

C2: Singing Psalms: An Outpouring of Contemporary Song for Congregational Use

Alison Adam, Alfredo Colman, Wendell Kimbrough, Isaac Wardell, moderated by Greg Scheer

Remarkably, even since the publication of *Psalms for All Seasons* just a few years ago, over 30 new Psalm-based songwriting and recording projects have emerged from a variety of contemporary worship leaders across North America and beyond. While some of these settings are designed for solo voices, many are well-suited to congregational use, and are worthy heirs to the legacy of congregation-based Psalms re-established by Luther and Calvin. Come to explore a variety of examples of this music, as well as the stories behind the songs. In addition, to consider new songs you might use in your context, come ready to explore how you can shape a worship culture in your context that is eager to embrace and explore the rich texts of the Biblical Psalms.

Introduction:

Rejoice In All Your Works (Psalm 104)
O God, You've Searched Me and You Know Me (Psalm 139)
Although We Are Weeping (Psalm 126)
Te exaltaré, mi Dios, mi Rey (Salmo 145:1)

Why the Psalms?

Issues to Explore:

Wendell – Singability and congregational participation
We Long to See You (Psalm 24, Wendell Kimbrough)

Alfredo – The music of the Psalms: folk rhythms
Alabad a Jehová/Praise the Lord (Psalm 107:1, José Daniel Verstraeten)

Alison – Psalms of suffering and justice
Oh Great God and Lord of the Earth (Psalm 94, John Bell/El Salvador)
I Cry to God (Psalm 77, John Bell)

Isaac - Psalms of lament and darkness
O God of My Salvation/Can the Dead Rise Up to Praise? (Psalm 88, Chris Juby)

Songs to Sing:

Psalm 113 (From the Rising of the Sun, Sandra McCracken)
Te Alabaré, Señor (Psalm 9)
Oh Give Thanks (Psalm 107)

More Songs to Check out Later:

6	My eyes are dim with weeping (Alison Adam)	46	Dios es nuestro amparo (traditional)
9	The Hope of the Poor (Wendell Kimbrough)	43:3	Send out your light (John L. Bell)
9	Te alabaré, Señor	51	Create within me a clean heart (Alison Adam)
9	Oré mboriahú	62	I'll Not Be Shaken (Wendell Kimbrough)
12	Lying lips that falsely flatter (Adam Tice, in PFAS)	62	On God alone I wait silently (John L. Bell)
13	How Long O Lord? (John L. Bell and Graham Maule)	63	O God you are my God alone (John L. Bell)
19	Aleluya (del Salmo 19)	97	Our Song in the Night (Michael Van Patter)
19	Sean gratos los dichos de mi boca	116	I love the Lord (John L. Bell)
23	Shepherd me, O God (Marty Haugen)	122	I was glad when they said to me (John L. Bell)
27	Jehová es mi luz y salvación	133	Mirad cuán bueno y cuán delicioso es
37	Do not be vexed (John L. Bell)	133	Miren qué bueno
19	Aleluya (del Salmo 19)	136	Alabad al Señor (C. Guevera)
42	Como el ciervo	136	Alabad al Señor porque él es bueno
43	Send Our Your Light (Sandra McCracken)	146	Sing Praise to God (Marty Haugen, with strong echoes of the Magnificat)
		150	Alabad a nuestro Dios en su santuario

REJOICE IN ALL YOUR WORKS

(PSALM 104)

WENDELL KIMBROUGH

D Em D D Em

1. E - very mouth that cries for food, e - very lung that yearns for
 2. E - very tree that thirsts for rain, e - very bird that seeks its
 3. May the pon - d'rings of my heart and the song u - pon my

5 D G D A

breath, e - very eye that sear - ches through the dark for light,
 nest, e - very heart that waits in hope to be made glad,
 lips with the cho - rus of cre - a - tion join in praise

9 A D Em D D Em

all cre - a - tion looks to You for its breath and for its
 all cre - a - tion looks to You for its breath and for its
 to the God who made all things, to the Spi - rit who sus -

13 D G D A

food; from the good - ness of Your hand we're sa - tis - fied.
 food; from the good - ness of Your hand we're sa - tis - fied.
 tains, to the Son who o - ver all cre - a - tion reigns.

