

Psalm 19

Psalm 19 sets the first four verses of this psalm. It communicates the silent praise of the heavenly spheres as they traverse their paths, expressing the awesome majesty of the Holy One. The music was inspired by a quiet and beautiful night under a sky full of stars at my aunt's home on the Intracoastal Waterway near Charleston, South Carolina.

Meira Warshauer

Text and translation (translation by the composer):

The heavens declare the glory of God,
Hashamayim m'saprim k'vod (K)EL,¹

and the expanse of the sky tells of Her² handiwork.
u-ma-a-sey yadav magid harakiya.

Day unto day brings expressions of praise,
Yom l'yom...

and night unto night
laila l'laila

reveals wisdom.

There is no speech,
Eyn omer,

(and) there are no words.
v'eyn d'varim.

Their sound is unheard.

¹ Use KEL for concert performance, and EL during a religious service. The "K" is inserted as a protection for the holiness of the Divine name.

² As God is not corporeal, gendered pronouns are misleading. While the composer has chosen to translate this possessive as "Her," a literal rendering would be "His," and the performer is free to choose.

Performance notes:

Accidentals apply only to the register indicated.

Hebrew pronunciation for transliteration: vowels as in Italian.

The apostrophe indicates a neutral vowel (uh).

About the Composer

Meira Warshauer's works have been performed to critical acclaim throughout North America and Europe, as well as in South America, the Middle East, and Asia. Her music is regularly heard on radio, including Public Radio International's *Living on Earth* and American Public Media's *Performance Today*, the most listened-to classical music radio program in the U.S. Meira's musical palette is wide, ranging from traditional Jewish prayer modes to minimalist textures with rich melodic contours, and from joyful jazz-influenced rhythms to imaginative orchestrations of the natural world. At its core, it expresses her personal spiritual journey, and her love for the earth. She has received many awards, and Fellowships from the MacDowell Colony, the Hambidge Center, and the S. C. Arts Commission. Dr. Warshauer has served on the faculties of Columbia College, University of South Carolina Honors College, and as the Nancy A. Smith Distinguished Visitor at Coastal Carolina University. She currently resides in Columbia, SC and Wrightsville Beach, NC.