

A New Song

Based on Psalm 144: 9, this contemporary psalm or poem picks up the psalmist's defiance over the destruction of the community and longing for God to restore the community. It is a Psalm which resonates with our community's experience and here the musical imagery is picked up in celebration of the soundscape of the city.

I will sing a new song
of laughter lines etched into old faces
and harmonic hellos overtured across back yards
the musical melodies of individual lives
soaring counterpoint to the routines of next-door neighbours
a chromatic community,
a carefully composed concerto
resonating with the soundscape of the city.

I will sing a new song
of unfinished symphonies and silent scores
the cello's E Minor adagio of gut wrenching pain
grounding the violin's spine chilling crescendo of crisis
the pounding of the brass of economic survival,
defiant in anger
discordant with struggle
resonating with the soundscape of the city.

I will sing a new song
the sustaining song of the magnificat
of the woodwind's uplifting phrasing
soaring above the mundane backbone of orchestral life
of the double bass piccatoing its comic solo
the percussion beating the changing rhythms of the years
the unresolved cadence of new possibilities
resonating with the soundscape of the city.

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