

## *About the composer...*

Composer Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy (1809-1847) was born into a Jewish family in Hamburg but converted to Christianity at the age of seven (his parents were converted six years later) and grew up in Berlin surrounded by the Protestant music tradition. It is no surprise then that sacred choral music occupied an important place in his compositions. There are dozens of sacred compositions ranging in scale from brief unaccompanied pieces and cantatas written for chorus, orchestra, and soloists to the full-scale oratorios, *St. Paul* and *Elijah*.

Mendelssohn turned to the Psalm texts for inspiration throughout his life, writing his first setting in 1822 at the age of 13 and his last in 1844, just three years before his death. The Psalms were undoubtedly attractive to him for their richness and poetic drama. Perhaps the psalms were also a way in which Mendelssohn could express his religious conviction and at the same time honor his Jewish heritage.

He composed *Psalm 42* in 1837, but revised it later that year and again early in 1838. The setting is for soprano soloist, solo male quartet, four-part chorus, orchestra, and organ. It is a seven movement work in the style of a cantata complete with recitatives, arias, and large choruses. Mendelssohn considered *Psalm 42* to be among his finest compositions, referring to it as "my best sacred piece."

## *About this edition...*

The opening chorus, *Wie der Hirsch schreit*, is the only choral movement from the work that can stand alone as a concert piece. It is presented here with both the original German text and an English version, making the piece perhaps more suitable for use in the church. All editorial markings are contained in [brackets] and are only suggestions for interpretation. The English version has been written to preserve the linear quality of the original and therefore is neither an exact translation nor a quotation from any of the English language Bibles. Dotted slurs are used in the occasional instances where the English syllabification does not match the German.

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# Wie der Hirsch schreit

(As the Hart Longs)

SATB

3

Psalm 42

English version by  
Scott MacPherson

Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy (1809-1847)

Edited by Scott MacPherson

**Lento e sostenuto** ♩ = 100-108

The musical score is presented in three systems. The first system (measures 1-4) features a piano introduction with dynamics *p*, *mf*, and *f*. The second system (measures 5-8) continues the piano introduction with dynamics *sf* and *dim.*. The third system (measures 9-12) includes vocal parts for Soprano (S), Alto (A), Tenor (T), and Bass (B), along with piano accompaniment. The vocal parts enter at measure 9 with the lyrics: "Wie der Hirsch schreit nach fri-schem Was-ser, so schreit mein-e See-le, As the hart longs af-ter the wa-ter; so long-eth my soul, O". The piano accompaniment in the third system starts with a *p* dynamic.

Duration: 5:00

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*p* *cresc.*

Wie der Hirsch schreit nach fri-schem Was - ser, wie der Hirsch nach  
*As the hart longs af - ter the wa - ter, as the hart longs*

Gott, zu dir, wie der Hirsch schreit nach fri-schem Was - ser, nach  
*God, for Thee, as the hart longs af - ter the wa - ter; longs*

*p* *cresc.*

Wie der Hirsch schreit nach fri-schem Was -  
*As the hart longs af - ter the wa -*

*[mp] cresc.*

Wie der Hirsch schreit  
*As the hart longs*

17

*f*

fri - schem Was - ser, so schreit mein - e See - le, Gott, zu  
*af - ter the wa - ter, so long - eth my soul, O God, for*

*f*

fri - schem Was - ser, so schreit mein - e See - le, Gott, zu  
*af - ter the wa - ter, so long - eth my soul, O God, for*

*f*

- ser, nach fri - schem Was - ser, so schreit mein - e See - le, Gott, zu  
 - ter, the wa - ter, so long - eth my soul, O God, for

*f*

nach fri - schem Was - ser, so schreit mein - e See - le, Gott, zu  
*af - ter the wa - ter, so long - eth my soul, O God, for*

20

*p* *cresc.*

dir, so schreit mein - e See - le,  
Thee, so long - eth my soul, O

*p* *cresc.*

dir, so schreit mein - e See - le, Gott, zu dir, mein - e  
Thee, so long - eth my soul, O God, for Thee, my

*p* *cresc.*

dir, so schreit mein - e See - le, Gott, so schreit mein - e  
Thee, so long - eth my soul, for Thee, so long - eth my

