

Let My Prayer Rise (Psalm 141: 1-4a, 8) Music by Deanna Witkowski

Originally commissioned by Bill Carter
for the jazz hymnal "Swing a New Song to the Lord"

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Composer note:

This is a simple, swinging psalm setting which constantly alternates between a 16-bar congregational refrain and a 16-bar verse for a vocal soloist. I have taught this piece to congregations on many occasions without written music, as it is easily picked up.

The piece can be easily extended or contracted: as verses 1-3 all have the same 16 bar form, the vocal soloist can either sing one, two, or all three of the verses. Instrumental soloists can blow over the entire form of the piece and either end their solos at the refrain or at the verse, with the vocal soloist or congregation re-entering with the text.

Although I have indicated a two-feel on the refrain, the bassist and drummer should feel free to stay in a walking feel coming out of the verses when this feels appropriate.

Swing (two-feel;
walk on verses)
♩ = 116

Let my prayer rise (lead sheet sample)

Deanna Witkowski

♩
E^b7

Let my prayer rise _____ be - fore you as

3

in - cense; the lift - ing of my

5

hands as the ev' - ning sac - ri - fice. Let my prayer