

GWYNETH WALKER

*Four Duets
for Oboe and Clarinet*



Daybreak
Crossing Paths
Especially Eighths
Walk with Grace

Four Duets for Oboe and Clarinet

duration 10:55

Commissioned by Triple Threat

Kristin Sarvela (oboe) and Patricia P. Card (clarinet) of Sam Houston State University

Premiered on January 29, 2024 at Sam Houston State University in Huntsville, Texas

NOTES

These four short movements are intended to offer a variety of expressions for the two woodwinds. The first expression, *Daylight*, is one of calling out to one another at the start of the day. With this Calypso lilting rhythm, one might imagine the players greeting one another down by the wharfs as the boats come in.

In *Crossing Paths* the instruments often echo one another in the same range, i.e., crossing paths. Repeated sustained notes (marked “airy sound”) are intended to offer support and comfort to the other instrument, carrying the melody.

Aha! In *Especially Eighths*, it becomes evident that this composer, and these players, enjoy rhythms, especially when 8th-notes are involved. The 8th-notes are either played as pitches, or as vocal sounds: “t-k-t-k-ta.”

The last movement, *Walk with Grace*, is primarily a melodic expression. The theme (which arrives in the clarinet in m. 3) is presented in a slow, walking tempo. This theme returns through the movement. But often it is embroidered with grace notes. These “secondary” notes become a strong focus of the music, which ends with grace notes. One might consider this movement to be a blessing, that we might all walk with grace throughout our lives.

The Composer

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 before returning to live in her childhood hometown of New Canaan, Connecticut.

Further information concerning Gwyneth Walker and her works is available at:

www.gwynethwalker.com

Four Duets

for Oboe and Clarinet

Gwyneth Walker

1. Daybreak

Players may be off-stage, calling out to one another from opposite sides

Slowly, tempo ad lib.

Oboe

B \flat Clarinet

suggestive of "Calypso style" with a lilt (swing eighths)

Ob.

Cl.

lightly tongued (straight eighths)

rit.

(swing)

Ob.

Cl.

Players walk on stage

opt. vocal sounds, not into instrument
(just to join in the rhythmic joy)

t k k t t k k t

Ob.

Cl.

*Grace notes precede the beat.

17

Ob. *mf* *p*

Cl. *mf* *p*

21

Ob. *mf* *p*

Cl. *mf* *p*

25 **B**

Ob. *p*

Cl. *mf* *p*

29

Ob. *mf*

Cl. *mf*

33

Ob.

Cl.

as before

36 *t k k t* *t k k t* **C**

Ob. *p* (*p*)

Cl. *p*

40

Ob.

Cl.

44 **D**

Ob. *cresc. poco poco (to E)*

Cl. *cresc. poco poco (to E)*

48

Ob. (*cresc.*)

Cl. (*cresc.*)

52

Ob. (*cresc.*)

Cl. (*cresc.*)

long dramatic/humorous pause
(at least 4")

56 **E**

Ob. *f* *pp* *lightheartedly*

Cl. *f* *pp*

60

Ob. *f* *pp*

Cl. *f* *pp*

64 **F**

Ob. *f* *pp*

Cl. *f* *pp*

68

Ob. *f*

Cl. *f*

73

Ob. *p* *pp* *as an afterthought*

Cl. *p* *pp*

rit. to end

2. Crossing Paths

$\text{♩} = 100-108$

Oboe

B♭ Clarinet

p

6

Ob.

Cl.

10

Ob.

Cl.

sostenuto (*very airy, more air than sound*)

sostenuto

p

mf

16

Ob.

Cl.

(p)

23

Ob.

Cl.

30

Ob.

Cl.

mf

p sost.

A

B

35 *legato*
Ob. *legato*
Cl. *mf* *p*

41 *sost. (very airy)* **C**
Ob. *(p)* *p* *mf*
Cl. *p sost.* *mf*

47
Ob.
Cl.

53 **D** *legato*
Ob. *legato*
Cl. *sost.* *legato*

59 *sost. (very airy)*
Ob. *p* *(p)* *p*
Cl. *p* *p*

65 **E**
Ob. *mf*
Cl. *mf*

71

Ob.
Cl.

76

Ob.
Cl.

cresc.
cresc.

81 **F**

Ob.
Cl.

f
f

88 **G**

Ob.
Cl.

95

Ob.
Cl.

legato
legato

102

Ob.
Cl.

p
p
p
p

sost. (very airy)

3. Especially Eighths

$\text{♩} = 80$

Oboe

B♭ Clarinet

lightly separate

p

non-pitched vocal sounds, or tap instrument
(Oboe participates in Clarinet's rhythm)

5 *t k ta t k t k ta t k t t k t k ta*

Ob.

Cl.

9 **A**

mf

Cl. *mf*

13

Ob.

Cl.

17 **B**

p

cresc.

cresc.

22 *rit.* **C** *a tempo*

Ob. *(cresc.)* *mf*

Cl. *(cresc.)* *mf*

27

Ob. *mf*

Cl. *mf*

32

Ob. *mf*

Cl. *mf*

36 **D**

Ob. *p sustained*

Cl. *p sustained*

43 **E** *jagged*

Ob. *cresc. poco poco (to F)* *jagged*

Cl. *cresc. poco poco (to F)*

48

Ob. *(cresc.)*

Cl. *(cresc.)*

53 F

Ob. *(cresc.)* *f* *rit.*

Cl. *(cresc.)* *f*

58 *playfully, as an "aside"* *a tempo* *rit.*

Ob. *p sub.* *f* *p* *f*

Cl. *p sub.* *f* *p* *f*

62 *a tempo* *rit.* G *a tempo*

Ob. *p* *f*

Cl. *p* *f*

66 *t k ta*

Ob. *t* *k* *ta*

Cl.

