

Gwyneth Walker

Birds of Peace

Songs of Freedom and Peace
for High Voice, Flute and Piano

“The Caged Bird”

“The Raven and the Dove”

“Everyone Sang”

program notes:

The bird is often a poetic symbol of the exalted qualities of freedom and peace. **Birds of Peace** songs center around this imagery – the bird of freedom, the bird of peace.

The “Caged Bird,” (poem by 19th-century African-American poet Paul Laurence Dunbar) sings for his freedom. *He beats his wing on the cruel bars.* He sends a plea to Heaven. For *he would be free.*

“The Raven and the Dove” is based on an American anti-war protest song from the 1960s, with a text by Ewan McColl. *The dove she is a pretty bird, she sings as she flies.* This is a mournful song, set in the minor mode, and often placed in the low voice register. For the dove is gentle. She may be frightened away. If she leaves, the raven will come. The song implores: *if you live peaceful, she never will go.*

“Everyone Sang” is based on a poem by British poet Siegfried Sassoon, published in 1919, just at the end of World War I. The bird is a bird of freedom, of ecstasy and of the rejoicing soul. *Everyone was a bird, and the song was wordless. The singing will never be done!*

This thrill of the bird in flight brought to mind another poem, “The Windhover” by Gerard Manley Hopkins (written at a similar time to the Sassoon text). Thus, the familiar line of *My heart in hiding stirred for a bird* is interjected into the song. The bird soars above humanity, above the war. *Everyone’s voice was suddenly lifted, and beauty came like the setting sun.*

The flute plays a central role in these songs, representing the bird: striving for a higher realm outside of the cage, crying for freedom (end of “Caged Bird” song); suggesting the delicacy of a bird’s wings (grace notes in “Raven and Dove”), and soaring into the highest, ecstatic ranges (“Everyone Sang”). The subtitle for this last song is “as a prisoned bird set free.” This seems like a suitable description for the character of the flute in the entire set, **Birds of Peace**.

