

Dedicated to Robert Schuneman and First Church in Cambridge (MA),
Kerala Snyder and United Church on the Green (New Haven CT),
and Marguerite Brooks and Church of the Redeemer (New Haven CT)

Tenebrae

Journey Through Shadows

for Tenor Solo, SATB Chorus, Flute/Alto Flute, Viola, and Violoncello, or Piano

Bay Psalm Book

Robert Kyr

Tenebrae I

Psalm 23 (Version I)

A ♩ = 76

p

Soprano
Alto

1. My shep - herd is the liv - ing Lord, Noth -

p

Tenor
Bass

1. My shep - herd is the liv - ing Lord, Noth -

5

S
A

ing there - fore I need; In pas - tures fair with

T
B

ing there - fore I need; In pas - tures fair with

10

S
A

wa - ters calm, Thou set me for to feed. 2. Yea,

rit. *a tempo*
mp

T
B

wa - ters calm, Thou set me for to feed. 2. Yea,

15 **B**

S
A

though I walk in vale of death, Yet will I

T
B

though I walk in vale of death, Yet will I

20

S
A

fear none ill; Thy rod, thy staff doth comfort

T
B

fear none ill; Thy rod, thy staff doth comfort

25

rit. **C** *a tempo*
mf

S
A

me, And thou art with me still. 3. Through all my

T
B

me, And thou art with me still. 3. Through all my

mf

30

S
A

life thy favor is, So frankly showed to

T
B

life thy favor is, So frankly showed to

35

S
A

me, That in thy house for - ev - er - more, My

T
B

me, That in thy house for - ev - er - more, My

D Broader (♩ = ca. 63) *rubato*
prominent *mp* ————— *poco f*

40 *rit.*

Ten. Solo

8 O deep - un - known, -

S
A

mf dwell - ing place shall be. *p dolce* O

T
B

mf dwell - ing place shall be. *p dolce* O

45

Ten. Solo

8 O gut - ter - ing

S
A

deep un - - -

T
B

deep un - - -

E Slower than before (♩ = ca. 72)

48

Ten. Solo

can - dle. *div.* *p* hushed

S

known. Yea, though I walk in

p hushed

A

known. Yea, though I walk in

p hushed

T B

known. Yea, though I walk in

E Slower than before (♩ = ca. 72)

51

Ten. Solo

always prominent *p* *mf*

0 deep un - known

S

vale of death, Yet will I

A

vale of death, Yet will I

T B

vale of death, Yet will I

55

Ten. Solo *mp* *mf* *molto* *p* **F**

O un - known.

S *mp* *mf* *molto* *p* *hushed*

fear none ill; Thy rod, thy

A *mp* *mf* *molto* *p* *hushed*

fear none ill; Thy rod, thy

T *mp* *mf* *molto* *p* *hushed*

fear none ill; Thy rod, thy

59

Ten. Solo *mp* *mf*

O un - known.

S *mp* *mf*

staff doth com - fort me, And

A *mp* *mf*

staff doth com - fort me, And

T *mp* *mf*

staff doth com - fort me, And

G Broader (♩ = ca. 63) *rubato*

63 *rit.* *prominent p* *mf*

Ten. Solo

0 deep un - known, -

S

thou art with me still. 0

A

thou art with me still. 0

T B

thou art with me still. 0

mp *mf* *p dolce*

mp *mf* *p dolce*

mp *mf* *p dolce*

rit. **G** Broader (♩ = ca. 63) *rubato*

67 *f* *mf* *rit.*

Ten. Solo

0 gut - ter - ing

S

deep un - - -

A

deep un - - -

T B

deep un - - -

f *mf* *rit.*

f *mf* *rit.*

f *mf* *rit.*

f *mf* *rit.*

70 (rit.)

Ten. Solo

8 can - dle.

S

known.

A

known.

