Psalm 13

For soprano and piano

2019

Mary Montgomery Koppel
This setting of Psalm 13 was commissioned by Deus Ex Musica, an organization committed to the development of sacred art music. The psalm, a lament, opens by repeating the words “How long?” four times. This howling cry drew me deeper into the text and its raw emotion, and my setting aims to similarly convey the desperation of the speaker as they cry out to God, fearing they have been abandoned in their trials. Ultimately, though, the speaker regains faith and rejoices, trusting that God is with them even in their darkest hour. The text is adapted by the composer from the World English Bible translation.

MMK
Psalm 13

Text adapted from Psalm 13
World English Bible translation
Mary Montgomery Koppel

Largo ma non troppo

How long, How long, O

Lord? How long, O

Lord? O Lord? How

Pedal freely

\( \text{\textit{Pedal freely}} \)

\( \text{\textit{Pedal freely}} \)

\( \text{\textit{Pedal freely}} \)

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\( \text{\textit{Pedal freely}} \)

\( \text{\textit{Pedal freely}} \)
long,

How long,

Will you for

get me

Will you for-get me for - ev - er?

How long will you hide your
face from me? How long shall I take counsel in my soul?

soul, shall I grapple, shall I agonize and wrestle with my
thoughts and with my soul? How long having sorrow in my

heart, grief in my heart, day after day? How long shall my enemy triumph

Poco più mosso

over me? Behold, and answer me, O
Lord, my God. Give light to my eyes, lest I sleep in death;
Lest my enemy say, "I have prevailed against her";
Lest my foes rejoice when I
fall.

O God,

Poco meno mosso

Answer me, How long?

But I trust,
trust in your loving kindness,

your steadfast love, your un-failing love, in your

mercy. My heart rejoices in your sal-
57. I will sing,

59. I will sing

61. to God,
my God,

for God has been good
to me.