Birds of Peace

for High Voice, Flute and Piano

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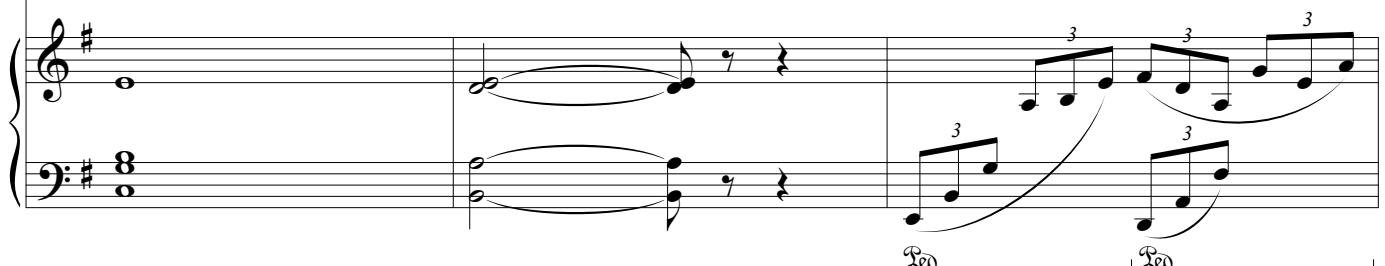
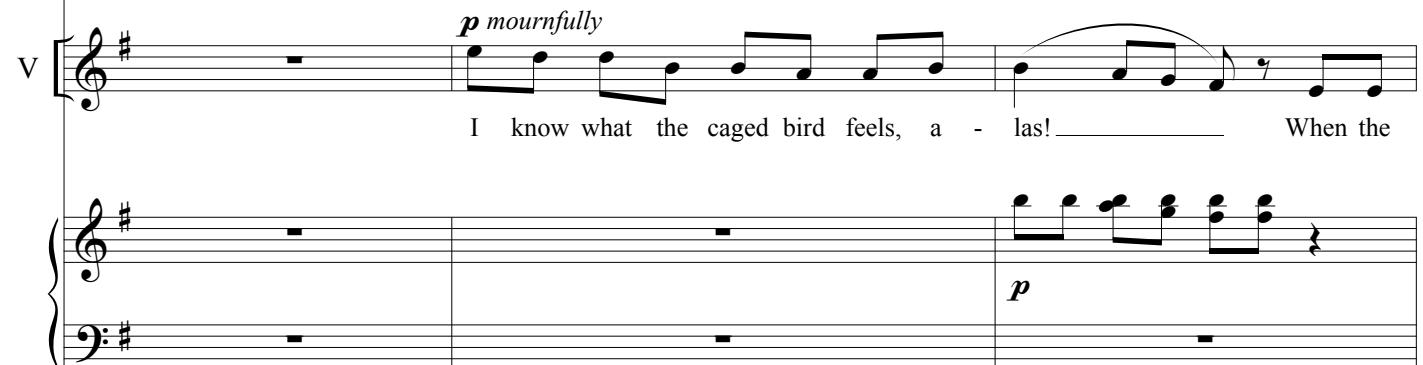
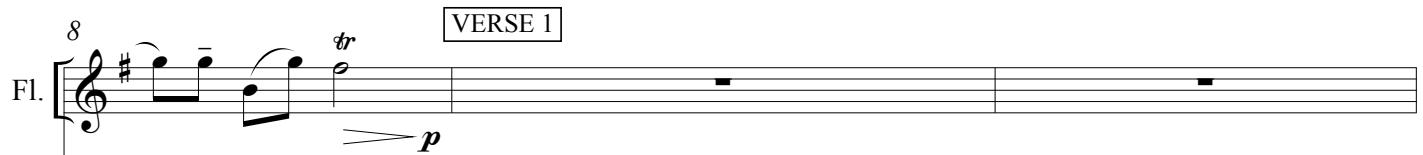
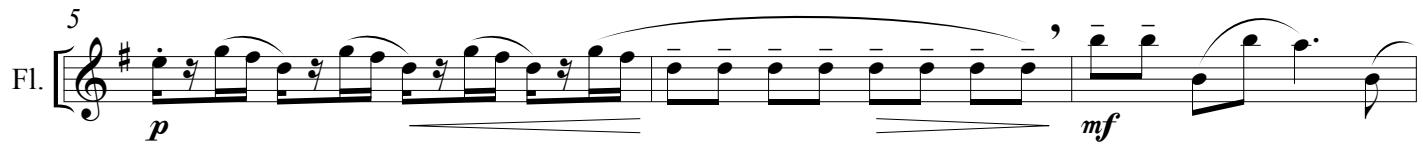
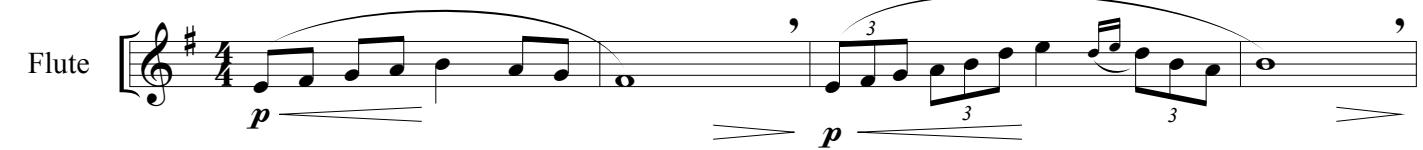
1. Caged Bird

based on the poem "Sympathy"

Paul Laurence Dunbar (1872–1906)

G. Walker, alt.

Slowly, mournfully $\text{♩} = 76$



14

V spring - ing grass, and the riv - er flows like a
rapidly, as the wind

poco accel.
cresc.

16 (accel.) *mf* stream of glass; , Slower ,
when the first bird sings, and the
(accel.) Slower .

18 first bud o - pens, - and the faint per - fume from the chal - ice
gentle arpeggios

p

20 steals I know, I know what the caged bird
poco accel.

poco accel.