T

B

known.

lunga

lunga

lunga

lunga

lunga

Tenebrae II

Psalm 23 (Version II)

H Original tempo (♩ = ca. 76)

mp

S
A

1. Thou did con - vert and glad my soul, And

mp

T
B

1. Thou did con - vert and glad my soul, And

5

S
A

brought my mind in frame, To walk in

T
B

brought my mind in frame, To walk in

9

S
A

paths of right - eous - ness, For thy most

T
B

paths of right - eous - ness, For thy most

rit.

13

S
A

ho - ly name. 2. And in the pre - sence

mf

T
B

ho - ly name. 2. And in the pre - sence

I

17

S
A

of my foes, My ta - ble thou shalt spread;

T
B

of my foes, My ta - ble thou shalt spread;

22

S
A

Thou shalt (O Lord) fill full my cup, And

T
B

Thou shalt (O Lord) fill full my cup, And

rit.

J Broader (♩ = ca. 63) *rubato*
prominent *mp*

26

Ten. Solo

8

O deep un -

mf = molto *p*

S
A

eke a - noint my head.

mf = molto

T
B

eke a - noint my head.

30

Ten. Solo

8

known, O

poco f *f*

S
A

(*p*) O deep

T
B

O deep

33 *mf (non dim.)* *rit.* *f*

Ten. Solo
8 re - mote un - known.

S A *pp cresc. poco a poco*
un - - - - known. 3. Through

T B *pp cresc. poco a poco*
un - - - - known. 3. Through

Psalm 23 (Version II)

K Slower than before (♩ = ca. 72)

35 *mp*

Ten. Solo
8

S A *(cresc.)* *(p)*
all my life thy fa - vor is, So

T B *(cresc.)* *(p)*
all my life thy fa - vor is, So

39 *rubato* *mf*

Ten. Solo
8 O deep, re - mote un -

S A *(mp)* *mf* *molto* *pp*
frank - ly showed to me,

T B *(mp)* *mf* *molto* *pp*
frank - ly showed to me,

L *a tempo*

42 *f* *mp*

Ten. Solo
8 known. ———
p cresc. poco a poco ——— (*mp*)

S
A That in thy house for ev - er - more, My
p cresc. poco a poco ——— (*mp*)

T
B That in thy house for ev - er - more, My

M *Broader* (♩ = ca. 63) *rubato*

46 *rit.* *mf* *f*

Ten. Solo
8 Our hope lies ———

S
A dwell - ing place shall be. ———
(mf) ——— *f* *molto* *p*

T
B dwell - ing place shall be. ———
(mf) ——— *f* *molto* *p*

49 *molto rit.* *mp* *molto lunga* *pp*

Ten. Solo
8 in the un - known. ———
gliss. *molto lunga*

S
A A - - - men(n) - n. *(covered)* *molto lunga*

T
B A - - - men(n) - n. *(covered)* *molto lunga*

Tenebrae III

Psalm 121

N Flowing (♩ = ca. 66)
p

S
A

1. I _____ to the hills will lift mine eyes, From

T
B

1. I _____ to the hills will lift mine eyes, From

4

S
A

whence doth come mine help. 2. The Lord thee

T
B

whence doth come mine help. 2. The Lord thee

7

S
A

keeps; the Lord thy shade On thy right hand doth

T
B

keeps; the Lord thy shade On thy right hand doth



10 *espr. mf* ————— *f*

Ten. Solo *8* O deep un - known.

molto ————— *pp p cresc. poco a poco* - - - - -

S A stay. My safe - ty com - eth from the

molto ————— *pp p cresc. poco a poco* - - - - -

T B stay. My safe - ty com - eth from the

13 *mf espr.* —————

Ten. Solo *8* O deep un -

- (*mp*) - - - - - *mf* ————— *p*

S A Lord, Who heav'n and earth hath made.

- (*mp*) - - - - - *mf* ————— *p*

T B Lord, Who heav'n and earth hath made.



