרים בלב ימים:
	and though to fall	mountains	into heart of seas	
4	Ye-he-mu	yechem'ru	maymav	יִהְיֶמוּ יִחְמְרוּ מִימֵיו
	they roar	they foam	waters of him	
	yirashu	harim	b'ga-avato sela.	יִרְעֲשׂוּ־הָרִים בְּגֵאוֹתוֹ סֵלָה:
	they quake	mountains	with surging of him selah	
5	Na-har	p'lagav	y'sam-chu ir elohim	נָהָר פִּלְגָיו יִשְׂמְחוּ עִיר־אֱלֹהִים
	river	streams of him	they make glad city of God	
	k'dosh	mish-k'nay	elyon.	קֹדֶשׁ מִשְׁכְּנִי עֲלִיוֹן:
	holy place of	dwelling place of	most high	
6	Elohim	b'kirba	bal timot	אלהים בקרבה בל־תמוט
	God	in inside of her	not she will fall	
	ya'zrehah	elohim	lifnot boker.	יעזרה־אֱלֹהִים לַפְּנוֹת בֶּקֶר:
	he will help her	God	to come daybreak	

For the leader. Of the Korahites;

on *alamoth*. A song.

God is our refuge and stronghold,

An (ever-present) help in trouble.

2
Therefore we are not afraid

Though the earth reels,

though mountains topple into the sea---

3
(though) its waters rage and foam;

(and) in its swell mountains quake. *Selah*.

4
There is a river whose streams gladden God's city,

the holy dwelling-place of the Most High.

5
God is in its midst, it will not be toppled;

by daybreak God will come to its aid.

7 Hamu	go-yim	matu	mamlachot
they are in uproar	nations	they fall	kingdoms
		נתן בקולו תמוג ארץ:	
natan	b'kolo	tamug	aretz.
he lifts	to voice of him	she melts	earth
8 Adonai	ts'va-ot	imanu	8 יהוה צבאות עמנו
The Lord of	hosts	with us	
		משגב לנו אלהי יעקב סלה:	
misgav	lanu	elohay	ya-akov sela.
fortress	to us	God of	Jacob selah
		9 לכו חזו מפעלות יהוה	
9 l'chu	cha-zu	mif-alot	adonai
come!	see!	works of	The Lord
		אשר שם שמות בארץ:	
asher	sam	shamot	ba-aretz.
that	he brought	deseciations	on the earth
10 Mashbit	milchamot	ad	k'tzay ha-aretz
one making cease	wars	to	end of the earth
		קשת ישיבר וקצץ חנית	
keshet	y'shabayr	v'kitsayts	chanit
bow	he breaks	and he shatters	spear
		עגלות ישרף באש:	
agalot	yisrof	ba-aysh.	
chariots	he burns	with fire	
11 Harpu	ud-u	ki	anochi elohim
be still!	and know!	that	I God
		ארום בגוים	
arum	bago-yim		
I will be exalted	among the nations		
		ארום בארץ:	
arum	ba-aretz.		
I will be exalted	in the earth		
12 Adonai	ts'va-ot	imanu	12 יהוה צבאות עמנו
The Lord of	hosts	with us	
		משגב לנו אלהי יעקב סלה:	
misgav	lanu	elohay	ya-akov sela.
fortress	to us	God of	Jacob selah

6	Nations (are in uproar), kingdoms (fall);
	at the sound of His thunder the earth (melts).
7	The Lord of Hosts is with us;
	the God of Jacob is our (fortress). <i>Selah.</i>
8	Come and see what the Lord has done,
	how He has wrought desolation on the earth.
9	He (makes wars cease) (to the ends of) the earth,
	breaking the bow, snapping the spear,
	consigning (chariots) to the flames.
10	(Be still, and know) that I am God!
	I (will be exalted among) the nations;
	I (will be exalted in) the earth."
11	The Lord of Hosts is with us;
	the God of Jacob is our (fortress). <i>Selah.</i>

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(Hebrew and English)

Andrew Mark Sauerwein

(♩ = 96) **With Intense Energy**

SATB

pp [2+3] [3+2] *mp*

A - do - nai the Lord of
ts' - va - ot hosts
i - ma - nu mis - gav la - nu fortress
e - lo - hay to us God of
ya - a - Jacob

7

p *mp*

kov
A - do - nai
ts' - va - ot
i - ma - nu mis - gav la - nu
e - lo - hay

13

mf *mp* *cresc.*

ya - a - kov
A - do - nai
ts' - va - ot
i - ma - nu
mis - gav

19

f *mp* *p*

mis - gav la - nu
A - do - nai
ts' - va - ot
pre - sent help in
trou - ble, pre - sent ev - pre - sent

Psalm 46 ~ 2

25 *pp* *f* *p* *mp* *mf*

- - er.
ev - er.

