

# Gwyneth Walker

## Beneath the Stars

*Lyric Suite for Tuba and String Quartet*

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.

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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](http://www.gwynethwalker.com)**

for Jon

# Beneath the Stars

Lyric Suite for Tuba and String Quartet

Gwyneth Walker

## 1. "Distant Stars"

Moderate tempo ♩ = 108

Tuba

Violin 1

Violin 2

Viola

Violoncello

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

*p*

*pp*

*p*

4

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

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

*pp*

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

*p*

7

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

*pp*  
(one star)

*p*

*pp*

*p*

*pp*

11 **A**

Tuba *p peacefully*

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc. *p* *pp* *p* *pp*

16

Tuba

Vln. 1 *mp*

Vln. 2 *mp*

Vla. *mp*

Vlc.

20 **B**

Tuba

Vln. 1 *pp*

Vln. 2 *pp*

Vla. *pp*

Vlc. *mp* *pp* *mp*

25

Tuba

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

*pp*

29

C

Tuba

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

*mf*

*pp*

*mf*

*pp*

*mf*

*pp*

*mf*

33

Tuba

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

*pp*

38 D

Tuba

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

*mf* *p* *mf* *p*

42

Tuba

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

*mf* *p* *mf* *p*

47 E

Tuba

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

*espr.* *mf* *espr.* *mf* *espr.* *mf*

51

Tuba

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

**F**

*(mf)*

56

Tuba

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

59

Tuba

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

**G**

*lightly tongued*

*p*

64

Tuba *mf* *p* *mf*

Vln. 1 *p* *mf* *p* *mf*

Vln. 2 *p* *mf* *p* *mf*

Vla. *p* *mf* *p* *mf*

Vlc. *p* *mf* *p* *mf*

67

*ritard.*

Tuba *(mf)*

Vln. 1 *(mf)*

Vln. 2 *(mf)*

Vla. *(mf)*

Vlc. *mf*

70 (*rit.*) **H** Slower, grandly ♩ = 92

Tuba *f*

Vln. 1 *f*

Vln. 2 *f*

Vla. *f*

Vlc. *f*



74

Tuba

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

79 **I** *gazing up at the stars*

Tuba

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

*(f)*

84 *rit.* **Slowly**

Tuba

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

*(f) freely*

*p*



89 Original tempo ♩ = 108

Tuba

*mf*

*the stars fill the sky again*

Vln. 1 *f* *dim. poco a poco (to end)*

Vln. 2 *f* *dim. poco a poco (to end)*

Vla. *f* *dim. poco a poco (to end)*

92

Tuba

*p*

Vln. 1 *(dim.)*

Vln. 2 *(dim.)*

Vla. *(dim.)*

Vlc. *mp*

95

Tuba

*pp*

*rapidly, unmeasured*

Vln. 1 *(dim.)* *pp* *fade out*

Vln. 2 *(dim.)* *pp* *fade out*

Vla. *(dim.)* *pp* *fade out*

Vlc. *pp* *fade out*

## 2. "Fading Light, Shooting Stars"

Quickly ♩ = 120

*gliss., as a shooting star*

Musical score for Violin 1 (Vln. 1) and Violin 2 (Vln. 2), measures 1-4. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The music is marked *pp* barely audible. The first violin part features a glissando on the first note of each measure, with the instruction *gliss., as a shooting star*. The second violin part has a similar glissando on the first note of each measure.

Musical score for Violin 1 (Vln. 1), Violin 2 (Vln. 2), and Viola (Vla.), measures 5-8. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The music is marked *pp* barely audible. A box labeled 'A' is placed above measure 8. The Viola part has a glissando on the first note of measure 8, with the instruction *gliss., as a shooting star*.

Musical score for Violin 1 (Vln. 1), Violin 2 (Vln. 2), Viola (Vla.), and Violoncello (Vlc.), measures 9-12. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The music is marked *p*. The Violoncello part has a pizzicato section starting in measure 10, marked *pizz.* and *p*.

Musical score for Tuba, Violin 1 (Vln. 1), Violin 2 (Vln. 2), Viola (Vla.), and Violoncello (Vlc.), measures 13-16. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The music is marked *mp* and *p*. A box labeled 'B' is placed above measure 13. The Tuba part has a melodic line starting in measure 13, marked *mp* and *p*. The Violoncello part has a pizzicato section starting in measure 14, marked *pizz.* and *p*. The Viola part has a melodic line starting in measure 14, marked *p*. The Violoncello part has a *arco* section starting in measure 14.

17

Musical score for measures 17-20. The Tuba part features a melodic line with dynamics *mp* and *p*. Violins 1 and 2 play a pizzicato accompaniment with dynamics *pizz.* and *p*. Viola and Violoncello provide a steady eighth-note accompaniment.

21

C

Musical score for measures 21-24. A rehearsal mark 'C' is placed above measure 22. The Tuba part has dynamics *mp* and *p*. Violins 1 and 2 play *arco* with *poco* markings and dynamics *p* and *mp*. Viola and Violoncello have dynamics *p* and *mp*.