16 *f*

Ten. Solo *8* known.

mp

S A 1. Thy foot God won't let slide, nor

mp

T B 1. Thy foot God won't let slide, nor

20

Ten. Solo. *mf espr.*

8 O deep un -

S A *p*

will God slum - ber that thee keeps.

T B *p*

will God slum - ber that thee keeps.

24 \diamond *f*

Ten. Solo. 8 known.

S A *mf*

2. The moon by night thee shall not

T B *mf*

2. The moon by night thee shall not

28

Ten. Solo. *mf espr.*

8 O deep un -

S A *p*

smite, Nor yet the sun by day.

T B

smite, Nor yet the sun by day.

32 **R** *f* ————— *mf* ————— *mp*

Ten. Solo *known.* —————

cresc. poco a poco ————— *(mp)*

S A *One liv - ing - God - keeps hu - man -*

cresc. poco a poco ————— *(mp)*

T B *One liv - ing God - keeps hu - man -*

36 ————— *(mf)* ————— *rit.*

S A *kind, - And - slum - bers not, - nor*

————— *(mf)* —————

T B *kind, And - slum - bers not, - nor*

S **Broader** (♩ = ca. 60) *rubato* *mf espr.* ————— *f* ————— *molto rit.* *mf* ————— *molto espr.*

Ten. Solo *O deep un - known, O deep un -*

f ————— *molto* ————— *p* ————— *mp* ————— *mf* —————

S A *sleeps. O deep un -*

f ————— *molto* ————— *p* ————— *mp* ————— *mf* —————

T B *sleeps. O deep un -*

subito a tempo *rit.* **Broader yet**
ff *mp* *mf* (♩ = ca. 52) *p* (*non dim.*)

Ten. Solo
 42
 8
 known, O deep un - known.

S
f *molto* *p* *pp*
 know(n) - - - - -

T
unis. *f* *molto* *p* *pp*
 know(n) - - - - -

Ten. Solo
 45
 8
 lunga

S
ppp (*covered*) *n.* *lunga*
 n. - - - - -

A
ppp (*covered*) *n.* *lunga*
 n. - - - - -

T
ppp *lunga*
 n. - - - - -

2:40

Tenebrae IV

Psalm 88 (Version I)

T Moving (♩ = 92)

Ten. Solo *mf* 0 deep

f boldly

S A *unif. f* boldly O God of my sal - va - tion, hear

T B O God of my sal - va - tion, hear

Ten. Solo *f* un - known. *f espr.* Re - mote un -

mp *mf* *f*

S A My night - ly groan, my dai - ly pray'r,

Bass only *mp* *mf* *f*

B My night - ly groan, my dai - ly pray'r,

Ten. Solo *mp* < known. 0

mp *mf* *f* *mp*

S A That still em - ploys my wast - ing breath;

mp *mf* *f* *mp*

B That still em - ploys my breath.

9 **U** *mf* *f*

Ten. Solo
8 deep, re - mote un - known,

S *f boldly*
My soul de - clin - ing

A *mp* *mf*
My soul de - clin - ing to the

+Tenor *(mp)* *mf* *f*
unis.
My soul de - clin - ing to the grave,

U

12 *f espr.*

Ten. Solo
8 0 deep, re -

S *mp*
to the grave, Im -

A *f* *mp*
grave, Im -

T B *mf* *mp*
Im -

15 **V** (non dim.)

Ten. Solo

mote un - known.

S

plores thy sov' - reign pow - er to save From

A

plores thy sov' - reign pow - er to save

T B

plores thy sov' - reign pow - er to save

mf *f* *mp*

mf *f* *mf*

mf *f* *mf*

V

18

S

dark de - spair and last - ing

A

From dark de - spair and last - ing

T B

From dark de - spair and last - ing

mf *rit.* *f*

mp *mf* *f*

mp *mf* *f*

rit.