23

a tempo (♩ = 76)

Fl. *p* cresc. *mf*

V feels.

a tempo (♩ = 76)

VERSE 2

26

Fl. *p*

V *mf* with more strength and sorrow *p* *mf*

I know why the caged bird beats his wing till its

p

29

V blood is red on the cruel bars; *p* For he must fly back to his

8va-----

mf

8

32 *mf* *accel.* **Slower**

V perch and __ cling, when he would ride on the bough a - swing; And a

accel. **Slower**

V pain still throbs in the old, old scars, and they pulse a - gain with a keen - er sting,

35 *f with intensity* *mf* *3*

V he beats his wing, he beats his wing, he beats his wing... I know, —

p *(p)*

V with pedal *a tempo* ($\text{♩} = 76$)

42 *poco accel.* *mf*

Fl. —

V I know why he beats his wing. —

poco accel. *a tempo* ($\text{♩} = 76$)

45

Fl.

48

Fl.

V

I _____

51 VERSE 3

Fl.

V

— know why the caged bird sings ah me! When his

Rédo. _____

53

V

wing is bruised and his heart is sore, when he

Rédo. _____

55

V beats his bars and he would be free; It is not a car - ol of

p

mf

with pedal

58 **Slower**

V joy or glee, but a prayer he sends from his heart's deep core, a

f

Slower

p

61

V plea, a plea, a

mp

mf

plea, that up-ward to Heaven he flings, I know, I know why the caged bird

mp

mf

3

3

65

V

f

plea that up-ward to Heaven he flings, I know, I know why the caged bird

f

g

3

3

69

Fl. - - - - - *p* cresc.

V sings. - - - - - *p* cresc. He would be free, he would be free... a

73

Fl. (cresc.) *f* *p*

V (cresc.) *ff* *f* *p* prayer, a plea, he— sings, and would be free.

Slowly *a tempo* ($\bullet = 76$)

Fl. (cresc.) *ff* *p*

V *ff* *p* Slowly *a tempo* ($\bullet = 76$)

76

Fl. *mf*

V - - - - -

Fl. - - - - -

(emphatic cry for freedom)

79

Fl. rit. *f* 3'20"

2. The Raven and the Dove

anti-war song of the 1960s
 Lyrics by Ewan McColl
 G. Walker, alt.

“The Cuckoo”
 Traditional English Folk Song
Gwyneth Walker, arr.

With gentle motion $\text{♩} = 120$

VERSE 1

The dove she is a

lightly, as a bird's wing

(**p**)

pret-ty bird, she_ sings as she flies. _____ She_

(**p**)

brings us glad__ ti - dings and tells us no lies. _____

She_ flies in the moun - tains and the val - ley so low. _____

(**p**)

And_ if you live__ peace - ful, she

25

Fl.

V nev - er will go.

p

p

29

Fl.

V

p

35

VERSE 2

poco cresc.

mf

Come all you young fel - lows, from near and a -

crisp rhythms, as a military drum

poco cresc.

mf

(no pedal)

*The singer may choose whichever pitches are most comfortable to sing.

10

crisp rhythms, as a military drum

40

Fl.

V far, _____ don't join in the bat - tle, don't

Piano accompaniment: Chords with dynamic markings 'mf' and 'f'.

45

Fl.

V go for the war. _____ For the dove she will

Piano accompaniment: Chords and bass notes.

50

Fl.

V leave you, and the raven will come. _____ And...

Piano accompaniment: Bass notes and chords.

55

Fl.

V

death will come_ march - ing to the sound of a drum.

60

Fl.

V

with pedal

65

Fl.

V

Come all you pret - ty

VERSE 3

mf gently

mf gently, gracefully

*The singer may choose whichever pitches are most comfortable to sing.

Walker | Birds of Peace | 2. The Raven and the Dove

70

Fl. *gracefully*

V mai - dens, come walk in the sun, _____ and _____

Fl. *p*

V *(mf)*

Reo.

75

Fl. *p*

V don't let your young man ev - er car - ry a gun. _____

Fl. *p*

V *mf*

Reo.