25

Musical score for measures 25-28. The Tuba part has dynamics *mp* and *p*. Violins 1 and 2 have dynamics *p* and *mp*. Viola and Violoncello have dynamics *mp*.

29

Tuba

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

*p echo*

*p echo*

*p echo*

*p echo*

**D**

33 *looking up at the stars*

Tuba

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

*p*

*cresc. poco a poco*

*cresc. poco a poco*

*cresc. poco a poco*

*cresc. poco a poco*

*cresc. poco a poco*

**E**

37

Tuba

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

*(cresc.)*

*f*

*gliss.*

*(cresc.)*

*f* *gliss.*

*(cresc.)*

*f*

*(cresc.)*

*descending gliss. tremolo*

*f*

*(cresc.)*

*f*

41

Tuba

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

45

Tuba

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

49 **F**

*lightly, at the tip*

*pp*

*lightly, at the tip*

*pp*

*pp*

*pp*

(one little star)

*p*

*p*

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

(another little star)

53

Musical score for measures 53-55. The score is for Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, and Violoncello. Measure 53 starts with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The Violin 1 part has a whole rest. The Violin 2 part has a melodic line starting with a piano (*p*) dynamic. The Viola part has a continuous sixteenth-note pattern with a rolled pizzicato (*rolled pizz.*) instruction. The Violoncello part has a rhythmic accompaniment of chords.

56

Musical score for measures 56-58. The score is for Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, and Violoncello. Measure 56 continues the sixteenth-note pattern in Violin 1. Measure 57 features a *mf* dynamic and a *rolled pizz.* instruction in the Viola part. Measure 58 includes an *arco* instruction in the Violoncello part and a *mf* dynamic in the Viola part.

59

**G** *delicately, as a little star*

Musical score for measures 59-61. The score is for Tuba, Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, and Violoncello. Measure 59 features a *mf* dynamic in the Tuba part. Measure 60 includes *pizz.* instructions in the Violin 1 and Violin 2 parts. Measure 61 features *rolled pizz.* instructions in the Violin 1, Violin 2, and Viola parts, and a *rolled pizz.* instruction in the Violoncello part.





76

Musical score for measures 76-79. The score includes parts for Tuba, Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., and Vlc. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The Tuba part is mostly silent. The Violin parts play a melodic line with slurs and accents. The Viola part has a glissando marked "shooting stars" and "gliss.". The Violoncello part plays a rhythmic accompaniment.

80

Musical score for measures 80-84. The score includes parts for Tuba, Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., and Vlc. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The Tuba part has a melodic line starting in measure 80, marked *mf*. The Violin parts have glissandos marked "gliss. ad lib." and dynamics *f*. The Viola part has a glissando marked "gliss. ad lib." and dynamics *f*. The Violoncello part has a glissando marked "gliss. ad lib." and dynamics *f*. A section marker "J" is present above the Tuba staff in measure 80.

85

Musical score for measures 85-88. The score includes parts for Tuba, Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., and Vlc. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The Tuba part has a melodic line with slurs and accents. The Violin parts play a melodic line with slurs and accents, marked *mf*. The Viola part plays a rhythmic accompaniment. The Violoncello part plays a rhythmic accompaniment.

Strings *gliss.* to a high random pitch, as a shooting star flying off into the night

The musical score consists of five staves: Tuba, Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., and Vlc. The Tuba part begins with a tempo marking of 90 and a *ritard.* instruction. It features a melodic line with a triplet of eighth notes and a dynamic marking of *p*. A *8vb* marking is placed below the staff. The string parts (Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., and Vlc.) are marked with *p* and include a *gliss.* instruction with a hairpin indicating a rise in pitch. A box at the top right explains the string glissando as a shooting star flying off into the night. The score concludes with a 3'10" time signature.

3'10"

### 3. "The Wonder of the Sky"

Flowing ♩ = 120

Tuba *mf cantabile* *as stars filling the sky*

Vln. 1 *p*

Vln. 2 *p*

Vla. *p*

Vlc.

6

Tuba

Vln. 1 (*p*)

Vln. 2 (*p*)

Vla. (*p*)

Vlc.

12 **A**

Tuba

Vln. 1 (*p*)

Vln. 2 (*p*)

Vla. (*p*)

Vlc. *mf* *answering Tuba*

17

Tuba

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

*(p)*

*(p)*

*(p)*

22 **B**

Tuba

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

*(mf)*

*(p)*

*(p)*

*(p)*

27 **C**

Tuba

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

*mf cantabile*

*p sub.*

*mf cantabile*

*p sub.*

*pizz.*

*mf*

*arco*

*p sub.*

*(mf)*

*p sub.*

33 D

Tuba

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

*mf*

*p sub.*

*mf*

*mf*

*p sub.*

*mf*

*mf*

*p sub.*

*mf*

39

Tuba

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

45

Tuba

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

50 **E**

Tuba

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

*rolled pizz.*

*arco*

*p*

*mf*

**F**

56 *gently, gracefully*

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

*rolled pizz.*

*rolled pizz.*

*p*

*(p)*

61

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

*gently, gracefully*

*(p)*

66 **G**

Musical score for measures 66-70. The score is in G major and 3/4 time. It features five staves: Tuba, Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, and Violoncello. The Tuba part is mostly rests, with a *p* dynamic marking at the end. The Violin and Viola parts play a melodic line with slurs. The Violoncello part provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords and rests.

