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

Psalm 42

Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy (1809-1847)

Edited by Scott MacPherson

Lento e sostenuto  \( \cdot = 100-108 \)

Wie der Hirsch schreit nach frischem Wasser, so schreit meine Seele,  
As the hart longs after the water, so longeth my soul, O
Was ser, so schreit mein-e See-le, Gott, zu dir,
wa-ter, so long-eth my soul, O God, for Thee,

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, mein-e
wa-ter, so long-eth my soul, O God, for Thee, mein-e

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

mein-e See-le, Gott, zu
dein-e See-le, O God, for

mein-e See-le, mein-e See-le, Gott, zu
dein-e See-le, mein-e See-le, O God, for

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

Gott, zu
dir, Gott, zu

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

See-soul, le, mein-e See-le, Gott, zu
dir, Gott, zu

See-soul, le, mein-e See-le, mein-e See-le, Gott, zu
dir, Gott, zu

See-soul, le, mein-e See-le, mein-e See-le, O God, for
for Thee, for

See-soul, le, mein-e See-le, mein-e See-le, O God, for
for Thee, for
dir, Thee.

[poco più mosso]

so schreit mein - e soul, O God, for Thee, Gott, dir, Gott, my

[poco più mosso] simile

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

See soul, O Gott, zu dir,

so schreit mein - e

so long - eth my

schreit, wie der Hirsch hart

See soul, O Gott, zu dir,

so schreit mein - e

so long - eth my

schreit, wie der Hirsch hart

See soul, O Gott, zu dir,

so schreit mein - e

so long - eth my

schreit, wie der Hirsch hart

See soul, O Gott, zu dir,

so schreit mein - e

so long - eth my

schreit, wie der Hirsch hart

See soul, O Gott, zu dir,

so schreit mein - e

so long - eth my

schreit, wie der Hirsch hart

See soul, O Gott, zu dir,

so schreit mein - e

so long - eth my

schreit, wie der Hirsch hart

See soul, O Gott, zu dir,

so schreit mein - e

so long - eth my

schreit, wie der Hirsch hart

See soul, O Gott, zu dir,

so schreit mein - e

so long - eth my
See soul, O God, zu dir, wie der Hirsch schreit, longs, as the hart

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

Hirsch hart schreit, wie der Hirsch schreit, longs, as the hart
wie der Hirsch schreit nach frischem Wasser, so
wie der Hirsch schreit nach frischem Wasser, so

so schreit meine Seele, O Gott, zu dir,
so schreit meine Seele, O Gott, zu dir,