

# I WILL LIFT MINE EYES

for SATB Chorus (div.) a cappella

Text  
Psalm 121

Music by  
Jake Runestad

With great joy (♩ = 58)

*mf*

Soprano  
I will lift mine eyes, I will lift mine eyes, un - to the

Alto  
I will lift mine eyes, I will lift mine eyes, mine eyes to the

Tenor  
Lift mine eyes, lift mine eyes to the

Bass  
Lift mine eyes, lift mine eyes to the

Piano  
*mf*  
(for rehearsal only)

4

hills, I will lift mine eyes.

hills, eyes.

hills, will lift mine eyes, I will lift mine eyes, un - to the

hills, will lift mine eyes, I will lift mine eyes, mine eyes, the

6

*mp*

From whence comes my help? My help comes from the Lord, \_\_\_\_\_ He is the

*mp*

From whence comes my help? My help comes from the Lord, \_\_\_\_\_ He is the

*mp*

hills. \_\_\_\_\_ Help, my help comes from the Lord, \_\_\_\_\_ He is the

*mp*

hills. \_\_\_\_\_ Help, my help comes from the Lord, \_\_\_\_\_ He is the

9

*f* *sub. mp*

mak - er \_\_\_\_\_ of heav'n and earth. He will not let your

*f* *sub. mp*

mak - er \_\_\_\_\_ of heav'n and earth. ...not let your

*f* *sub. mp*

mak - er, mak - er \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ earth, the heav'n and earth. ...not let your

*f* *sub. mp*

mak - er, mak - er \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ earth, the heav'n and earth. ...not let your

12

foot be moved. He will not let your foot be moved. He who keeps you —

foot be moved, not let your foot be moved. He who keeps you —

foot be moved, not let your foot be moved. \_\_\_\_\_

foot be moved, not let your foot be moved. \_\_\_\_\_

mf

15

He who keeps you will not slum - ber,

He who keeps you, slum - ber,

He who keeps you, slum - ber,

He who keeps you, slum - ber,

mf

mf

*poco rit.* *poco accel.*

18

slum - ber, not slum - ber nor sleep. The Lord is thy —  
slum - ber, slum - ber nor sleep. The Lord is thy  
slum - ber, slum - ber nor sleep. Sleep. ...thy  
slum - ber, slum - ber nor sleep. Sleep.

*a tempo*

22

keep - er the Lord is thy — shade — up - on thy  
keep - er the Lord is thy — shade — up - on thy  
keep - er the Lord is thy — shade — up - on thy  
...keep - er the Lord is thy — shade — up - on thy

24

*f* *sub. mp*

right hand, up - on thy right hand. The sun shall not

*f* *sub. mp*

right hand, up - on thy right hand. ...sun shall not

*f* *sub. mp*

right, up - on thy right hand, up - on thy hand. ...sun shall not

*f* *sub. mp*

right, up - on thy right hand, up - on thy hand. ...sun shall not

27

*rit.* *a tempo* *più mosso*

harm - you by day nor the moon by night. The Lord will keep you

*cresc.*

harm you, day nor the moon by night. The Lord will keep you

*cresc.*

harm you, day nor the moon by night. ...will keep you

*cresc.*

harm you, day nor the moon by night. ...will keep you

*rit.* *a tempo* *più mosso*

*cresc.*

*poco rit.* *f* *molto rit.*

from all e - vil. He will keep your

from all e - vil. He will keep your

from all e - vil. He will keep your

from all e - vil. He will keep your

*poco rit.* *f* *molto rit.*

*ff* **Renewed** *dim.* *rit.* *mp*

soul, He will keep your soul, keep your soul.

soul, He will keep your soul, keep your soul.

soul, He will keep your soul, keep your soul.

soul, He will keep your soul, keep your soul.