71

**H**

Musical score for measures 71-75. The score is in G major and 3/4 time. It features five staves: Tuba, Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, and Violoncello. The Tuba part has a melodic line starting in measure 71. The Violin and Viola parts continue with their melodic line. The Violoncello part has a *mf* dynamic marking and includes an *arco* marking in measure 74.

76

Musical score for measures 76-80. The score is in G major and 3/4 time. It features five staves: Tuba, Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, and Violoncello. The Tuba part has a melodic line with *mf* and *p* dynamic markings. The Violin and Viola parts continue with their melodic line. The Violoncello part has a *mf* dynamic marking and includes a *p* dynamic marking in measure 77.

81 I

Tuba

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

*p*

*mf*

86 *ritard.*

Tuba

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

*mf*

*f*



The exuberance of the stars (growing until the end)

**J** *a tempo*

91

Vln. 1 *p cresc. poco a poco to the end*  
*rolled pizz.*

Vln. 2 *p cresc. poco a poco to the end*  
*rolled pizz.*

Vla. *p cresc. poco a poco to the end*  
*rolled pizz.*

Vlc. *p cresc. poco a poco to the end*

95

Vln. 1 *arco*

Vln. 2 *arco*

Vla.

Vlc.

99 **K**

Tuba *mp cresc. poco a poco to the end*

Vln. 1 *mp (cresc.)*

Vln. 2 *mp (cresc.)*

Vla. *arco*  
*mp (cresc.)*

Vlc. *arco*  
*mp (cresc.)*

103

Tuba *(cresc.)*

Vln. 1 *(cresc.)*

Vln. 2 *(cresc.)*

Vla. *(cresc.)*

Vlc. *(cresc.)*

107 **L**

*accel.*

Tuba *mf (cresc.)*

Vln. 1 *mf (cresc.)*

Vln. 2 *mf (cresc.)*

Vla. *mf (cresc.)*

Vlc. *mf (cresc.)*

111 *(accel.)*

Tuba *(cresc.)*

Vln. 1 *(cresc.)*

Vln. 2 *(cresc.)*

Vla. *(cresc.)*

Vlc. *(cresc.)*

115

Musical score for measures 115-118. The score is for five instruments: Tuba, Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., and Vlc. The Tuba part starts with a rest in measure 115, then plays a triplet of eighth notes in measure 116, followed by a triplet of quarter notes in measure 117, and another triplet of eighth notes in measure 118. The Vln. 1 and Vln. 2 parts play a series of eighth notes with slurs. The Vla. part plays a triplet of eighth notes in measure 115, followed by a triplet of quarter notes in measure 116, and then a series of triplet eighth notes in measures 117 and 118. The Vlc. part plays a triplet of eighth notes in measure 115, followed by a triplet of quarter notes in measure 116, and then a series of triplet eighth notes in measures 117 and 118. The dynamic marking *f* is present at the beginning of the section.

119

Musical score for measures 119-122. The score is for five instruments: Tuba, Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., and Vlc. The Tuba part starts with a rest in measure 119, then plays a triplet of eighth notes in measure 120, followed by a triplet of quarter notes in measure 121, and another triplet of eighth notes in measure 122. The Vln. 1 and Vln. 2 parts play a series of eighth notes with slurs. The Vla. part plays a triplet of eighth notes in measure 119, followed by a triplet of quarter notes in measure 120, and then a series of triplet eighth notes in measures 121 and 122. The Vlc. part plays a triplet of eighth notes in measure 119, followed by a triplet of quarter notes in measure 120, and then a series of triplet eighth notes in measures 121 and 122.

123

*molto rit.*

Musical score for measures 123-126. The score is for five instruments: Tuba, Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., and Vlc. The Tuba part starts with a rest in measure 123, then plays a triplet of eighth notes in measure 124, followed by a triplet of quarter notes in measure 125, and then a triplet of eighth notes in measure 126. The Vln. 1 and Vln. 2 parts play a series of eighth notes with slurs. The Vla. part plays a triplet of eighth notes in measure 123, followed by a triplet of quarter notes in measure 124, and then a series of triplet eighth notes in measures 125 and 126. The Vlc. part plays a triplet of eighth notes in measure 123, followed by a triplet of quarter notes in measure 124, and then a series of triplet eighth notes in measures 125 and 126. The dynamic marking *molto rit.* is present above the Tuba part in measure 123.