

GWYNETH WALKER

Of the Father's Love

for String Quartet

Of the Father's Love

duration: 3:10

*Premiered on November 30, 2023
in Grace Chapel at Lenoir-Rhyne University, Hickory, NC*

In creating this arrangement of *Divinum Mysterium* (“Of the Father’s Love Begotten”), the composer has maintained the rhythmic flexibility of the plainsong through the use of mixed meters. Therefore, the theme appears in 4/4, 7/8, 11/8 and 3/4 patterns.

The first verse is presented in solo theme vs. tutti accompaniment texture. This sparseness represents the simplicity of the plainsong.

After a newly composed middle section, the theme returns in florid and full style, with the upper strings harmonizing the melody, and the Cello providing an arpeggiated underpinning. The ending is triumphant.

...from the quiet mystery to the grandeur of the *Father's Love*.



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

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Of the Father's Love

for String Quartet

Based on the 13th century
plainsong *Divinum Mysterium*

Gwyneth Walker

Slowly, yet with motion (♩ = 72)

Musical score for Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, and Violoncello, measures 1-3. The score is in 4/4 time with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The tempo is 'Slowly, yet with motion' with a quarter note equal to 72 beats per minute. The dynamics are marked *p* (piano).

Musical score for Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, and Violoncello, measures 4-7. A rehearsal mark 'A' is placed above measure 4. The score is in 4/4 time with a key signature of two flats. The dynamics are marked *(p)* (piano) for the upper strings and *mf cantabile* (mezzo-forte cantabile) for the cello. A 7/8 time signature change occurs at the end of measure 7.

Musical score for Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, and Violoncello, measures 8-11. The score is in 4/4 time with a key signature of two flats. The dynamics are marked *mf* (mezzo-forte). A 7/8 time signature change occurs at the end of measure 11.

12 **B**

Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vcl.

p *mf* *pizz.* *arco* *p*

16 *poco accel.*

Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vcl.

mf *mf*

20 **C** Slightly faster (♩ = 80)

Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vcl.

p *p* *p* *p*

23 **D**

Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vcl.

mf *(p)* *(p)* *(p)*

26

Vln. 1

Vln. 2 *p*

Vla. *p*

Vcl. *p*

29

Vln. 1 *f*

Vln. 2 *f*

Vla. *f*

Vcl. *f*

32 **E** Same tempo

Vln. 1 *p sub.*

Vln. 2 *p sub.*

Vla. *p sub.*

Vcl. *p sub.*

35

Vln. 1 *cresc. poco a poco*

Vln. 2 *cresc. poco a poco*

Vla. *cresc. poco a poco*

Vcl. *cresc. poco a poco*

38 *poco rit.* **F** Original tempo (♩ = 72)

Vln. 1 *(cresc.)* *f*

Vln. 2 *(cresc.)* *f*

Vla. *(cresc.)* *f*

Vcl. *(cresc.)* *f*

41

Vln. 1 3

Vln. 2 3

Vla. 3

Vcl. 6 6 6 6 6 6

44

Vln. 1 3

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl. 6 6

47 **G**

Vln. 1 8/8 4/4 3/4 4/4

Vln. 2 8/8 4/4 3/4 4/4

Vla. 8/8 4/4 3/4 4/4

Vcl. 8/8 4/4 3/4 4/4

51 H

Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vlc.

This system contains measures 51, 52, and 53. Measure 51 features a half note G in Vln. 1 and a half note G in Vln. 2. Measure 52 is mostly rests. Measure 53 contains a half note G in Vln. 1 and a half note G in Vln. 2. The Viola and Violoncello parts have a melodic line in measure 51 and a rhythmic accompaniment of eighth notes in measures 52 and 53.

54

Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vlc.

This system contains measures 54, 55, and 56. Measures 54 and 55 show melodic lines in Vln. 1 and Vln. 2. Measure 56 features a dense texture with sixteenth-note patterns in Vln. 1, Vln. 2, and Vla, and a rhythmic accompaniment in Vlc.

57 *rit. to end*

Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vlc.

This system contains measures 57, 58, and 59. Measure 57 has a melodic line in Vln. 1 and a rhythmic accompaniment in Vln. 2, Vla, and Vlc. Measures 58 and 59 feature sixteenth-note patterns in Vln. 1, Vln. 2, and Vla, with a final melodic flourish in Vln. 1. The system concludes with a double bar line and a fermata over the final notes of each part.