No. 6208 | Walker, arr. | The Rose, the Briar, and the Bicycle | SATB & Oboe and Piano

# GWYNETH WALKER The Rose, the Briar, and the Bicycle

for SATB Chorus and Oboe and Piano

#### The Rose, the Briar, and the Bicycle

*The Rose, the Briar and the Bicycle* are contemporary adaptations of familiar ballads and love songs. The intent is to expand upon the originals, especially with the addition of the oboe, a primary agent for color and character in each song.

The first song, "The Rose and the Briar," is based on the ballad "Barbara Allen." The oboe introduction presents a filigree pattern that runs throughout the song. With each verse, the filigree is varied to reflect the images in the lyrics: the buds of May, the dying Sweet William, Barbara's indifference (and dancing), hardhearted Barbara Allen, and her eventual lamentation. During the final verse, the oboe initiates a dissonant chromatic line that intertwines with the chorus and then rises above, as a briar.

An Interlude follows to connect the first song to the second. The tempo for the new song is set by the pianist tapping the piano lid at a "trotting tempo, as a fox setting out in search of food." For indeed, "Dinner for the Family" is based on the ballad, "The Fox." Again, the oboe provides commentary on the lyrics: the scurrying fox, the awakened farmer, the sound of the horn "both loud and shrill," the quacking duck, and the fox running back to her den. Throughout this song, the energy of the fox's adventures characterizes the oboe part.

The frantic pace of the fox chase ends with a second Interlude, marked "at a graceful tempo." The focus of the music now shifts to a bicycle. Perhaps a bicycle bell may be heard in the trills played by the oboe. A waltz rhythm is established for "A Two-Seater," based on the 1890's song, "A Bicycle Built for Two." The choral style for this song is often 4-part men or 4-part women's harmony, in a "barbershop quartet" idiom reminiscent of 1890's. The oboe offers quiet, background arpeggio patterns at first. As the song progresses, these arpeggios become more abundant and rapid. Near the end of the song, the arpeggios flow up, down and around the chordal pitches in large phrases suggesting the spinning of bicycle wheels. The ringing of the bicycle bell brings this song of courtship to a close.

#### **Duration: 10'30"**

The oboe part, Catalog No. 6209, is available from the publisher.

#### **Gwyneth Walker**

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, Walker resigned from academic employment in 1982 to pursue a career as a full-time composer. She now lives on a dairy farm in Braintree, Vermont.

Walker's catalog includes more than 130 commissioned works for orchestra, band, chorus and chamber ensembles. The music of Gwyneth Walker is published by E. C. Schirmer Music Company of Boston (choral and vocal music) and MMB Music of St. Louis (orchestral and instrumental music).

**Corrected 2007 Edition** 

Catalog No. 6208

dedicated to Oboist Cynthia Green Libby and the Southwest Missouri State University Concert Chorale

## The Rose, the Briar, and the Bicycle for SATB Chorus, Oboe and Piano

Traditional ballad Traditional ballad Harry Dacre, 1892

Barbara Allen The Fox A Bicycle Built for Two ("Daisy Bell") Gwyneth Walker, arr.



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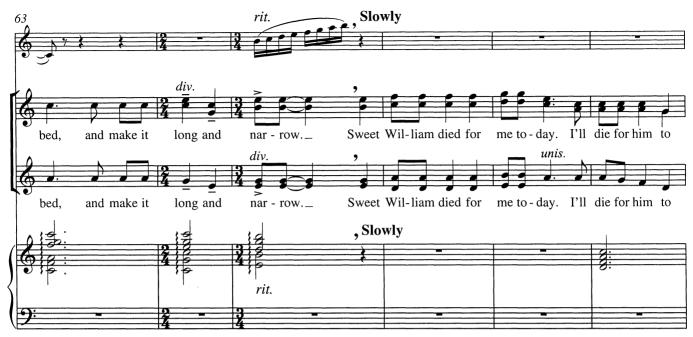




















### Interlude



\* Tap the lid of the piano with the r.h. descending from top (r.h. end) to middle. The "pitches" indicate high to low sounds.









\* In 2007, the composer added the missing word "the."



\* approximate pitches





\* approximate pitches





\* approximate pitches











\* In 2007, the composer corrected the word from "pen" to "den."







\* Cue size notes in mm. 94-96 are for rehearsal only.



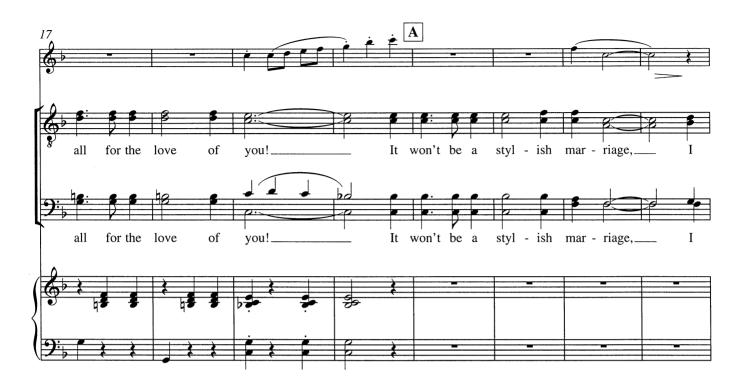
Interlude

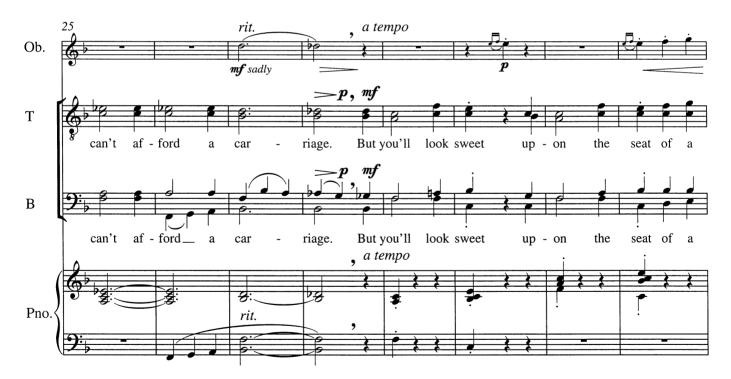


\* Here, as in mm. 79-80 and the last measure of the piece, an actual bicycle bell may be rung by one of the chorus members. ca. 25"

3. A Two-Seater















\* The bicycle bell may be rung in mm.79-80 as if signaling someone to get out of the way!













Braintree, Vermont 2'40" Total: 10'30"

ECSPUBLISHING COMMITTED TO THE GOMPOSER'S CRAFT