*p* *cresc.*

dir, zu dir, zu dir, so schreit mein - e  
Thee, O God, for Thee, so long - eth my

23

*f*

Gott, zu dir, zu dir, wie der Hirsch schreit nach fri - schem  
God, for Thee, for Thee, as the hart longs af - ter the

*f*

See - le, Gott, zu dir, wie der Hirsch nach fri - schem Was -  
soul, O God, for Thee, as the hart af - ter the wa -

*f*

See - le, Gott, zu dir, wie der Hirsch nach fri - schem  
soul, O God, for Thee, as the hart af - ter the

*f*

See - le, Gott, zu dir, wie der Hirsch nach fri - schem  
soul, O God, for Thee, as the hart af - ter the

*f* *sf* *sf*

26

Was - ser, so schreit mein - e See - le, Gott, zu dir, —  
 wa - ter, so long - eth my soul, O God, for Thee, —

ser, so schreit mein - e See - le, *f*  
 ter, so long - eth my soul, — so

Was - ser, so schreit mein - e See - le, Gott, zu dir, — so  
 wa - ter, so long - eth my soul, — O God, for Thee, — so

Was - ser, so schreit mein - e See - le, Gott, — zu dir,  
 wa - ter, so long - eth my soul, — O God, — for Thee,

29

— mein - e See - le, Gott, zu  
 — O — God, — for Thee, — O God, for

schreit — mein - e See - le, Gott, — zu dir, Gott, zu  
 long - eth my — soul, — O God, — for Thee, God, for

schreit — mein - e See - le, mein - e See - le, Gott, zu  
 long - eth my — soul, — long - eth my soul, — O God, for

mein - e See - le, mein - e See - le, Gott, zu  
 my — soul, — long - eth my soul, — O God, for

32

dir,  
*Thee.*

dir,  
*Thee.*

dir,  
*Thee.*

dir,  
*Thee.*

*p*

[*poco più mosso*]

36

*p*

so schreit mein - e See - le, Gott, — zu dir, Gott, —  
so long - eth my soul, O God, — for Thee, God, —

*p*

so schreit mein - e  
so long - eth my

[*poco più mosso*]

*p*

*simile*

39

zu dir, zu dir, so  
for Thee, for Thee, so

See - le, Gott, zu dir, Gott,  
soul, O God, for Thee, God, God,

*p*

so schreit mein - e  
so long - eth my

41

schreit mein - e See - le, Gott, zu  
long - eth my soul, O God, for

zu dir, zu dir,  
for Thee, God, for Thee,

See - le, Gott, zu dir, Gott,  
soul, O God, for Thee, God, God,

*p*

so schreit mein - e  
so long - eth my

*p* *sempre p*

43

*p*

dir, — zu dir, — so schreit mein - e  
 Thee, — for Thee, — so long - eth my

*p*

zu dir, zu dir,  
 for Thee, for Thee,

*p*

zu dir, zu dir,  
 for Thee, for Thee,

See - le, Gott, — zu dir, Gott, zu  
 soul, O God, — for Thee, God, for

45

See - le, Gott, — zu dir, zu dir,  
 soul, O God, — for Thee, for Thee,

*cresc.*

so schreit mein - e  
 so long - eth my

Gott, — zu dir, so  
 God, — for Thee, so

dir, — mein - e See - le, so  
 Thee, — my — soul, — for Thee, so

*cresc.*



47

so schreit mein - e  
so long - eth my

See - le, Gott, zu dir,  
soul, O God, for Thee, God, for

schreit mein - e See - le, Gott, zu dir,  
long - eth my soul, O God, for Thee,

schreit mein - e See - le, zu dir, zu dir,  
long - eth my soul, for Thee, for Thee,

*cresc.* *f*

49

See - le, Gott, zu dir, so schreit mein - e  
soul, O God, for Thee, so long - eth my

dir, Gott, zu dir, so schreit mein - e  
Thee, God, for Thee, so long - eth my

Gott, zu dir, so schreit mein - e  
God, for Thee, so long - eth my

Gott, zu dir, so schreit mein - e  
God, for Thee, so long - eth my

*f* *f* *f* *f*

*sempre cresc.*

51

See - le, Gott, — zu dir, wie der Hirsch  
soul, O God, — for Thee, as the hart

See - le, Gott, wie der Hirsch schreit, wie der Hirsch  
soul, O God, as the hart longs, as the hart

