

Gwyneth Walker

Songs of Home

a celebration of *home*, and of building a home –
dedicated to *Habitat for Humanity*
for SATB Chorus and Orchestra

“A Home Song”

“Take This Hammer (Tools of the Trade)”

“A House of Love and Light”

“I’m Buildin’ Me a Home”

Duration: 11:30

Dedicated to *Habitat for Humanity*
and the many volunteers who give so generously of their time
to providing homes for their neighbors in need

Songs of Home is a set of four choral songs with texts on topics of *home*. The expressions range from reverent (“A Home Song” and “A House of Love and Light”) to a working song (“Take this Hammer”) to a celebratory spiritual in swing rhythm (“I’m Buildin’ Me a Home”).

Home is considered a place *where the soul breathes free, where the heart is at rest, where the peace of the Lord shall enter*. And for the builders, home is a place of hammers, saws and drills. [!]

Home is both physical and spiritual. *This earthly house gonna soon decay. My soul’s gotta have somewhere to stay.*

Home is both a goal (a place to live) and a beginning (a place of welcome, an opening of the heart). There are many causes for gratitude and celebration. Perhaps these **Songs of Home** might serve to acknowledge the valuable work of *Habitat for Humanity*.

1. A Home Song

poem by Henry Van Dyke (1852-1933)

published 1909

adapted by Gwyneth Walker

I read within a poet's book
some words that marked the page:
"Stone walls do not a prison make,
nor iron bars a cage!"

Yes, that is true; and something more
you'll find, where'er you roam,
that marble floors and gilded walls
can never make a home.

Yes, marble floors and guided walls
are not a home to me.
For I must live where my mind can roam,
and where my soul breathes free.

But every house where Love abides,
And Friendship is a guest,
Is surely home, a cherished home,
For there the heart can rest.

Songs of Home

for SATB Chorus and Piano

Henry Van Dyke (1852–1933)
published in 1909
adapted by the composer

Gwyneth Walker

1. A Home Song

Moderate tempo ♩ = 120, *with motion*
gently, with optimism

Piano

mf

with pedal

4

8

S
A

mf **A**

I read with - in a po - et's book some words that marked the

T
B

mf

I read with - in a po - et's book some words that marked the

A

*for rehearsal only**

*Cue-sized notes in the piano part are for rehearsal only.

12

S
A

page: "Stone walls do not a pris - on make, nor iron — bars a

T
B

Bar. only — — — — —
page: "Stone walls do not a pris - on make, a

16

S
A

cage! Stone walls do not a pris - on make, nor iron — bars —

T
B

(Bar.) — — — — —
cage! Stone walls do not a pris - on make, nor iron bars —

20

S
A

a cage!"

T
B

a cage!"

Play

(mf)

24 **B**

S
A

T
B

p

Yes, that is true; and some - thing more you'll find where - 'er you

B

28 *Alto mp*

S
A

T
B

mp

that mar - ble floors and gild - ed walls can nev - er make a

roam, that mar - ble floors and gild - ed walls can nev - er make a

reh. only

32 *+S1, S2 mf* **C**

S
A

T
B

mf

home. Yes, mar - ble floors and gild - ed walls are not a home to

home. Yes, mar - ble floors and gild - ed walls are not a home to

Play **C**

mp *mf*

36

S
A

me. For I must live where my mind can roam, and where my soul breathes

T
B

me. For I must live where my mind can roam, breathes

40

S
A

free, and where my soul breathes

T
B

free, and where my soul breathes

44

S
A

free.

T
B

free.

48

joyfully

51

S
A

T
B

p. **E**

But ev - 'ry house where love a - bides _____

But ev - 'ry house where love a - bides _____

E

dim. *p.* *reh. only*

54

S
A

T
B

and Friend - ship is a guest, _____

and Friend - ship is a guest, _____

Play relaxed "home" motive

p. *reh. only*

57 *mp*

S
A

is sure - ly home, my cher - ished home: _____

T
B

is sure - ly home, my cher - ished home: _____

Play 3 3 *reh. only*

60 *mf*

S
A

for there my heart can rest. _____

T
B

for there my heart can rest. _____

Play 3 3 *mf* *reh. only*

63 *f* **F**

S
A

And ev - 'ry house where Love a - bides, and

T
B

And ev - 'ry house where Love a - bides, and

Play 3 3 *mf* *f* **F**

66 *p*

S
A
T
B

Friend - ship is a guest, is sure - ly home, my

Friend - ship is a guest, is sure - ly home, my

69 *, mf*

S
A
T
B

cher - ished home, for there my heart can

cher - ished home, my heart can

72 *p* *rit.* *Two Soli* *pp*

S
A
T
B

rest. My - soul - breathes free!

rest.

p *rit.* *as a free soul* *pp*

rest.