17 **REFRAIN** A G D G Bm G

Oh re - joice in all Your works, King of hea - ven, King of earth! E - very crea - ture You have

23 D A A_{sus} A G D

made de - clares Your praise. We re - joice in all You've made, God of

28 G Bm Em D/F# G A D

all sus - tai - ning grace; with the moun - tain, sky, and sea we sing Your praise.

O God, You Search Me 29

(Psalm 139)



1 O God, you search me and you know me. All my
 2 You know my rest - ing and my ris - ing. You dis -
 3 Be - fore a word is on my tongue, Lord, you have
 4 Al - though your Spir - it is up - on me, still I
 5 For you cre - at - ed me and shaped me, gave me



thoughts lie o - pen to your gaze. When I
 cern my pur - pose from a - far, and with
 known its mean - ing through and through. You are
 search for shel - ter from your light. There is
 life with - in my moth - er's womb. For the



walk or lie down you are be - fore me: ev - er the
 love ev - er - last - ing you be - siege me: in ev - ery
 with me be - yond my un - der - stand - ing: God of my
 no - where on earth I can es - cape you: e - ven the
 won - der of who I am, I praise you: safe in your



mak - er and keep - er of my days.
 mo - ment of life or death, you are.
 pres - ent, my past, and fu - ture, too.
 dark - ness is ra - diant in your sight.
 hands, all cre - a - tion is made new.

Psalm 139 is one of the most introspective and most intimate of all the psalms, showing an acute mindfulness of God's presence in all aspects of one's life. Sometimes resisted, this omnipresence ultimately becomes a ground of hope, a promise that we never stray beyond God's care.

Psalm 126

Bifrost Arts

Am F C Am

1. Our mouths, they were filled, filled with laugh - ter; _____ Our
2. The nat - tions will say "He has done great things!" _____ The

F C F

tongues, they were loosed, loosed with joy. _____ Re -
nat - tions will sing songs of joy. _____ Re -

G F G

store us, O Lord! Re - store us, O Lord! Al -
store us, O Lord! Re - store us, O Lord!

F C G Am

though we are weep - ing, _____ Lord, help us keep sew - ing _____ the

F C G Am

seeds of Your King - dom _____ for the day You will reap them! _____ Your

F C G Am

sheaves we will car - ry; _____ Lord, please do not tar - ry! _____ All

F C G C

those who sew weep - ing will go out with songs of joy!

Te exaltaré/I Will Exalt

PSALM 145:1-5

Dm Gm Dm Gm

Spanish 1 Te_e - xal - ta - ré, mi Dios, mi — Rey, y ben - de - ci -
2 Ge - ne - ra - ción a ge - ne - ra - ción ce - le - bra -

English 1 I will ex - alt my God, my — King; I will praise your
2 Each gen - er - a - tion to the — next will pro - claim your

Dm/A A7 Dm

ré tu nom - bre. E - ter - na - men - te y
rá tus o - bras y a - nun - cia - rá tus
name for - ev - er. I will ex - alt your
works of splen - dor, and cel - e - brate your

Gm Dm Gm Dm/A A7 Dm

pa - ra — siem - pre, ca - da dí - a te ben - de - ci - ré.
po - de - ro - sos he - chos; ca - da dí - a te ben - de - ci - ré.
name_ for - ev - er; ev - ery day I'll praise your ho - ly name.
might - y deeds. — Ev - ery day I'll praise your ho - ly name.

