

Adopt-a-Psalm, with Greg Scheer

This February Greg Scheer is going to take on a musical challenge of marathon proportions: **Compose 14 Psalm songs in 28 days.** Now he's looking for 14 musical patrons and Psalm lovers to each "adopt" a Psalm for \$150.

One of Greg's lifelong passions is composing musical settings of the Psalms. So far he's set 49 Psalms to music, from simple choruses to extended choral works. In his remaining days on earth he intends to set all 150 Psalms to music. This February he'll come 14 Psalms closer to this goal.

But he needs your support.

Greg is seeking 14 people who value the Psalms and new music to "adopt" a Psalm for \$150. What do you get out of it? First, your name will be forever associated with the song. (Think Kreutzer Sonata and Brandenburg Concertos.) You will receive a 1-2 page lead sheet or melody/piano score and a rough demo of the song. Most importantly you will have made the world a little bit better place, supporting the creation of a brand new piece of music.

You may wonder if 14 songs in 28 days is a realistic goal. While it will certainly be a challenge, it is achievable. For three years, Greg has completed the "February Album Writing Month" (fawm.org) challenge of writing 14 songs during February. While some of those were ditties like "Banana Hook," substantial music has emerged as well: the Psalm cantata *Everlasting to Everlasting*, the Tenebrae composition *The Shadows* for seven cellos, and the song cycle *One Long Year*. Under similarly tight deadlines, Greg has composed a number of Psalm songs that are now published in hymnals and choral catalogs: "As the Deer," "One Generation," "People of the Lord," and others.

Greg would be honored to have you partner with him in this undertaking. Together we can put God's Word on the tongues of worshipers in the form of 14 new songs. Let's be part of the Psalm renaissance!

Questions/Answers:

Q: Can anyone adopt a Psalm?

A: Yes. Churches, schools, and musical ensembles are the ones who typically commission new compositions, but this is a "micro-commission" geared toward regular people who simply want to become involved in supporting the arts.

Q: Can I adopt a Psalm but remain anonymous?

A: Yes. You may choose to remain completely anonymous or you may dedicate it to a loved one, celebrate an event, or simply give it as a present.

Q: Can I adopt *any* Psalm?

A: Yes. I'd encourage you to take a look at my list of Psalm songs (<http://gregscheer.com/psalms.html>) and choose one I haven't set to music yet, but I'm also willing to revisit Psalms.

Q: Can I dictate the song's style?

A: Dictate? No. Suggest? Yes. All the songs are intended primarily for congregational singing. If the song is for your praise band, a wedding, or your organ-playing Uncle Frank, let me know. I'll make sure it fits the occasion.



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Q: Why \$150?

A: A dollar for each Psalm just seemed right.

Q: Would this make a great birthday present?

A: Yes.

Q: What's the fine print?

A: We'll sign a contract with the details of the agreement. The short version is this: You'll reserve a Psalm for \$150. I'll compose a song based on it by the end of February. You will receive the printed music and a demo, as well as permission to use the song in your church or ensemble. I'll retain the song's copyright. Any future publication will include the dedication of your choice: "Psalm 97, For Gertrude Schnitzelbach on her 97th birthday."

Q: What if I have more questions or want to reserve a Psalm?

A: Email biz@gregscheer.com to get the conversation started.