

PSALM 88

for oboe and organ

O Lord, my God . . . by day and night I cry for you.

DAVID ASHLEY WHITE

Composed for Robin Hough and Robert Jones

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O Lord, my God ... by day and night I cry for you

David Ashley White

The musical score is written for Oboe, Organ, and Pedal in 4/4 time, marked *Lentamente* with a tempo of approximately 66 beats per minute. The Oboe part begins with a rest, followed by a melodic line starting on a half note G4, moving through A4, B4, and C5, with dynamic markings of *p implorante*, *mf*, and *f*. The Organ part consists of four measures, each containing a whole rest in both the treble and bass staves. The Pedal part consists of four measures, each containing a whole note G2, marked *p*.

5

mp

6

4' *p legato*

8'

8

f

p

mp

6

6

(mp)

10

mf *p sub.* 5

f *pp*

(pp)

13

ff *mp* *p* A

A

pp 4' 6

75

Solo

mp

79

Solo off

legato

mf

83

Solo

mp

87

f

mf con urgenza

rit.

I *a tempo*

mf

p

f sub., con urgenza

mp

rit.

Solo off

I *a tempo*

90

f *mp* *p*

legato

mf

92

Più lentamente (♩ = ca. 56)

f drammaticamente *ff*

ff *pp* *poco a poco* *ff* *rit.*

ff *p*

95 **J** Più veloce (♩ = ca. 76–80)

p animato 6 6 *mf*

J Più veloce (♩ = ca. 76–80)

4' *pp legato e animato* 8' *mf*

97 *f* *p sub.* 6 6 *ff deliberatamente*

legato 4' *f* 6 *pp sub., legato* *l.h.* 8' *ff* *r.h.* *l.h.*

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ca. 7:45

This powerful and dramatic piece for oboe and organ was written in 1991 and prepared for publication following its premiere recording by Grace Tice and Daryl Robinson on *A Love So Fierce: Organ Works of David Ashley White* (Acis). Headed with the verse from Psalm 88, “O Lord, my God...by day and night I cry for you,” the music explores the dark moods of lamentation that appear in the psalm’s verses. Beginning with an imploring and seeking tone, the music builds in several stages from desolate quiet to an intense climax and coda. Intended for professional players, it would be a deeply memorable selection for a Lenten service or as a recital offering in any season. Both instruments are used very creatively throughout—White began his own musical career as an oboist, and his decades of involvement with church music have resulted in numerous pieces for organ.