71 *t k t k ta* H *lightly, delicately*

Ob. *t* *k* *t* *k* *ta* *p*

Cl. *lightly, delicately* *p*

77 I *cresc. poco a poco*

Ob. *cresc. poco a poco*

Cl. *cresc. poco a poco*

82

Ob. *(cresc.)* *mf* 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3

Cl. *(cresc.)* *mf* 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3

86

Ob. *cresc.* *f* **J** Grandly $\frac{12}{8}$

Cl. *cresc.* 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 *f* $\frac{12}{8}$

89

Ob. *a tempo*

Cl.

92

Ob. **K**

Cl.

96

Ob. *rit. to end* t k t k ta *fade to end* t k t k ta

Cl. *fade to end*

4. Walk with Grace

$\text{♩} = 60$

Oboe

B♭ Clarinet

5

8

11

14

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

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

mf *p* *mf*

mf *p* *mf*

A

The musical score is for two instruments: Oboe and B♭ Clarinet. It is in 4/4 time with a tempo of 60. The key signature has two flats. The score is divided into four systems of two staves each. Measure numbers 5, 8, 11, and 14 are indicated at the start of their respective systems. Dynamic markings include *p* (piano) and *mf* (mezzo-forte). Performance instructions include * (Grace note precedes the beat) and ** (Grace notes are an "echo-commentary" on preceding phrase). A section marked 'A' begins at measure 11. The Oboe part has grace notes in measures 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 11, and 14. The Clarinet part has grace notes in measures 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 11, and 14. There are also grace notes in measures 4, 7, 10, and 13. A triplet of eighth notes is marked with a '3' in measure 5 of the Clarinet part.

* Grace note precedes the beat
 ** Grace notes are an "echo-commentary" on preceding phrase.
 Walker | *Four Duets* | 4. Walking with Grace

17 *lightly separate*

Ob.
Cl.

21 **B**

Ob.
Cl.

24

Ob.
Cl.

27

Ob.
Cl.

30 **C** *softly shimmering*

Ob.
Cl.

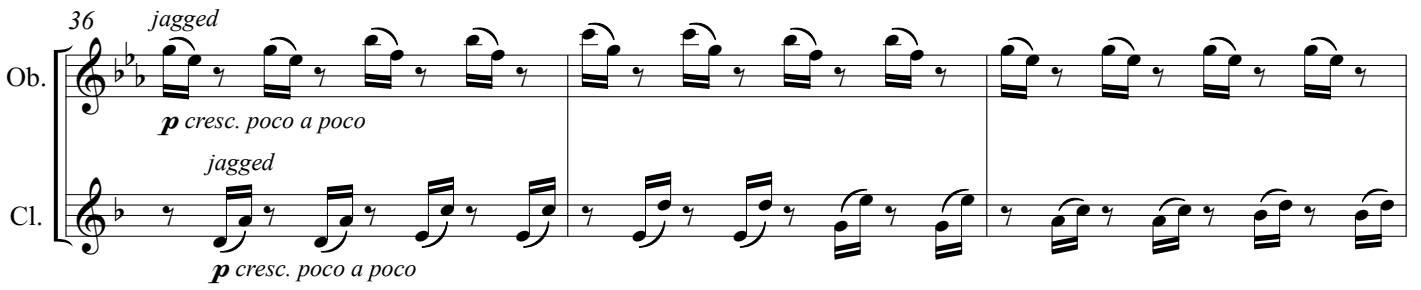
33

Ob.
Cl.

36 *jagged*
p cresc. poco a poco

Ob. *jagged*
p cresc. poco a poco

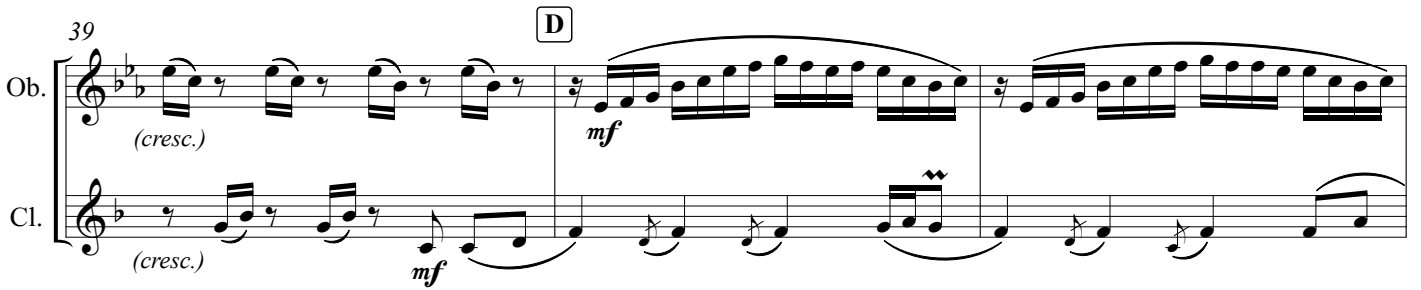
Cl. *jagged*
p cresc. poco a poco



39 **D**
(cresc.) *mf*

Ob. *(cresc.)* *mf*

Cl. *(cresc.)* *mf*



42

Ob.

Cl. *3*



45

Ob.

Cl.



49 *rit. to end*
p

Ob. *p*

Cl. *p*

