The scroll of Ruth re-told through librettos and music: biblical interpretation in a new key

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Acknowledgements

My first trip to meet with my PhD supervisor, Athalya Brenner, happened to also be my first visit to Amsterdam. During that visit in summer 2000, I went to the Flower Market and bought a succulent in a tiny Delft clog as a souvenir. I nurtured that little plant until it outgrew its clog and was transferred to a larger and then still larger pot. On each subsequent visit, after my intense meetings with both Athalya Brenner and Roku deGroot, I would buy more miniature Delft clogs with their succulents.

Now I have a row of the third and fourth generation plants on my window sill. One day as I looked at them, I realized it had all started with one little plant on that first visit over four years ago. This thesis, too, started as a little sapling, but continued to outgrow its “pots,” to expand and evolve under the nurturing guidance of my two extraordinary supervisors, Athalya Brenner and Roku deGroot. They helped me water, trim, and feed the seedlings of my imagination. Without them, these seeds would have never sprouted and grown into this thesis.

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Roku deGroot encouraged my tentative early steps in musical analysis, then guided and encouraged me through my exploration of this new territory. Exacting and thorough, he too did not let go until every word was right. Through our discussions and the literature he led me to, I have been enriched by a deeper understanding of music, my lifelong passion.

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With the help of these nurturing hands, my little seed of an idea has finally grown to its full potential.