Refrain Gm Dm Dm/A A7 Dm Gm

Y a - la - ba - ré tu nom - bre e - ter - na -
I will praise your name for - ev - er; I will ex -

For other settings of Ps. 145 see 561, 562

Words: Casiodoro Cárdenas, 1979; tr. composite; st. 2 tr. Mary Louise Bringle, 2011

Music (ECUADOR irregular): Casiodoro Cárdenas, 1979; arr. Raquel Mora Martínez, 1979, © Raquel Mora Martínez

Dm Dm/A A7 Dm B^b Gm7 C F Dm

men - te y pa - ra siem - pre. Gran - de es Je - ho - vá y
 alt your name for - ev - er. LORD our God, you are great and

B^b6 Dm/A A7 Dm B^b

dig - no de su - pre - ma a - la - ban - za; y su gran -
 wor - thy of the high - est praise and hon - or, for your —

Gm7 C7 F Dm B^b6 Dm/A A7 Dm

de - za es in - es - cru - ta - ble; ca - da dí - a te ben - de - ci - ré.
 great - ness is far be - yond us; ev - ery day I'll praise your ho - ly name.

Optional ending with descant

B^b6 Dm/A A7 Dm

ca - da dí - a te ben - de - ci - ré.
 ev - ery day I'll praise your ho - ly name.

We Long to See You (Psalm 24, Wendell Kimbrough)

Al - migh - ty God we long to see You.

O - pen our hearts and make them pure. Spi - rit we wash our

hands in mer - cy; come teach our souls to love Your truth.

The earth is the LORD's and the fullness thereof,
the world and those who dwell therein,
for he has founded it upon the seas
and established it upon the rivers.

Who shall ascend the hill of the LORD?
And who shall stand in his holy place?
He who has clean hands and a pure heart,
who does not lift up his soul to what is false
and does not swear deceitfully.
He will receive blessing from the LORD
and righteousness from the God of his salvation.
Such is the generation of those who seek him,
who seek the face of the God of Jacob.

Lift up your heads, O gates!
And be lifted up, O ancient doors,
that the King of glory may come in.
Who is this King of glory?
The LORD, strong and mighty,
the LORD, mighty in battle!
Lift up your heads, O gates!
And lift them up, O ancient doors,
that the King of glory may come in.
Who is this King of glory?
The LORD of hosts,
he is the King of glory!

Alabad a Jehová/Praise the Lord (Psalm 107:1, José Daniel Verstraeten)

F C7 F Bb D7 Gm

Praise The LORD, for He is good,

5 C7 F Dm Gm C7 Am Dm

For His lov - ing kind - ness, for His lov - ing kind - ness,

9 Bb C7 F Dm Gm A7 Dm Bb Gm C7 F

En - dures for - ev - er, en - dures for - ev - er, en - dures for - ev - er.

Fa Do7 Fa Sib Re7 Solm Do7 Fa Rem

A - la - bad a Je - ho - vá, Por - que él es bue - no;

Solm Do7 Fa Rem Sib Do7 Fa Rem

Por - que pa - ra siem - pre es su mi - se - ri - cor - dia, Es

Solm La Rem Sib Fa

su mi - se - ri - cor - dia, Es su mi - se - ri - cor - dia.

Letra, Salmo 107:1. Música PUNTA INDIO, José Daniel Verstraeten. © Copyright 1978 Casa Bautista de Publicaciones. Todos los derechos reservados. Amparado por los derechos de copyright internacional.

293 O Great God and Lord of the Earth

PSALM 94

Em B

1 O great God and Lord of the earth, rouse your -
 2 Those who crush your peo - ple de - light, claim - ing
 3 God the Lord will not stay a - way nor for -
 4 Should the wrong change plac - es with right and the

B7 Em

self and de - mon - strate jus - tice; give the ar - ro - gant
 God a - bove takes no no - tice; they pro - claim — that
 sake his well - be - loved peo - ple; heav - en's jus - tice
 courts play host to cor - rup - tion; should the in - no - cent

B B7

what they de - serve, si - lence all ma - le - vo - lent
 heav - en is blind, that the God of Ja - cob is
 soon will ap - pear, and the pure in heart will em -
 fear for their lives while the guilt - y smile at their

