

SUSPENSION:

A SERIES OF MUSICAL REFLECTIONS

No:3

Hi everyone, I hope you had a restful weekend.

Today, I'm continuing to focus on composers using liturgical texts, and I'm turning to Stuart Townend's version of the incredibly famous Psalm 23 – I had to include a St. Barnabas favourite! In truth, just about every composer of sacred music since the dawn of time has had a pop at this one, and I think there's a reason. Much like both of our previous texts, the words to this song remind us once again that even in dire circumstances, we never have to face our situation alone. At a time at which many of us may find ourselves in physical isolation, I hope this music provides us with a feeling of spiritual solidarity.

As I'm listening currently, I realise that this piece actually draws together two of the features of the previous two pieces. Firstly, the chorus has a call-and-response structure, with Stuart's voice being countered by a higher countermelody. I guess, therefore, we can think of this as an updated polyphonic rendering of this text. Secondly, the guitar accompaniment has a similar rolling feature which, to me, also evokes babbling waters, this time referenced explicitly in the words of the Psalm. I hope you enjoy both of those features. Maybe I'm better at this than I thought!

Something to listen out for in this piece: I personally think the harmony in the chorus is really beautiful. I think you'll agree.

Enjoy.

Sarah

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pN4tPkX0MG0>