See - le, Gott, zu dir,  
soul, O God, for Thee,

See - le, Gott, zu dir,  
soul, O God, for Thee,

54

schreit, so schreit mein - e See - le, Gott, zu dir,  
longs, so long - eth my soul, O God, for Thee,

schreit, so schreit mein - e See - le, Gott, zu dir,  
longs, so long - eth my soul, O God, for Thee,

so schreit mein - e See - le, Gott, zu dir, wie der Hirsch  
so long - eth my soul, O God, for Thee, as the hart

so schreit mein - e See - le, Gott, zu dir,  
so long - eth my soul, O God, for Thee,

57

*ff*

so schreit mein - e  
so long - eth my

*ff*

so schreit mein - e  
so long - eth my

*sf*

schreit, wie der Hirsch  
longs, as the hart

*ff*

schreit, so schreit mein - e  
longs, so long - eth my

*sf*

wie der Hirsch  
as the hart

*ff*

schreit, so schreit mein - e  
longs, so long - eth my

59

See - le, Gott, zu dir, so schreit mein - e  
soul, O God, for Thee, so long - eth my

See - le, Gott, zu dir, so schreit mein - e  
soul, O God, for Thee, so long - eth my

See - le, Gott, zu dir, so schreit mein - e  
soul, O God, for Thee, so long - eth my

See - le, Gott, zu dir, so schreit mein - e  
soul, O God, for Thee, so long - eth my

61

See - le, O Gott, zu dir, wie der Hirsch  
soul, O God, for Thee, as the hart

See - le, O Gott, zu dir, wie der Hirsch  
soul, O God, for Thee, as the hart

See - le, O Gott, zu dir, wie der Hirsch  
soul, O God, for Thee, as the hart

See - le, O Gott, zu dir, wie der Hirsch  
soul, O God, for Thee, as the hart

63

Hirsch hart schreit, wie der Hirsch hart schreit,  
hart long, as the hart long,

schreit, wie der Hirsch, der Hirsch schreit,  
long, as the hart the hart long,

schreit, wie der Hirsch, der Hirsch schreit,  
long, as the hart the hart long,

Hirsch hart schreit, wie der Hirsch hart schreit,  
hart long, as the hart long,

Hirsch hart schreit, wie der Hirsch hart schreit,  
hart long, as the hart long,

## [Tempo I]

66

wie der Hirsch schreit nach fri-schem Was - ser, so  
as the hart longs af - ter the wa - ter, so

wie der Hirsch schreit nach fri-schem Was - ser, so  
as the hart longs af - ter the wa - ter, so

## [Tempo I]

69

so schreit mein - e See - le,  
so long - eth my soul, O

schreit mein - e See - le, Gott, zu dir,  
long - eth my soul, O God, for Thee,

so schreit mein - e See - le,  
so long - eth my soul, O

schreit mein - e See - le, Gott, zu dir,  
long - eth my soul, O God, for Thee,

72

Gott, zu dir, — mein - e See - le, Gott, — zu  
 God, for Thee, — long - eth my soul, — O God, — for

so schreit — mein - e See - le, Gott, — zu dir, — zu  
 so long - eth my — soul, — O God, — for Thee, — for

Gott, zu dir, — so schreit — mein - e See - le, Gott, — zu dir, Gott, — zu  
 God, for Thee, — so long - eth my — soul, — O God, — for Thee, God, — for

so schreit — mein - e See - le, Gott, zu  
 so long - eth my soul, — O God, for

*cresc.* *f*

76

dir, zu dir, mein - e See - le, Gott, — zu  
 Thee, for Thee, my — soul, O God, — for

dir, zu dir, Gott, — zu dir, — zu  
 Thee, for Thee, God, — for Thee, — for

dir, zu dir, zu dir, zu dir,  
 Thee, for Thee, for Thee, for Thee, —

dir, zu dir, so schreit mein - e See - le, zu  
 Thee, for Thee, so long - eth my soul, — for

*p* *f*