

Gwyneth Walker

Beneath the Stars

*Lyric Suite for Tuba and String Quartet
(Piano Reduction)*

1. "Distant Stars"
2. "Fading Light, Shooting Stars"
3. "The Wonder of the Sky"

Beneath the Stars

duration 10 minutes

The tuba, in the depths of its range, lies beneath the stars – perhaps reaching up with song, falling like a shooting star, sparkling with light, or extolling the beauty of the night sky. There is a dialogue between heaven and earth. This is a gentle meeting.

Widely performed throughout the country, the music of American composer **Gwyneth Walker** is beloved by performers and audiences alike for its energy, beauty, reverence, drama, and humor. Dr. Gwyneth Walker (b. 1947) is a graduate of Brown University and the Hartt School of Music. She holds B.A., M.M. and D.M.A. degrees in Music Composition. A former faculty member of the Oberlin College Conservatory, she resigned from academic employment in 1982 in order to pursue a career as a full-time composer. For nearly 30 years, she lived on a dairy farm in Braintree, Vermont. She now divides her time between her childhood hometown of New Canaan, Connecticut and the musical communities of Sarasota, Florida and Randolph, Vermont.

Gwyneth Walker has been a proud resident of Vermont for many years. She is the recipient of the Year 2000 “Lifetime Achievement Award” from the Vermont Arts Council as well as the 2008 “Athenaeum Award for Achievement in the Arts and Humanities” from the St. Johnsbury (VT) Athenaeum. In 2012, she was elected as a Fellow of the Vermont Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Walker’s catalog includes over 300 commissioned works for orchestra, chamber ensembles, chorus, and solo voice. A special interest has been dramatic works that combine music with readings, acting, and movement. The music of Gwyneth Walker is published by E. C. Schirmer (choral and vocal music) and Lauren Keiser Music (orchestral and instrumental music).

Further information concerning Gwyneth Walker and her works is available at
www.gwynethwalker.com

for Jon

Beneath the Stars

Lyric Suite for Tuba and String Quartet (Piano Reduction)

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1. "Distant Stars"

Moderate tempo ♩ = 108

rapidly, unmeasured, to create a background of stars filling the sky

Piano

with much pedal

4

p

9

p peacefully

14

loco 8va

19

Musical score for measures 19-23. The bass clef staff contains a melodic line starting with a quarter rest, followed by a half note, and then a series of eighth notes. Dynamics include *mp*. The treble clef staff features a wavy line across the first two measures, followed by a dynamic change to *pp*, and then *loco 8va* with a dotted half note and a whole note.

24

Musical score for measures 24-28. The bass clef staff continues the melodic line with eighth notes and a half note. Dynamics include *mp*. The treble clef staff has a wavy line and *loco 8va* markings in the first two measures, with rests in the following measures.

29

Musical score for measures 29-33. The bass clef staff features a melodic line with eighth notes and a half note. Dynamics include *mf*. The treble clef staff has a wavy line and *mf* in the first measure, *pp* in the second, and *loco 8va* with notes in the third and fourth measures.

34

Musical score for measures 34-38. The bass clef staff continues the melodic line with eighth notes and a half note. Dynamics include *mf*. The treble clef staff has a wavy line across all four measures.

38

D

mf *p*

8va

(mf) *(mf)*

43

47 **E**

mf espr.

Red. *simile*

50

54 **F**

(mf)

F

58

62

66

69

73

loco

3 3 3

77

I

gazing up at the stars

(f)

I

with pedal

81

84

rit. *Slowly*

(f) freely

rit. *Slowly*

f

89 **J** Original tempo ♩ = 108

Musical score for measures 89-91. Measure 89: Bass clef, whole note G2, half note G2, whole note G2. Measure 90: Treble clef, eighth-note arpeggiated chords, dynamic (f), then *dim. poco a poco (to end)*. Measure 91: Bass clef, whole note G2, dynamic *mf*. A *Leg.* marking is at the bottom left.

92

Musical score for measures 92-94. Measure 92: Bass clef, whole note G2, dynamic *p*. Measure 93: Treble clef, eighth-note arpeggiated chords. Measure 94: Treble clef, eighth-note arpeggiated chords with fingerings 5, 5, 5, 5. Bass clef: *loco* 8^{va} with a dotted quarter note. A *Leg.* marking is at the bottom left.

95

Musical score for measures 95-97. Measure 95: Bass clef, whole note G2. Measure 96: Treble clef, eighth-note arpeggiated chords with fingerings 5, 5, 5, 5. Bass clef: *loco* 8^{va} with a dotted quarter note. Measure 97: Treble clef, eighth-note arpeggiated chords with a wavy line, dynamic *pp*. Bass clef: *15^{ma}* with a dotted quarter note, then *pp*. A *Leg.* marking is at the bottom left. A time signature $\frac{3}{4}$ is at the bottom right.

2. "Fading Light, Shooting Stars"

Quickly ♩ = 120

pp barely audible

no pedal, light, as stars

The first system consists of two staves in 4/4 time. The right hand plays a series of eighth notes with slurs, while the left hand remains silent. The dynamic is *pp* (pianissimo) and the instruction is "barely audible".