W Broader (♩ = ca. 60) *rubato*

21 *mp* — *molto* — *f* *mf*

Ten. Solo
8 O deep un - known, O

S *mp* *p dolce (non cresc.)*
death. O deep

A *mp* *p dolce (non cresc.)*
death. O deep

T B *unis. p dolce (non cresc.)*
death. O deep

W Broader (♩ = ca. 60) *rubato*

24 *p* *mp* *mf (non dim.) rit.*

Ten. Solo
8 re - - - - - mote,

S
un - - - - -

A
un - - - - -

T B
un - - - - - *rit.*

Slower yet (♩ = ca. 52)

rit.

27 *mp* *mf* *f* *mf* *mp* *lunga*

Ten. Solo 8 O un - known(n) - n. _____

pp (covered) *lunga*

S known(n) - n. _____

pp (covered) *lunga*

A known(n) - n. _____

pp (covered) *lunga*

T known(n) - n. _____

pp (covered) *lunga*

B known(n) - n. _____

Slower yet (♩ = ca. 52)

rit.

lunga

lunga

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Tenebrae V

Psalm 88 (Version II)

X Moving (♩ = 92)

Ten. Solo *mf* O deep

f boldly

S A Yet through each mel - an - chol - y day,

f boldly

T B Yet through each mel - an - chol - y day,

Ten. Solo *f* un - known. *mp* *mf*

S A I've pray'd to thee and still will

mp *mf*

T B I've pray'd to thee and still will

Ten. Solo *mf* *f* Re - mote un - known.

S A pray, Im - plor - ing still thy

f *mp* *mf*

T B pray, Im - plor - ing still thy

8 *mp* **Y** *mf*

Ten. Solo *f* *mp* *mf*

O deep, re - mote un -

S *f* *mp* *mf* **Y** *mf*

kind re - turn - unis. ***f*** boldly

A But

T *f* *mp* (*mp*) *mf*

kind re - turn - But Oh! My friends, my com - forts,

B *f* *mp* (*mp*) *mf*

kind re - turn - But Oh! My friends, my

11 *f* *f*

Ten. Solo known. O deep un -

S *mp*

Oh! My friends, my com - forts, fled. And

T *f* *mp sub.*

fled. And

B *f* *mp sub.*

com - forts, fled. And

15 *molto f* *mp* *mf* *rit.* *f*

Ten. Solo

known, O re - mote, re - mote un - known

mf *f*

all my kin - dred of the dead

A *mf* *f* *mp* *mf espr.*

all my kin - dred of the dead Re -

T *mf* *f* *mf*

all my kin - dred of the dead

B *mf* *f* *mf*

all my kind - dred of the dead

rit.

18 Broader (♩ = 66)

Ten. Solo

A (Altos only)

call my wan - d'ring thoughts

T

mp

mf

Re - call my wan - d'ring

B

mp

mf

Re - call my wan - d'ring

Broader (♩ = 66)

molto rit.

A1 subito a tempo (♩ = ca. 66), rubato

Ten. Solo

21

p *f* *mf* *f*

(+Sop.) O deep un - known,

S A

to mourn Lord,

T

thoughts to mourn Lord,

B

thoughts to mourn Lord,

molto rit.

A1 subito a tempo (♩ = ca. 66), rubato

25 *mp* *mf* *rit.*

Ten. Solo: Have — mer - cy — up - -

S: have mer - cy up - -

A: have mer - cy up - -

T B: have — mer - cy up *rit.*

Instrumental accompaniment with piano and bass staves.

Becoming suspended
(rit.) *mp* *p* *rit.* *n.* *molto lunga*

Ten. Solo: on — us. — *molto lunga*

S: on — us. — *molto lunga*

A: on — us. — *molto lunga*

T B: on — us. — *molto lunga*

Instrumental accompaniment with piano and bass staves.

Tenebrae VI

B1 Slow (♩ = ca. 56)

molto espressivo ma leggero
mp

mf espr.

