

SATB  
a cappella  
Duration: c. 4:00

Choral Music of Douglas Byler

# As the Deer

Text from Psalm 42

Music by Douglas Byler

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## About “As the Deer”

The powerful imagery in this text has inspired many different musical settings. This one was composed for my undergraduate composition recital at James Madison University. Wen Chin Liu was at the time a doctoral student studying choral conducting at the same institution, and I offered to write a piece that she could conduct at the recital. She graciously agreed to the idea, and this piece is the result.

### **Text:**

*As the deer pants for flowing streams,  
So longs my soul for you, O God.  
My soul thirsts for God, for the living God,  
When shall I come and appear before God?  
My tears have been my food day and night,  
While they say unto me continually, “Where is your God?”*

*Why are you cast down, O my soul,  
And why are you in turmoil within me?  
Hope in God, for I shall yet praise Him,  
My salvation and my God.*



**Douglas Byler** (b. 1988) is a composer and real estate entrepreneur from the Shenandoah Valley in Virginia. He received a Bachelor of Music degree in Composition from James Madison University in Harrisonburg, VA and is currently studying composition at Westminster Choir College in Princeton, NJ. His music has won several awards and has been performed across the United States.

For Wen Chin

# As the Deer

Adapted from Ps. 42

(Psalm 42)

Douglas Byler (ASCAP)

**Andante**

Soprano  
Alto

Tenor  
Bass

As the deer pants for flow - ing streams, So longs my soul — for  
you, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the liv - ing  
God, When shall I come and ap - pear be - fore God, My tears have  
been — my food — day and night, day and night, While they

*p*

*mf*

*f*

*p*

*p*

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26

say un-to me con - tin - ual-ly, "Where is your God?" "Where is your God?" "Where is your

30

God?" "Where is your God?" Why are you cast down, O my soul, and

rit. *sfz* *f* chant-like, in 2 *p*

36

why are you in tur-moil with - in me? Hope in God, for I shall yet

42

praise Him, My sal - va - tion and my God,

48 *Andante*  
*p*

my sal - va - tion and my God. My soul thirsts for

54 *mf*

God, for the living God, When shall I come and appear before

60 *f* Ah..

God, My tears have been my food, my tears, My

65 *mp* *p*

tears have been my food day and night, day and night as (as) the deer

73

— pants for flow - ing streams, So longs my soul — for you, O God. —

80

*rit.* *a tempo* (9) *no rit.*

— So longs my soul for you, — O — God. —

(If low D is not possible,  
all basses sing cue note.)