5

A

8^{va}

The second system continues from measure 5. The right hand plays a melodic line with slurs. The left hand has an octave sign (8^{va}) above a few notes. A box labeled 'A' is placed above the right hand in the third measure.

10

8^{va}

p

The third system continues from measure 10. The right hand has an octave sign (8^{va}) above a few notes. The left hand plays a rhythmic accompaniment. The dynamic *p* (piano) is indicated.

14

B

mp p

B

The fourth system continues from measure 14. The right hand has a box labeled 'B' above it. The left hand has a box labeled 'B' above it. Dynamics *mp* and *p* are indicated with hairpins.

18

mp p

mp p

The fifth system continues from measure 18. Dynamics *mp* and *p* are indicated with hairpins.

22

C

mp *p* *mp* *p*

C

mp *p* *mp* *p*

26

mp

mp

30

D

p

p echo

D

looking up at the stars

34

cresc. poco a poco

cresc.

38

E

f

8va-1

cresc.

E

f

Reo.

42

f

Reo.

46

F

(one little star)

dim.

p

Reo.

50

p

54

mf

10

58

G

delicately, as a little star

mf

G

Red.

Red.

simile

62

66

H

Mid-range, chromatic descent *ad lib.*

Higher descent *ad lib.*

f

f

H

f

(*Red.*)

70

Very high to very low descent *ad lib.*

ritard.

(very low)

I *a tempo* (♩ = 120)

ff

p

I *a tempo* (♩ = 120)

ritard.

p

75

8^{va}
loco
Ped.

79

f
ritardando
(Ped.)

83

mf
mf
no pedal
(Ped.)

87

90

ritard.
3
8^{va}
p
ritard.
p
8^{va}
pp
Ped.

3. "The Wonder of the Sky"

Flowing ♩ = 120

mf cantabile

as stars filling the sky

Flowing ♩ = 120

p

5

10

A

p

mf

answering Tuba

14

p

p

The image shows a musical score for a piece titled "The Wonder of the Sky". It is in 3/4 time and features a flowing bass line and a piano accompaniment. The score is divided into four systems, each starting with a measure number (1, 5, 10, 14). The first system includes the tempo marking "Flowing ♩ = 120" and the dynamic "mf cantabile". The piano part begins with a series of sixteenth-note patterns. The second system continues the piano part with a repeat sign. The third system includes a section marked "A" and a dynamic change to "mf" for the "answering Tuba" part. The fourth system continues the piano part with a dynamic of "p".

18

p

Reo.

22 [B]

[B]

mf

p

Reo.

26 [C]

[C]

mf

cantabile

Reo.

32

p

mf

Reo.

36

Musical score for measures 36-40. The system includes a bass line and a grand staff (treble and bass). The bass line starts with a whole rest, followed by a melodic line starting at measure 37 with a dynamic marking of *mf*. A chord symbol **D** is placed above the staff. The grand staff features a piano introduction with a dynamic marking of *p* in the treble clef, transitioning to *mf* in the bass clef. The piano part consists of chords and arpeggiated figures.

41

Musical score for measures 41-45. The system includes a bass line and a grand staff. The bass line continues the melodic line from the previous system. The grand staff continues with piano accompaniment, featuring arpeggiated chords and moving bass lines.

46

Musical score for measures 46-49. The system includes a bass line and a grand staff. The bass line has a long note in measure 46 followed by a melodic line. The grand staff features a complex piano accompaniment with a dense texture of arpeggiated chords in the treble clef and a more sparse bass line. A *ped.* (pedal) marking is present at the bottom.

50 **E**

Musical score for measures 50-53. The system includes a bass line and a grand staff. The bass line has a melodic line starting at measure 50 with a dynamic marking of *p*. A chord symbol **E** is placed above the staff. The grand staff continues with piano accompaniment, featuring arpeggiated chords and moving bass lines. A *ped.* (pedal) marking is present at the bottom.

55 F *gently, gracefully*

p *Rec.* *Rec.* *simile*

60

65 G

70 H

p *mf* *Rec.*

75

mf *p* *Rec.* *simile*

16

79

I

83

87

ritard.

The exuberance of the stars (growing until the end)

J

a tempo

91

95

Musical score for measures 95-98. Treble clef has triplets of chords. Bass clef has triplets of eighth notes.

99

K

mp cresc. poco a poco to the end

Musical score for measures 99-103. Treble clef has eighth notes with slurs. Bass clef has eighth notes with slurs.

104

L *accel.*

(cresc.) *mf (cresc.)*

Musical score for measures 104-108. Treble clef has eighth notes with slurs. Bass clef has eighth notes with slurs.

109 (*accel.*)

(cresc.) *(accel.)*

Musical score for measures 109-113. Treble clef has eighth notes with slurs. Bass clef has eighth notes with slurs.

M Quickly, *the beauty of the stars*

115

M Quickly, *the beauty of the stars*

119

123

molto rit.

3'00" | Total: *circa* 10 minutes