

***How Long, Yahweh?***

Composer: Josh Rodriguez (Protestant), Faculty, California Baptist University

How long? How long? How long, Yahweh?

Yahweh! Will you forget me forever?

How long will you hide your face from me?

How long shall I take counsel in my soul, having sorrow in my heart every day?

How long shall my enemies triumph over me?

Behold and answer me, Yahweh, my God. Give light to my eyes, lest I sleep in death.

Lest my enemy say, "I have prevailed against her!" Lest my adversaries rejoice when I fall.

But I trust, I trust in your lovingkindness. My heart rejoices in your salvation.

I will sing to Yahweh. He has been good. He has been good to me.

-Ps 13 (World English Bible), adapted

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**Question 1** (during or after the performance)

How would you describe the overall mood(s) of the piece? Jot down adjectives or phrases as you listen. Anything goes!

**Question 2** (during or after the performance)

Which word(s) or phrase(s) does the piece emphasize? Circle them as you listen.

**General thoughts:**

**Psalm 13**

Composer: Mary Montgomery Koppel (Congregationalist), Faculty, Gordon College, Massachusetts

How long, how long, O Lord? How long, O Lord? O Lord?  
How long, how long? Will you forget me forever?  
How long will you hide your face from me?  
How long shall I take counsel in my soul?  
Shall I struggle in my 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 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, O God, answer me, How long?  
But I trust, I trust in your lovingkindness, your steadfast love, your unfailing love, in your mercy.  
My heart rejoices in your salvation. I will sing, I will sing to God, my God, for God has been good to me.  
-Ps 13 (World English Bible), adapted

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How would you describe the overall mood(s) of the piece? Jot down adjectives or phrases as you listen.  
Anything goes!

**Question 2** (during or after the performance)

Which word(s) or phrase(s) does the piece emphasize? Circle them as you listen.

**General thoughts:**

**How Long?**

Composer: Shawn E. Okpebholo (Salvation Army) Faculty, Wheaton College Conservatory (Illinois)

How long? How long, O Lord? How long will you forget me? Forever?

How long? How long will you hide your face from me?

How long must I struggle with anguish in my soul, and every day have sorrow in my heart?

How long will my enemy triumph over me?

Turn and answer me, O Lord, my God. Give light to my eyes, or I will die.

Don't let my enemies say, "We have defeated her." Don't let them rejoice when I fall...

["ooo"]

But I trust in your lovingkindness. My heart rejoices in your salvation.

I will sing to the Lord because he is good to me.

Ps 13 (New Living Translation, World English Bible), adapted

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**Question 1** (during or after the performance)

How would you describe the overall mood(s) of the piece? Jot down adjectives or phrases as you listen. Anything goes!

**Question 2** (during or after the performance)

Which word(s) or phrase(s) does the piece emphasize? Circle them as you listen.

**General thoughts:**

## **QUESTIONS ABOUT THE EXPERIENCE**

How does the experience of hearing the psalm set to music change the way you understand or engage with it? Do you see advantages or disadvantages of using music in this way?

How might you imagine using sacred music as an interpretive resource in your own faith community? How about in your private devotional life? What would be the challenges – and the benefits – of doing so?