Ten. Solo

8

p dolce

O deep un - known, O,

T B

0 Lord,

Slower (♩ = ca. 44)

rit. *p sempre legato*

mp

Ten. Solo

6

O deep, re -

T B

have mer - - -

C1 Rubato

mf

mp

p

molto

Ten. Solo

9

mote un - known,

T B

cy up - on

12

mf

molto rit.

, espr.

p

molto lunga

Ten. Solo

O deep un - known.

T B

us.

n.

molto lunga

* Tenebrae VII

D1 Very Slow (♩ = ca. 40)

p molto leg. e espr. (yet prominent)

Ten. Solo

0 deep, re - mote

S A

0 Lord, have

Ten. Solo

un - known.

S A

mer - - - cy up - on

Ten. Solo

us.

S A

us.

0:50

*Optional Choreography during Lesson VII: During the reading of Lesson VII, the men of the chorus may turn around as quietly as possible—one by one—so that they are facing away from the congregation or audience. They should turn around very gradually and in a random order so that the overall effect of the action is not “choreographed,” but seemingly, it is their natural response to the events of the overall journey of the Tenebrae, including the testimony that is the focus of Lesson VII.

* **Tenebrae VIII** (Instrumental)

F1 Suspended (♩ = ca. 40) *rubato*
Alto *pp* (covered)

A

Mm
pp (covered)

T

B

Mm

F1 Suspended (♩ = ca. 40) *rubato*
**[Alto Fl.]

**[Vla.]

**[Vlc.]

rubato e molto espressivo

4

A

n. *molto lunga*

T

B

n. *molto lunga*

rubato e molto espressivo

molto lunga

molto lunga

0:40

**Optional Choreography during Lesson VIII* (instrumental meditation): During the instrumental meditation, the women of the chorus may turn around as quietly as possible—one by one—so that they are facing away from the congregation or audience. (The altos will be humming as they turn around. The 6 measures of the part should be memorized, so that the vocalists can sing with closed books held at their sides.) They should turn around very gradually and in a random order so that the overall effect of the action is not “choreographed,” but seemingly, it is their natural response to the events of the overall journey of the Tenebrae, especially Peter’s denial of Jesus, which is the focus of Tenebrae VIII and IX.

**A keyboard reduction of the instrumental ensemble is provided to aid in rehearsal of the *optional choreography*.

Tenebrae IX

Becoming motionless; mysterious

G1 **Begin** (♩ = ca. 48) [each successive repetition *at least* 3-4 bpm slower]

**[4X] in p espr. molto leggero e dolce, molto rubato*

Ten. Solo

1. 3. O _____ deep, _____ re - mote _____ un -
2. 4. O _____ deep _____ un - known, _____ have

G1 **Begin** (♩ = ca. 48) [each successive repetition *at least* 3-4 bpm slower]

(stems up) **

*[3X, Fl.]

(stems down) [2X, Vla.]

(stems down)

[1X, Vlc.]

Ten. Solo

5
known. _____
mer - cy _____ up - on _____ us.

[repeat,
alternating
verses]

[remain still
in utter silence]

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2:50
Total: 18:00

*Each musician plays the 6 measures of the movement a different number of times: the cellist once, violist twice, and the alto flute three times. The soloist sings the passage *at least* 4 times.

Before the soloist begins singing, he should pick up the Christ candle and hold it directly in front of himself. As he sings his melody, he should very gradually recess down the central aisle of the church or halls, and then walk out of the hall until he is beyond the distance of audibility.

NOTE: the soloist should sing the melody as many times as required by the architecture of the church or hall, and the time it takes to go beyond the distance of audibility. (He should finish singing the entire melody before concluding.)

As the soloist leaves the church or hall, it becomes completely dark and progressively more silent, until all of the listeners are left in utter silence in a darkened communal space in a state of contemplation. The duration of the contemplation should be approximately 3-5 minutes.

**A keyboard reduction of the instrumental ensemble is provided to aid in rehearsal of the *optional choreography*.