80

Fl. *p*

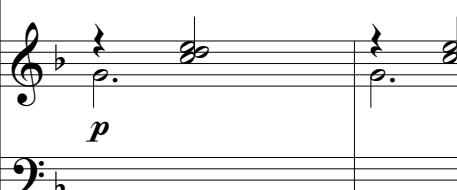
V *(mf)* For the bul - lets will scare her, and she'll fly a - way. _____

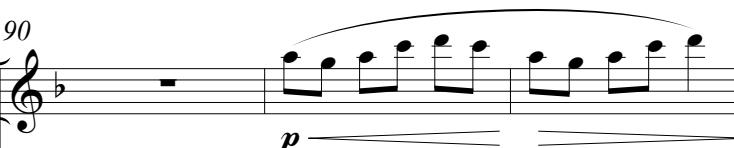
Fl. *p*

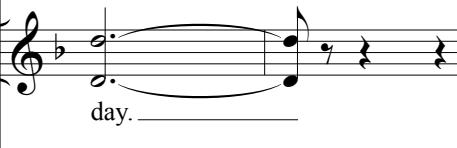
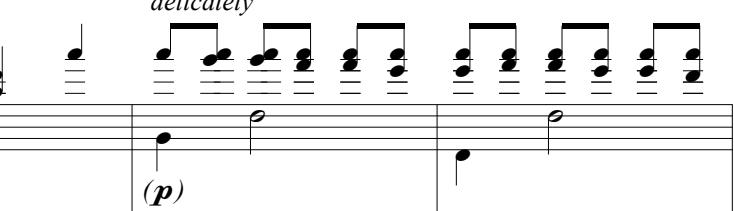
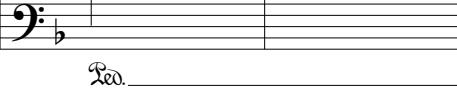
V *mf*

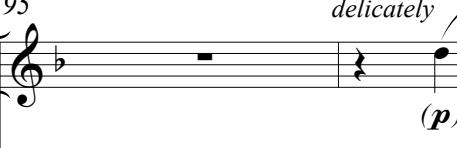
Reo.

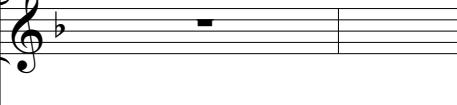
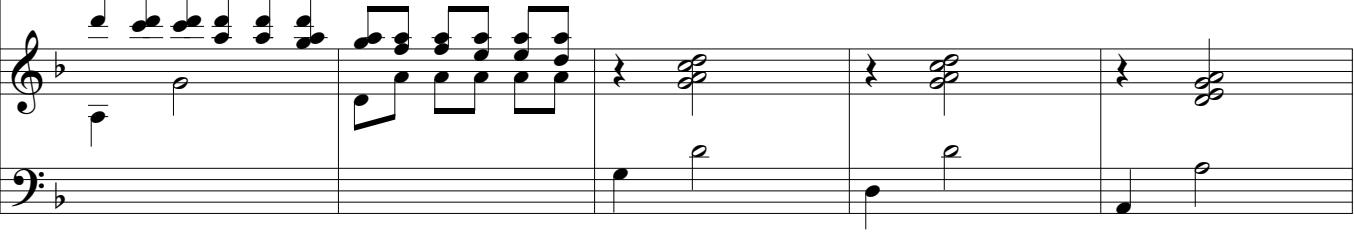
Fl. 85 

V (mf) And then there'll be  weep - ing by night and by
 (Rœ.) 

Fl. 90 

V day. 
delicately
 (p) 
 Rœ.  with pedal

Fl. 95 

V 


*The singer may choose whichever pitches are most comfortable to sing.

100

Fl.

V

mf

rit.

Slower

105

Fl. *f*

V

f emphatically

The dove she is a

rit.

Slower *emphatically*

(*f*)

110

Fl.

V

pret - ty bird, she sings as she flies. She brings us good ti - dings, and

³

115

Fl. - - - - -

V *mf more gently*
 tells us no lies. She flies in the moun - tains and the val - ley so

{ BASS
 & BASS

120

Fl. - - - - -

V *p*, *peacefully*
 low. And if you live ³ peace - ful, she nev - er will

{ BASS
 & BASS

125

Fl. *p* - - - - -

V *(p) very peacefully*
 go. And if you live ³ - - - - -

{ BASS
 & BASS

*The singer may choose whichever pitches are most comfortable to sing.

*rit. to end**as wings*

131

Fl.

V

peace - ful, she nev - er will_ go.

rit. to end
(rit.)

135

Fl.

V

*as a bird in flight**8va**pp*

(rit.)

Rit.

