

Gwyneth Walker
Song and Dance

for Mezzo-Soprano and Piano

1. I Like the Dance
2. Friends and Lovers
3. A Song for You

Song and Dance

duration: 5 minutes and 30 seconds

Notes

Song and Dance is a set of three short songs based on the poetry of African-American poet Nikki Giovanni (b. 1943). These songs are intended as an *addendum* to the earlier collection, **Shoe Jazz** (for Youth Chorus and string quartet, or piano). Whereas the **Shoe Jazz** texts were selected for young singers (or those who are young at heart!), the lyrics for **Song and Dance** are more mature – sensuous and romantic – yet still with the Nikki Giovanni humor and charm.

[The two sets may be programmed together.]

As the title **Song and Dance** suggests, this music is both melodic and rhythmic. Perhaps the singer will find that she cannot resist dancing while singing. This would be most appropriate!

A few lines from each poem will set the tone:

1. *I Like the Dance/I like the way I feel in your arms*
2. *Friends and Lovers are different things/Friends go shopping for shoes with you/Lovers cause your heart to stop beating*
3. *I Sing for You/I whisper in your ear/I steal a kiss*

Music preparation by:

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The Poems

I Like the Dance

I like the dance
I like the idea
 of you in my arms
I like the gentle sway

I like the dance
I like your sweat
 on my cheek
I like the way you breathe

Look at me
Look at me

I like the way I feel
 in your arms

Friends and Lovers

Friends and Lovers
 are different
 things

Friends:
 go shopping for shoes
 with you
 add extra garlic
 to that new tomato sauce recipe
 giggle over that silly thing
 that happened back in high school

Lovers:
 cause your heart to stop
 beating
 put cotton and dumb things to say
 in your mouth
 take you to paradise
and back again
and again
and again

A Song for You

I sing for you
Out of tune
Off key
Forgetting lyrics
Remembering longing

I perch
On your heart
I whisper in your ear

Tiptoeing lightly
Across your lashes
I steal a kiss

You flick
And blink
And flick
Again

I fly away
Leaving my song
 doo wop doo wop
 doo wop doo ditty ditty wop

Song and Dance

for Mezzo-Soprano and Piano

Nikki Giovanni
from Bicycles 2009*

Gwyneth Walker

1. I Like the Dance

[opt. non-pitched vocal sounds]
to resemble tapping on a cymbal

Moderate tempo (♩ = 120), *a sensuous tango*

Voice

Piano

p

And. simile

ta__ ta ta ta

4

ta ta ta ta__

7

p

A

ta__ ta ta ta ta ta ta I like the dance__

A

*Used with permission of the poet.

10

I like the i -

13

dea of you in my arms

16

I like the gen-tle sway

B

19

Oo

Ped.

22

(p) mf

la la la la la la la la la I like the

cresc.

(Ped.)

25

C

mf

dance I like your sweat on my cheek

C

simile

Ped.

28

I like the way you breathe

31

ah Look at me,

f insistently

p

f

rit.

34

look at me, look at me I like the way I feel in your arms

mf Slower, sensuously

rit. Slower, sensuously

mf

rit.

(*rit.*)

*Cue-sized notes are an *ossia* for lower voices.
Walker | Song and Dance | 1. I Like the Dance

37 **E** *a tempo* (♩ = 120)

E *a tempo* (♩ = 120)

ped. *simile*

41

la la

44 *rit.* **Slightly slower** (♩ = 108) *p*

la la la la I like the dance

rit. **Slightly slower** (♩ = 108) *p* *lightly*

ped. *ped.* *no pedal*

2. Friends and Lovers

Moderate tempo (♩ = 120)

Voice

Moderate tempo (♩ = 120)
tenderly, with warmth of friendship

Piano

4

A *mf*

Friends and Lov - ers are dif - ferent things,

A

p

ped. *ped.* *no pedal*

8

p *mf*

dif - ferent things Friends: go shop - ping for shoes with you add ex - tra

mf

ped. *ped.* *ped.*

11

gar - lic to that new to - ma - to sauce rec - i - pe gig - gle o - ver that

p

14

sil - ly thing that hap - pened back in high school

f (a strong memory)

f

va

18

B

B with suspense, pulsating

p

with slight pedal

(Leo.)

20

p with suspense, pulsating

Lov - ers: cause your heart to stop beat - ing

23

mp

put cot - ton and dumb things to say in your mouth

more pedal

26

C

mf

take you to par - a - dise

C

29

par - a - dise and

(Ped.)

Ped.

32 *f*

back a - gain and a - gain and a - gain

cresc.

ped.

35 **D** *rit.* *(f)*

Friends and Lov - ers

rit.

f

D

ped.

38 *(rit.)* *p*

dif - ferent

(rit.)

p

ped.

1:30

3. A Song for You

Peacefull tempo (♩ = 108)

Piano

8va

p gently

with pedal

4 (8va)

7 (8va)

Ped.

10

mf

Ped.

simile

13 **A**

sing for you _____ out of tune _____

A *loco*

mf

16

p sub. _____ *mf*

off key _____

p sub. _____ *mf*

mf

Loco.

19

[long pause] *singer forgets lyrics*

For - get - ting lyr - ics Re - mem - ber - ing

(*Loco.*)

22

p _____ *mf* [hum] *p*

long - - - - ing Hmm

mf *p*

25 *mf* **B** Lively tempo ($\text{♩} = 132$), *swing eighths* (*mf*)

B Lively tempo ($\text{♩} = 132$), *swing eighths* I

28

perch on your heart I whis - per in your ear

32 *p flirtatiously* singer blows a kiss to the audience (or pianist!)

Tip - toe - ing light - ly a - cross your lash - es I steal a kiss

p

36 **C** *a tempo* *mf*

C *a tempo* You flick and blink and flick a - gain —

mf

40

I'll fly a - way — Leav - ing my song

44

D

D

48

joyfully

doo wop doo wop doo wop dit - ty dit - ty dit - ty doo wop doo wop doo wop

51

E

dit - ty dit - ty I sing I

E

54

perch I whis - per

58

p singer blows another kiss
the audience (or pianist!) **F** [Opt. extended ending]
for a dancing singer

I steal a kiss **F**

p *mf*

61

mf repeat a few times, as singer dances to side of stage

doo wop doo wop doo wop dit - ty dit - ty dit - ty

64

rit. blows one final kiss
to the audience

rit.

p