Em E7 Am D G

boast - ing. See how some you love are bro - ken,
 si - lent. Stu - pid fools, when will you lis - ten?
 brace it. Yes, the ones whom God in - struc - ted,
 schem - ing; still the Lord will be your ref - uge,

Words: Psalm 94; para. and arr. John L. Bell © 2002 Wild Goose Resource Group, Iona Community, Scotland,
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 Music (VOS SOS EL DESTAZADO 8.9.8.9.8.9.8.9): Guillermo Cuellar © 1996 GIA Publications, Inc.; acc.
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Em Am B7 Em B7

for they know the weight of op - pres - sion; e - ven
 Now take heed, you ig - nor - ant peo - ple. God who
 who re - vere and stu - dy God's Word, _____ will be
 be your strength and cour - age and tow - er. Though your

Am D7 G Em F

wi - dows and or - phans are mur - dered, and poor strang - ers are
 gave _____ us sight _____ and hear - ing has ob - served _____ and
 saved _____ from all _____ that harms them while a pit _____ is
 foot _____ should verge _____ on slip - ping, God will cher - ish,

B7 Em

in - no - cent vic - tims.
 no - ted what hap - pened.
 dug for the wick - ed.
 keep, and pro - tect you.

(*last time*)

Optional prayer of lament

God of justice and mercy,
 in our pain and sorrow,
 help us to hold on to your sure promise
 that you will never leave or forsake us.
**Give us courage to forsake revenge,
 to testify to the beauty of your justice,
 and to place our hope in you. Amen.**

Optional prayer of confession

God of justice and mercy,
 we confess that we, too often,
 are arrogant and indifferent.
**We are the guilty.
 We have sinned by what we have done
 and what we have left undone.
 Clothe us in Christ's righteousness
 and teach us to act justly, to love mercy,
 and to walk humbly with you. Amen.**

I CRY TO GOD (WGIR)

par. of ps. 77 by John L. Bell, © 1996, WGRG, Iona Community

I cry to God and he hears me;
in my time of trouble I seek him.
By night my hands plead in prayer,
but I find nothing for my comfort.

I think of God and I moan;
I meditate and feel useless.
God keeps the sleep from my eyes,
and my speech is lost in confusion.

I thought of days gone by,
and remembered times now vanished.
I spent the night in deep distress
while my spirit murmured within me.

Will God reject us forever?
Will God refuse us his mercy?
Has endless love reached an end?
Are God's promises now invalid?

Has God forgotten to be gracious?
Has anger doused his compassion?
Has God's mighty arm lost its grip?
Does it hang powerless beside him?

Let me now remember God's work
and recall his wonderful greatness.
Let me meditate on his power
and remember all God has done.

O God of My Salvation/Can the Dead Rise Up to Praise? (Psalm 88, Chris Juby)

1. O God of my sal - va - tion. Do You not hear?
 2. I cry in prayer be - fore You. You hide Your face.

5 My soul is full of trou - ble and death is near.
 Your wrath has o - ver - whelmed me. I can't es - cape.

9 You sunk me to the bot - tom a - mong the dead.
 Your ter - rors have de - stroyed me, they flood the day.

13 Your wrath is hea - vy on me, I have no friend Can the dead rise
 All those who e - ver loved me are far a - way.

19 up to praise? Sing of mer - cy from the grave? Is Your

26 faith - ful - ness pro - claimed e - ven in the dark - est place?

Psalm 113 (From the Rising of the Sun, Sandra McCracken)

Am G C Am G C
 Hat - le - lu - jah, give praise you ser - vants. Praise the name of the Lord.
 Am G C Am G C
 Let the name of the Lord be blessed for now and for - ev - er - more.

REFRAIN

Am F C G Am F C
 From the ris - ing of the sun to its go - ing down.
 Am F C G Am F C
 Let the name of the Lord be praised from the ris - ing of the sun.