**Renewed** *dim.* *rit.* *mp*

37 *a tempo - freely*  
*p*  
The Lord will keep your go - ing out and your com - ing  
*p*  
The Lord will keep your go - ing out and your com - ing  
*p*  
The Lord will keep your go - ing out and your com - ing  
*p*  
The Lord will keep your go - ing out and your com - ing  
*a tempo - freely*  
*p*

41 *rit.* *mp*  
in from this day forth \_\_\_\_\_ for ev - er - more.  
*mp*  
in from this day forth \_\_\_\_\_ for ev - er - more.  
*mp*  
in from this day forth \_\_\_\_\_ for ev - er - more.  
*mp*  
in from this day forth \_\_\_\_\_ for ev - er - more.  
*rit.* *mp*

## PROGRAM NOTE

I came across Psalm 121 and found great beauty in the admiration for natural creation linked with a promise of guidance and support from a higher power. I find such peace in the splendor of the natural world, and I wanted to capture that serenity with this piece. For centuries, psalms have inspired and encouraged and I wanted to set this psalm text to music that would allow the meaning of the words to speak freely. I carefully shaped the melodic lines to mimic that of a mountainous landscape and the tone colors to the bold hues of where the hills meet the sky.

“I Will Lift Mine Eyes” should be approached delicately allowing each chord to ring with a clear, pure tone. The natural cadence of the text should not be hindered by heaviness nor too rapid a tempo.

This piece is dedicated with love to Luverne and Barbara Runestad who have truly lived lives of great faithfulness, generosity, and love.

— *Jake Runestad*

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## PSALM 121

I will lift mine eyes unto the hills.  
 From whence comes my help?  
 My help comes from the Lord  
 The maker of the heaven and earth.  
 He will not let your foot be moved.  
 He who keeps you will not slumber nor sleep.  
 The Lord is thy keeper  
 The Lord is thy shade upon thy right hand.  
 The sun shall not harm you by day nor the moon  
 by night.  
 The Lord will keep you from all evil.  
 He will keep your soul.  
 The Lord will keep your going out and your  
 coming in  
 From this day forth forever more.

— *New American Standard Version*

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## ABOUT THE COMPOSER

Award-winning composer **Jake Runestad** (b. 1986) is noted for his versatility and wide range of expressive capabilities with music driven by soaring melodies and lush textures. His diverse musical experiences, spanning several continents, have inspired him to create music that captures the emotional vibrancy of life experiences while transcending diverse musical genres.

Mr. Runestad was twice named Collegiate Composer of the Year by the Minnesota Music Educators Association and has had performances by professional, student, and community ensembles across the U.S.A. He has received numerous commissions from ensembles and organizations

such as the Grammy-nominated Peabody Children’s Chorus, Chamber Music Winona, Our Savior’s Lutheran Church of Rockford, IL, and the Winona State University Jazz Ensemble. Mr. Runestad has also worked with many ensembles as a guest conductor and clinician of his music.

A diverse composer, Mr. Runestad has a prolific output represented in many genres including music for wind band, chorus, orchestra, chamber ensembles, jazz ensemble, and opera. As a conductor, he has worked with student, volunteer, and professional ensembles across the U.S.A. An advocate of new music, he has conducted the premieres of many works by up-and-coming composers.

Jake Runestad received a masters degree in composition from the Peabody Conservatory of the Johns Hopkins University studying with Kevin Puts. He also studied extensively with acclaimed composers Libby Larsen and Donald Fraser. Mr. Runestad’s music is published by Boosey & Hawkes. To learn more about this composer, go online to [www.jakerunestad.com](http://www.jakerunestad.com).

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## PERFORMANCE TIME

ca. 5 minutes

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## EDUCATION THROUGH ARTISTRY

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In the spirit of the **Choral Music Experience** concept, **Conductor’s Choice** seeks to present a well-balanced program of contemporary composition that celebrates musical diversity and encourages musical enjoyment. From the traditional to the experimental, **Conductor’s Choice** is a choral music series committed to the dynamic relationships between the composer, conductor, choir and their audiences.

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