


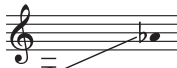
CM9717
Scapulis Suis / Mark Burrows
SSAA Voices, *a cappella*
Duration: 3:07

Scapulis Suis

Mark Burrows



Soprano 1  Soprano 2 

Alto 1  Alto 2 

CARL FISCHER
Celebrating 150 Years

Notes

*The Lord will overshadow you with his pinions,
and you will find refuge under his wings.
His faithfulness will encompass you with a shield.*

— Psalm 91:4-5

To feel safe and to feel cared for, these are two of the great yearnings of the human heart.

What a blessing it is, especially during times of distress or uncertainty, to know that we aren't alone, that someone is reaching out to help us and even hold us. It could be a family member or a friend. It could be a still small voice whispering, "It's okay. I've got you." It could even be a loving community, like a *choir*, assuring us that we are known, that we are loved, that we belong.

The first word – *scapulis* – is translated as “pinions.” On a bird, a pinion is the outer part of the wing, including the flight feathers. The opening measures, with a one-measure phrase followed by a three-measure phrase, are meant to evoke the image of wings unfurling to welcome in. All through this section – mm. 1-20 – encourage phrasing that is never hurried but moves with intention to the last stressed syllable of each phrase, before ebbing slightly. This section is all about reassurance and comfort.

In mm. 21-30 we have a new section where uncertainty grows. At this point the text – and you will find refuge under his wings – is more aspirational than definitive. Leaning into non-chord tones will help make this feeling of uncertainty more palpable. Places where this occurs:

Alto I – Measure 22 the A \flat in *pennis*, m. 26 the B \flat in *sperabis*

Soprano II – Measure 23 the A \sharp in *pennis*, m. 29 the C in *sperabis*

Soprano I – Measure 24 the C in *pennis*, m. 28 the D in *sperabis*

The apex of the piece is at m. 30 where the yearning for comfort and assurance reaches its height, finding that comfort in the arrival back at E \flat major in m. 39. The phrase *veritas ejus* (his faithfulness), with its triplet figure should flow gently, like a musical carress.

The final reassurance occurs at m. 51 as we return to the melody, and the homophonic texture, of the opening. Even as the piece gets softer and softer, encourage the singers to keep energy moving through each phrase.

The structure and feel of this piece was inspired by one of the all-time great settings of yet another Psalm of assurance – Felix Mendelssohn's *Lift Thine Eyes*.

About the Composer

Mark Burrows is a writer, composer and clinician whose works are published by many major houses. His choral pieces, musicals and music education resources top numerous best-seller lists.

Known to little listeners as “Mister Mark,” he tours the nation performing concerts for children and families. His award-winning music can be heard on Sirius XM Radio. One song, *Amazon Rock*, was recorded by Nick Records for a Dora the Explorer album.

Mark received his undergraduate degree in music education from Southern Methodist University, and his graduate degree in conducting from Texas Christian University. He lives in Fort Worth, Texas.

12

lis su - is o - bum - bra - bit

sca - pu - lis su - is o - bum - bra - bit, o - bum - bra - bit ti - bi

sca - pu - lis su - is o - bum - bra - bit, o - bum - bra - bit ti - bi

sca - pu - lis su - is o - bum - bra - bit, o - bum - bra - bit ti - bi

and you will find refuge under his wings

With growing urgency

mp cresc.

17

o - bum - bra - bit ti - bi Do - mi - nus, et sub pen - nis,

Do - mi - nus, ti - bi Do - mi - nus, et, et sub

Do - mi - nus, ti - bi Do - mi - nus, et sub pen - nis,

Do - mi - nus, ti - bi Do - mi - nus, et, et sub

With growing urgency

23

mf cresc.

et sub pen - nis e - jus, e - jus spe -
 pen - nis, et sub pen - nis e - jus spe - ra - bis,
 et sub pen - nis e - jus spe - ra - bis, e -
 pen - nis, et sub pen - nis e - jus spe - ra - bis,

28

His faithfulness will encompass you with a shield.

ra - bis, spe - ra - bis, scu - to cir - cum - da - bit,
 e - jus spe - ra - bis, scu - to cir - cum - da - bit,
 jus spe - ra - bis, scu - to cir - cum - da - bit te
 e - jus spe - ra - bis, scu - to cir - cum - da - bit,

45

mp rit.

da - bit te ve - ri - tas e - jus e - jus, e -

da - bit te ve - ri - tas e - jus, te ve - ri - tas e -

te ve - ri - tas e - jus, te ve - ri - tas e - jus, te ve - ri - tas e -

e - jus, te ve - ri - tas e - jus, e -

mp rit.

50

a tempo, tranquil
p

jus. Sca - pu - lis su - is o - bum - bra - bit

jus. Sca - pu - lis, sca - pu - lis su - is o - bum - bra - bit, o - bum -

jus. Sca - pu - lis, sca - pu - lis su - is o - bum - bra - bit, o - bum -

jus. Sca - pu - lis, sca - pu - lis su - is o - bum - bra - bit, o - bum -

a tempo, tranquil

56

o - bum - bra - bit ti - bi Do - mi - nus, ti - bi
 bra - bit ti - bi Do - mi - nus, ti - bi Do - mi - nus,
 bra - bit ti - bi Do - mi - nus, ti - bi Do - mi - nus,
 bra - bit ti - bi Do - mi - nus, ti - bi Do - mi - nus,

61

Slowing to the end

dim. Do - mi - nus, *pp* ti - bi Do - mi - nus.
dim. ti - - bi Do - mi - nus. *pp*
dim. ti - - bi Do - mi - nus. *pp*
dim. ti - - bi Do - mi - nus. *pp*

Slowing to the end

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