3'

3. Everyone Sang (as a prisoned bird set free)

Siegfried Sassoon (1886–1967)
published 1919

With gentle motion ♩ = 120
delicately, as a bird in flight

p _____ simile

Fl. 5

Fl.

V

9 A **With excitement (Same tempo)**

Fl.

V

mf with excitement

Ev' - ry-one sud - den-ly burst out

A **With excitement (Same tempo)**

mf

p _____

18

12

Fl.

V

sing - ing, ————— and I was filled with such de -

with pedal

14

Fl.

V

light as pris - oned birds must find in

p

Reo.

16

Fl.

V

free - dom ————— wing - ing wild - ly a - cross the white

8va

Reo.

Reo.

18 *poco rit.* Slightly slower

Fl. - - - - - | (mf)

V orch - ards — and the dark green fields, —

poco rit. Slightly slower

{ Fl. — — — — — | —————

{ V *Reo.* — — — — — | —————

21 *accel.*

Fl. — — — — — | *p* — — — — — | *mf*

V *p* on, on, out of sight. —

accel.

{ Fl. — — — — — | —————

{ V *Reo.* — — — — — | —————

25 [B] *a tempo* ($\text{♩} = 120$)

Fl. — — — — — | *mf* — — — — — | *mf*

V *mf* Ev' - ry - one's voice was sud - den - ly lift - ed, — and

quietly ecstatic

[B] *a tempo* ($\text{♩} = 120$)

{ Fl. — — — — — | *mf* — — — — — | *mf*

27

rit. *a tempo*

Fl.

V beau - ty came like the set - ting sun. my heart was sha - ken with

rit. *a tempo*

p

30 *lightly tongued*

Fl. p

V tears, and hor - ror drift - ed a - way. O but

,

,

6

6

33 [C]

Fl. (p)

V ev' - ry - one... O but ev' - ry - one...

[C]

(p) mp

36

Fl. - - - - - *mf*

V *mf with growing excitement*
O but ev' - ry - one was a bird, and the

{ Fl. - - - - -
V *mf >* - - - - -
& { B: 4 - - - - -

with slight pedal

38

Fl. - - - - -

V song was word - less, _____ the sing - ing will nev - er be

{ Fl. - - - - -
V *3* - - - - -
& { B: 4 - - - - -

40

Fl. *f* - - - - -

V *f* - - - - -
done. _____

{ Fl. - - - - -
V *f* - - - - -

Rondo _____

22

44

Fl.

V

rit.

D Slower ♩ = 108

Fl.

V

rit.

D Slower ♩ = 108

mf

Reo. _____ Reo. _____

47

Fl.

V

* *mf cantabile*

My heart in hid - ding stirred for this

Reo. _____ simile

50

Fl.

V

mf

bird - the a - chieve of, the mas - ter - y of the

Fl.

V

3 3 3 3 3 3

3 3 3 3 3 3

Fl. 53

V thing! O my song! *soaring*

Fl. 56 O my song! *accel.*

V O my song! *accel.*

Fl. 59 (accel.) **E** a tempo ($\bullet = 120$)

V O my song! *f* *ecstatic*

Fl. 60 (accel.) **E** a tempo ($\bullet = 120$) *f* *ecstatic* with pedal

*The lyrics from mm. 47 to 59 are excerpted from "The Windhover" by Gerard Manley Hopkins, published in *Poems*, 1918. G. Walker, alt.

62

Fl. (f) *Relaxed tempo*

V Ev' - ry-one's voice was sud - den - ly lift - ed, and

(f) *Relaxed tempo*

64

Fl. rit. *Slower*

V beau - ty came like the set - ting sun. O but

rit. *Slower*

88: *p* *p*

ped.

67 [F]

Fl. *accel. poco a poco*

V ev' - ry - one was a bird, ev' - ry - one was a

[F] *p cresc. poco a poco* *cresc. poco a poco*

(p) delicately *accel. poco a poco*

(no pedal) *add pedal*

70 (accel.)

Fl. (cresc.)

V (cresc.)

bird, and the song was word - less, the sing-ing will nev - er be

(accel.)

(cresc.)

Quickly, joyously

73 f

Fl.

V f

done! _____

Quickly, joyously

f

2'45"
Total: 9'05"
June 29, 2015
New Canaan, Connecticut