

Gwyneth Walker

Peace Attend Thee

for Youth Chorus and Women's Chorus (SSA)

Peace Attend Thee

duration: 4'30"

PEACE ATTEND THEE is an adaptation of the traditional Welsh folk song, *All Through the Night*. This new version, scored for women's chorus and treble voices, expresses a mother's care for her child, and especially the grief upon losing her child. The mother was unable to protect her child from harm. So she prays, instead, that "peace attend thee" on the "final journey...home through the night."

The mother is surrounded by silence and darkness. Her heart is "bound in sorrow," but she hopes for the strength to last for another day, to endure through the night. The children's voices join with the women's chorus on the climactic phrase of "hope and light to reach tomorrow..."

Special musical features which might draw the attention of the listener are the change of mode (to a Lydian "heightened 4th step") in the first verse, suggesting the child rising to heaven, and the "wandering" 8th-note accompaniment in the minstrel verse. The next verse mentions the "solemn bell" ringing, and the children's voices echo the bell from afar. The depth of the mother's despair, near the end of the song, brings the chorus into its lowest range, to then rise with the "hope and light." The final chord is a gentle cluster, as the voices of the mothers surround and comfort the child.

This song was inspired by the tragic shooting deaths of children at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, CT in December of 2012. Newtown is not far from the composer's home in New Canaan, CT.

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

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for Youth Chorus and Women's Chorus (SSA)

Harold Boulton, 1844, alt.
 Thomas Oliphant, 1862, alt.
 G. Walker, alt.

“Ar Hyd Y Nos”
 (“All Through the Night”)
 Welsh folk melody
 arr. Gwyneth Walker

A VERSE 1

With gentle motion ♩ = 88

p

Soprano 1
 Ah, _____ ah, _____ Sleep, my child, and
(p) peacefully

Soprano 2
 Ah, _____ ah, _____ Sleep, my child, and
(p) peacefully

Alto
 Ah, _____ ah, _____ Sleep, my child, and
(p) peacefully

Piano
 (for rehearsal only)

With gentle motion ♩ = 88

A

Youth Chorus
unis. p peacefully

6

YC
 _____ all through the night.

S1
 peace at - tend thee, all through the night. Guard - ian an - gels

S2
 peace at - tend thee, all through the night. Guard - ian an - gels

A
 peace at - tend thee, all through the night. Guard - ian an - gels

Piano

10

B

YC
all through the night.

S1
God will send thee, all through the night. Soft the drow - sy *delicately*

S2
God will send thee, all through the night. Soft the drow - sy *delicately*

A
God will send thee, all through the night. Soft the drow - sy *delicately*

B

14

poco rit.

YC
poco rit.

S1
hours are creep - ing hill and dale in slum - ber sleep - ing

S2
hours are creep - ing hill and dale in slum - ber sleep - ing

A
hours are creep - ing hill and dale in slum - ber sleep - ing, *poco rit.*

17 *a tempo*

YC Ah, _____ ah, _____ all through the

S1 I my lov - ing vig - il keep - ing, all through the

S2 I my lov - ing vig - il keep - ing, all through the

A I, I, my lov-ing, a vig - il keep - ing, all through the

a tempo

20 *rit.*

YC night.

S1 night. Ah, _____ ah, _____

S2 night. Ah, _____ ah, _____

A night. Ah, _____ ah, _____

rit.

VERSE 2

25 **C** Slightly faster ♩ = 96

YC *mp* all through the night.

S1 *mp with warmth* While the moon her watch is keep - ing, Ah *p*

S2 *mp with warmth* While the moon her watch is keep - ing, Ah *p*

A *mp with warmth* While the moon her watch is keep - ing, Ah *p*

C Slightly faster ♩ = 96

YC *div. mp* all through the night.

S1 *mp* While the wear - y world is sleep - ing, Ah *p*

S2 *mp* While the wear - y world is sleep - ing, Ah *p*

A *mp* While the wear - y world is sleep - ing, Ah *p*

33 D *unis. p*

YC Ah, ah,

S1 *(p)*
O'er thy spir - it gent - ly steal - ing, vis - ions of de - light re - veal - ing, -

S2 *(p)*
O'er thy spir - it gent - ly steal - ing, vis - ions of de - light re - veal - ing, -

A *(p)*
O'er thy spir - it gent - ly steal - ing, vis - ions of de - light re - veal - ing,

D

37 *mf* *div.*

YC breathes a pure and ho - ly feel - ing, all through the

S1 *mf*
breathes a pure and ho - ly feel - ing, all through the night,

S2 *mf*
breathes a pure and ho - ly feel - ing, all through the night,

A *mf*
breathes a pure and ho - ly feel - ing, Ah

41 *rit.* [E] With motion ♩ = 108 *p*

YC *p*
 night, all through the night,

S1 *p*
 all through the night,

S2 *p (as a wandering minstrel)*
 all through the night, la la la la la la la la la la

A *p (as a wandering minstrel)*
 all through the night, la la la la la la la la

rit. [E] With motion ♩ = 108

45 [F] VERSE 3 *unis. mf*

YC *mf*
 Though I roam a

S1

S2 *(p)*
 la la la la la la la la la la la la la la

A *(p)*
 la la la la la la la la la la

[F]

48

YC min - strel lone - ly, — all_ through the night.