There - fore lo ni - ra lo ni - ra b' - ha - mir
not we will fear though to give way

we will not fear, will not fear,

32 *f* *mp* *pp* *mp*

a - retz uv - mot ha - rim b' - leyv ya - min. Ye - he -
the earth and though to fall mountains into heart of seas they roar

38 *cresc.* *rall.* *f* *A Tempo* *mp*

mu yech-m' - ru may - mav yi - ra - shu ha - rim b' ga - a - va - to The Lord, the
they foam waters of him they quake mountains with surging of him

43

Lord of Hosts is with us. The God, the God of Ja - cob is our for - tress.

Psalm 46 ~ 3

49 (♩ = 48) **Smoothly, Gently**

mp *mf*

Na - har p'la - gav y'-sam-chu ir
river streams of him they make glad city of

54 *f* *mp* *rall.* *pp* **A Tempo** *mp*

e - lo-him k' - dosh mish - k' - nay el - yon. E - lo-him b' - kir -
God holy place of dwelling place of most high God inside of her

59 *accel.* *cresc.* (bal) *f* *pp* ♩ = ♩

ba bal ti - mot ya'z - re - hah e - lo-him lif-not bo - ker.
not (bal) she will fall he will help her to come daybreak

65 (♩ = 96) **Tempo I** *ff* *subito mp*

Ha - mu go - yim ma - tu mam-la - chot na - tan b'-ko-lo ta-mug
they are in uproar nations they fall kingdoms he lifts voice of him she melts

Psalms 46 ~ 4

72 *A Tempo* *p* *mf*

ar - etz. *earth* A - do - nai ts' - va - ot i - ma - nu L' - chu *come!* cha - zu *see!*

78 *cresc.* *f* *mp*

cha - zu mif - a - lot a - do - nai a - sher sam sha - mot ba -
works of the Lord that he brought desolations

cha - zu mif - a - lot a - sher sam sha - mot

84 *p* *sf* *sf* *sfz*

a - retz. Mash bit mil - cha mot ad k' - tzay ha - a - retz
on the earth wars to end of the earth

90 *mp* *f* *sffz* *rall.*

ke - shet y' - sha - bayr v' - kit - sayts cha - nit a - ga lot yis - rof ba - aysh.
bow he breaks and he shatters spear chariots he burns with fire

Psalm 46 ~ 5

97 (♩ = 56) Severely

(distantly)

pp e-lo-him

be still! *f* Har - pu ud - u that ki *I (am)* a - no-chi *mf* I will be exalted among the nations a - rum ba-go -

104

Tempo I (♩ = 96)

mp

yim *f* I will be exalted in the earth ba - a - retz. *mp* The Lord, the Lord of Hosts is

110

cresc.

mf

mp

with us. The God of Ja - cob is our for - - tress. *mp* A - do - nai

116

cresc.

ts' - va - ot i - ma - nu mis - gav la - nu e - lo - hay ya - - -

Psalms 46 ~ 6

122 *f*

-- -- a - kov A - do - nai ts' - va - ot i - ma - nu mis - gav

subito mp cresc.

128 *f*

la - nu la - nu e - lo - hay e - lo - hay ya - - - a - kov se - la.

ff

Program Note

Psalm 46 vividly portrays God's formidable strength with remarkable images of global uproar, setting this vision against that of a flowing river which sustains the people of God. The essence of the message, stated in verse 7 (8 in the Hebrew text) and again in verse 11, serves as a refrain, voiced in both Hebrew and English. The remaining text is presented in the original sequence (mostly in Hebrew) with the exception of the word *sela* (whose meaning is uncertain) is saved for the end as a final exclamation. According to the Jewish practice of voicing scripture, the name of God is rendered as *Adonai*. Other references to God (*elohay ya-akov*, *elohim*) are highlighted with distinctive harmonic color and voice-leading in order to draw attention to the true subject of the psalm: not rivers or fortresses or outrageous destruction, but the Lord of Hosts who sustains and protects His people in the face of disaster.

I am grateful to Ellen Wise, my former student, for commissioning this piece as part of her graduate studies in choral conducting. It is a revision of the work originally commissioned and composed in 2000 for the North Carolina/Israel Project, which performed it several times during its summer tour of Israel. I am also indebted to Rabbi John Friedman and cantor Lisa Brauer for their assistance in the phonetic rendering of the Hebrew text, and to NCIP director David C. Stuntz for his musical and technical insights.

- Andrew Mark Sauerwein, September 2016

Regarding pronunciation:

Vowels sound as follows:

- a as in father
- e as in met
- i as in machine
- o as in roll
- u as in moon
- ch as in Bach

A hyphen (- in the text, but not in the score) indicates a break: the vowel sound is “stopped” in the throat.

An apostrophe (') indicates a “schwa,” the half-voiced vowel “ə.”

For Further Information:

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