



Robert Page

Psalm 51

**Have mercy on me,
O God**

SATB

Performance Notes

- The style of singing required by this piece is similar to that used for plainchant psalms, *ie* with a slow, deliberate speech rhythm and a gently undulating emphasis on those syllables which require it.
- The piece should be sung *legato* throughout. A comma in the text does not indicate a break in the sound. Such breaks should occur only when indicated by a rest.
- If used liturgically, verses not specified in the lectionary may be omitted.
- The opening phrase, “Have mercy on me, O God,” may be sung by a solo cantor, with altos and basses beginning at “according to ...”.
- The 2nd bass part in verse 19 is optional, and should be sung only if there are basses who can do justice to the final bottom E.

Have mercy on me, O God

Psalm 51

Robert C. Page
(b.1952)

Adagio sciolto alla plainchant

SOPRANO

ALTO *p*
*I. Have mer - cy on me, O God, ac - cord - ing to your stead - fast love;

TENOR

BASS *p*
*I. Have mer - cy on me, O God, ac - cord - ing to your stead - fast love;

Adagio sciolto alla plainchant

Piano
(for rehearsal only)

S. *p*
2. Wash me tho-rough-ly from my in - i - qui-ty,

A. *pp*
ac-cord-ing to your a-bund-ant mer - cy blot out my trans-gres - sions.

T. *p*
2. Wash me tho-rough-ly from my in - i - qui-ty,

B. *pp*
ac-cord-ing to your a-bund-ant mer - cy blot out my trans-gres - sions.

Pno.

*The opening phrase, "Have mercy on me, O God," may be sung by a solo cantor, with altos and basses beginning at "according to ...".

S. *pp*
and cleanse me from my sin!_____

A.

T. *pp*
and cleanse me from my sin!_____

B. *mp*
3. For I know my trans-gres - sions, and my sin is e - ver be-fore me._____

Pno.

S.

A.

T. *mp*
4. A - gainst you,_____ you on - ly have I sinned and done what is e - vil in your sight,

B. *pp*

Pno.

S.

A.

T. *pp*
so that you may be jus - ti - fied in your words and blame-less in your judge - ment._____

B.

Pno.

S. _____

A. *mp*
5. Be - hold, I was brought forth in in - i - qui - ty, and in sin did my mo - ther con - ceive me. —

T. *pp*

B. _____

Pno. _____

S. *mp*
6. Be - hold, you de - light in truth in the in - ward be - ing, and you teach me wis - dom in the se - cret heart. —

A. *pp*

T. _____

B. _____

Pno. _____

S. *pp*

A. *mf*
7. Purge me — with hys - sop, and I shall be clean; wash me and I shall be whi - ter than snow. —

T. _____

B. *mf*
7. Purge me — with hys - sop, and I shall be clean; wash me and I shall be whi - ter than snow. —

Pno. _____

S. *mf*
8. Let me hear joy and glad - ness; let the bones that you have bro - ken re - joice.

A. *pp*

T. *mf*
8. Let me hear joy and glad - ness; let the bones that you have bro - ken re - joice.

B. *pp*

Pno.

S. *pp*

A. *f*
9. Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my in - i - qui - ties.

T. *f*
9. Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my in - i - qui - ties.

B. *f*
9. Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my in - i - qui - ties.

Pno.

S. *ff*
10. Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right spi - rit with - in me.

A. *ff*
10. Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right spi - rit with - in me.

T. *ff*
10. Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right spi - rit with - in me.

B. *ff*
10. Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right spi - rit with - in me.

Pno.

S. *f*
11. Cast me not a - way from your pre - sence, and take not your Ho - ly Spi - rit from me.

A. *f*
11. Cast me not a - way from your pre - sence, and take not your Ho - ly Spi - rit from me.

T. *f*
11. Cast me not a - way from your pre - sence, and take not your Ho - ly Spi - rit from me.

B.

Pno.

S. *mf*
12. Re - store to me the joy of your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with a will - ing spi - rit.

A. *pp*

T. *mf*
12. Re - store to me the joy of your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with a will - ing spi - rit.

B.

Pno.