S1

S2 la

A la la la la la la — la —

51

YC My sweet harp sings prais - es on - ly, —

S1 *p* My sweet harp sings prais - es on - ly, —

S2 la

A la — la la la la la —

53

YC all through the night. Love's young dream a -

S1 all through the night.

S2 la la la la la la la la la la la la la la la la Love's young dream a -

A la Love's young dream a -

G *mf*

56

YC las is o - ver. Yet my strains of love shall hov - er

S1

S2 - las is o - ver. Yet my strains of love shall hov - er

A - las is o - ver. Yet my strains of love shall hov - er

G

59 *(mf)*

YC near the heart of my be - lov - ed, _____

S1 *p* near the heart of my be - lov - ed, _____

S2 *p* la la la la la la la la la la la la la la la la la

A *p* la _____ la la la la la la _____

61 *p* *div.*

YC all ___ through the, ___ all ___ through the ___

S1 *(p)* all through the, all through the ___

S2 *(p)* all ___ through the, ___ all ___ through the ___

A *(p)* all through the, all through the, all through the

VERSE 4

H Moderate tempo ♩ = 100

(as an echo from afar)

poco rit.

64 *unis.* *f* *p* *div.*

YC
night. Hark... ring - ing,

S1
night. Hark, a sol - emn bell is ring - ing, —

S2
night. Hark, a sol - emn bell is ring - ing, —

A
night. Hark, a sol - emn bell is ring - ing, —

poco rit. **H** Moderate tempo ♩ = 100

67 *(p)* *unis.* *f*

YC
night. Thou...

S1
(p) clear_ through the night. Thou, my love, to hea - ven

S2
(p) clear_ through_ the night. Thou, my love, to hea - ven

A
(p) clear through_ the night. Thou, my love, to hea - ven

70

YC *p* *div.* wing - ing, *unis.* night.

S1 *p* wing - ing home_ through the night. (*p*)

S2 *p* wing - ing home_ through the night. (*p*)

A *p* wing - ing home through_ the night. (*p*)

73 **I**

YC *mf* Ah

S1 *mf* Earth - ly dust from off thee sha - ken, soul im - mor - tal

S2 *mf* Earth - ly dust from off thee sha - ken, soul im - mor - tal

A *mf* Earth - ly dust from off thee sha - ken, soul im - mor - tal

I

76 *poco rit.* , Same tempo ♩ = 100

YC Ah, ah,

S1 shall a - wa - ken, with the fi - nal jour - ney ta - ken,

S2 shall a - wa - ken, with the fi - nal jour - ney ta - ken,

A shall a - wak - en, and with thy fi - nal, thy jour - ney ta - ken,

poco rit. , Same tempo ♩ = 100

79 *rit.*

YC home through the night, night.

S1 home through the night, home through the night.

S2 home through the night, home through the night.

A home through the night, home through the night.

rit.

VERSE 5

J Slowly ♩ = 88

with depth and darkness

83

YC *p* spread - ing,

S1 *p* Deep the si - lence round us spread - ing, dark the path that

S2 *p* Deep the si - lence round us spread - ing, dark the path that

A *p* Deep the si - lence round us spread - ing, dark the path that

J Slowly ♩ = 88

with depth and darkness

86

YC *cresc. poco a poco* tread - ing, sor - row,

S1 *cresc. poco a poco* we are tread - ing, though our hearts are bound in sor - row,

S2 *cresc. poco a poco* we are tread - ing, though our hearts are bound in sor - row,

A *cresc. poco a poco* we are tread - ing, though our hearts are bound in sor - row,

K Grandly, triumphantly

89

YC *f* we bor - row hope and light to

S1 *f* from the rays of dawn we bor - row hope and light to

S2 *f* from the rays of dawn we bor - row hope and light to

A *f* from the rays of dawn we bor - row hope and light to

K Grandly, triumphantly

92

YC reach to - mor - row, all through the night, all through the

S1 reach to - mor - row, all through the night, all through the night.

S2 reach to - mor - row, all through the night, all through the night. —

A reach to - mor - row, all through the night, all through the night. —

95 **L** *mp*

YC night. my child... at - tend thee,

S1 *mp*
Sleep my child, and peace at - tend thee,

S2 *mp*
Sleep my child... peace at - tend thee,

A *mp*
Sleep my child... peace at - tend thee,

rit. to end

99 **L** *p* *pp*

YC *Ossia all through the night. *p* *pp*

S1 all through night. *p* *pp*

S2 all through night. *p* *pp*

A all through night. *p* *pp*

rit. to end

*The smaller notes are an optional harmony for lower voices. Unison is preferred.
Walker | Peace Attend Thee