Am G/B C Am G/B C
 The Lord is high a - bove all na - tions and His glo - ry a - bove the heav - ens

F F G Am
 Who is like the Lord our God who sits en throned on high?

F F G Am D Am Am/F D Am Am/F
 Who is like the Lord our God? stoops to be-hold the hea - vens and the ea - rth.

Te alabaré, Señor/I Will Exalt You, LORD

Salmo 9:1-2/Psalm 9:1-2

Unknown

The musical score is written in a single system with a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a 3/4 time signature. It consists of eight staves of music. The first four staves contain the vocal melody with lyrics underneath. The last four staves contain a guitar accompaniment consisting of chords. The lyrics are in Spanish and English. The chords are indicated by letters above the notes.

Dm *C* *F*

Tea - la - ba - ré, Se - ñor, con to - do mi - co - ra - zón, con

C *F* *A7* *Dm* *C* *F*

5 to - do mi - co - ra - zón, tea - la - ba - ré, Se - ñor. Con - ta - ré to - das tus ma - ra - vi - llas,

C *F* *A7* *Dm*

13 to - das tus ma - ra - vi - llas, tea - la - ba - ré, Se - ñor. Mea - lo - gra - ré en ti y

C *F* *C* *F* *A* *Dm*

19 me re - go - ci - ja - ré, y me re - go - ci - ja - ré, Tea - la - ba ré, Se - ñor.

C *F* *C* *F*

25 Can - ta - réa tu nom - bre, Oh, Al - tí - si - mo, Oh, Al - tí - si - mo, Tea -

A7 *Dm* *A7* *Dm* *A7* *Dm* *C* *Dm* *C* *Dm*

31 la - ba - ré, Se - ñor. Tea - la - ba - ré, Se - ñor, Tea - la - ba - ré, Se - ñor.

C *F* *A* *Dm* *C*

39

F *A* *Dm* *C* *Dm* *C* *Dm*

44

Te alabaré, Señor/I Will Exalt You, LORD

19 C F



I will ex - alt You, Lord, with my whole heart — and my voice, with

53



my whole heart and my voice, I will ex - alt You, Lord. I will tell of all Your might - y won - ders,

61



of all Your might - y won - ders, I will ex - alt You, Lord. I will be glad and re -

67



joice in You, and re - joice in You, I will ex - alt You, Lord.

73



I will praise Your name O, Most High and Glo - rious God, O, Most High and Glo - rious God, I

79



will ex - alt You, Lord. I. will ex - alt You, Lord. I will ex - alt You, Lord. _____

OH GIVE THANKS! (PSALM 107)

WENDELL KIMBROUGH



1. We were wan - d'ring in the de - sert with our souls
 2. We were locked out of the gar - den and our backs
 3. We were fools in our re - bell - ion with our hun -
 4. We were far out on the o - cean ma - king wealth



so starved and weak; we were hun - gry for a home - land we did not
 bend down with pain in the sha - dow of death's dark - ness we were slaves
 - ger strike of pride; we were sick and grow - ing clos - er to - the death -
 and cha - sing dreams but the waves of great de - struc - tion brought us trem -



know how to seek, but we lif - ted up our voi -
 to sin and blake Then we cried out in our la -
 - we should have died Then he heard of our con - di -
 - bling to our knees, and we cried like drun - ken sai -



- ces to the on - ly One who hears and the God
 - bor to the on - ly One who hears and the God
 - tion and He - called - us by our names and the God
 - lors to the on - ly One who hears and the God



of mer - cy came and brought us near. Oh give thanks to the Lord
 of mer - cy wiped a - way our tears.
 of glo - ry took a - way - our shame.
 of com - fort took a - way our fears.



for His love en - dures fo - re - ver! We were wan - dering and lost and our Fa -



ther brought us home to a safe dwe - lling place, to a feast



of joy and laugh - ter. Oh give thanks to the Lord for He is good.