S. *pp*

A. *mf*
13. Then will teach trans - gres - sors your ways, and sin - ners will re - turn to you.

T. *pp*

B. *mf*
13. Then I will teach trans - gres - sors your ways, and sin - ners will re - turn to you.

Pno.

S. *mp*
14. De - li - ver me from blood-guil - ti - ness, O God, O God of my sal - va - tion,

A. *pp*

T.

B. *pp*

Pno.

S. *pp*
and my tongue will sing a - loud of your right - eous - ness.

A. *mp*
15. O Lord o - pen my lips,

T.

B.

Pno.

S.

A. *pp*
and my mouth will de - clare your praise.

T. *mp*
16. For you will not de - light in sa - cri - fice, or I would give it;

B.

Pno.

S. _____

A. _____

T. *pp*
 you will not be pleased with a burnt off - er - ing.

B. *mp*
 17. The sa - cri - fi - ces of God are a bro - ken spi - rit;

Pno. _____

S. _____ *p*
 18. Do good to Zi - on in your good plea - sure;

A. _____ *p*
 18. Do good to Zi - on in your good plea - sure;

T. _____ *p*
 18. Do good to Zi - on in your good plea - sure;

B. _____ *p*
 a bro - ken and con - trite heart, O God, you will not__ des - pise. 18. Do good to Zi - on in your good plea - sure;

Pno. _____

S. _____
 build up the walls of Je - ru - sa - lem;

A. _____
 build up the walls of Je - ru - sa - lem;

T. _____
 build up the walls of Je - ru - sa - lem;

B. _____
 build up the walls of Je - ru - sa - lem;

Pno. _____

pp

S. 19. then will you de-light in right sac - ri - fi - ces, in burnt off - er - ings and whole burnt off - er - ings;

pp

A. 19. then will you de-light in right sac - ri - fi - ces, in burnt off - er - ings and whole burnt off - er - ings;

pp

T. 19. then will you de-light in right sac - ri - fi - ces, in burnt off - er - ings and whole burnt off - er - ings;

pp

B. *19. then will you de-light in right ac - ri - fi - ces, in burnt off - er - ings and whole burnt off - er - ings;

Pno.

molto rall.

S. then bulls will be off - ered on your al - tar.

A. then bulls will be off - ered on your al - tar.

T. then bulls will be off - ered on your al - tar.

B. then bulls will be off - ered on your al - tar.

molto rall.

Pno.

*The second bass part in verse 19 is optional.

Sacred Choral
Works by
Robert Page

A New Year Prayer	SATTBB
A Wondrous Thing	S + A soloists SSAA or SATB
All Men are like Grass	SATB + organ
Birds and Lilies	Tenor soloist SATB + organ
Come, Holy Ghost	SATB
Evening Service in B flat	SATB
Foxes and Birds	SATB + organ
Honour and Glory	SATB + organ
Hymn to St George	SATB
Hymn to St John the Baptist	SATB
Hymn to St Mark	SATB
Hymn to the Nativity	SATB
Invocation of the Holy Spirit	SATB
Lullaby (1974)	Unison + piano
Lullaby (2009)	SATB × 2
O Taste and See	2 voices
Passion according to St Luke	SATB + soloists + flute, oboe, tuba 'cello, tubular bells
Preces, Responses & the Lord's Prayer	SATB
Psalm 51 - Have mercy on me, O God	SATB
Psalm 100 - Make a joyful noise to the Lord	SATB + organ
Psalm 117 - Praise the Lord, all nations!	SSAATTBB + organ
Psalm 130 - Out of the depths I cry to you	SSATBB
Psalm 131 - O Lord, my heart is not lifted up	SATB
Psalm 133 - Behold, how good and pleasant it is	SATB × 2
Psalm 134 - Come, bless the Lord	SATB × 2
The Seven 'Great O' Antiphons	SATB
The Seven Last Words	SATB × 2
The Spirit of the Lord is upon me	SATB
To remedy the fall	SATB
Watchful, faithful, joyful	SATB
Where shall I go from your Spirit?	SATB
With a Glorious Eye	SATB + organ