

FULL SCORE

GWYNETH WALKER

*The Heart of the Tree*

*for SATB Chorus, B $\flat$  Clarinet Solo, and String Orchestra*





# *The Heart of the Tree*

duration 4 minutes

*This song was created as a gift to the community of Petoskey, Michigan, the “City of Trees.”*

**The Heart of the Tree** is based upon the poem (of the same title) by Henry Cutler Bunner (1855-1895). Although the text dates back to an earlier era, the sentiments described are timeless—love, respect and reverence for trees. Our “grounded friends” rise to the sky as a bridge between our rooted, earthly existence and heaven above.

The musical setting juxtaposes choral singing of the three stanzas of the poem with ascending melodic phrases in the accompaniment. These clarinet interludes are inspired by the image of the tree branches reaching upward – *a shaft of beauty towering high*.

**The Heart of the Tree** was originally composed for SATB chorus with piano accompaniment. However, the sound of the clarinet, the quintessentially woodwind instrument, was always in the composer’s ear. Therefore, expanded versions were created with clarinet and string orchestra, or clarinet and piano accompaniment.

A part for flute or oboe, as an alternate for the clarinet, is also available.



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](http://www.gwynethwalker.com)

# *The Heart of the Tree*

What does he plant who plants a tree?  
He plants a friend of sun and sky;  
He plants the flag of breezes free;  
The shaft of beauty, towering high;  
He plants a home to heaven anigh;  
For song and mother-croon of bird  
In hushed and happy twilight heard—  
The treble of heaven's harmony—  
These things he plants who plants a tree.

What does she plant who plants a tree?  
She plants cool shade and tender rain,  
And seed and bud of days to be,  
And years that fade and flush again;  
She plants the glory of the plain;  
And plants the forest's heritage;  
The harvest of a coming age;  
The joy that unborn eyes shall see—  
These things she plants who plants a tree.

What do we plant who plant a tree?  
We plant, in sap and leaf and wood,  
In love of home and loyalty  
And far-cast thought of civic good—  
Our blessings on the neighborhood,  
Who in the hollow of His hand  
Holds all the growth of all our land—  
A nation's growth from sea to sea  
Stirs in our heart when we plant a tree.

*Henry Cutler Bunner (1855-1895)*  
adapted by Gwyneth Walker

dedicated to Petoskey, Michigan – The City of Trees

# The Heart of the Tree

for SATB Chorus, \*B $\flat$  Clarinet, and String Orchestra

Henry Cutler Bunner (1855 - 1895)  
G. W. alt.

Gwyneth Walker

Slowly  $\text{♩} = 100$   
*gently, suggesting a tree reaching up to the sky*

*mf cantabile*

lightly tongued

Violins 1 *p*

Violins 2 *p*

Viola *p*

Violoncello *div. p*

Contrabass *p*

7

Cl. *p*

S *p tenderly*

A

T *p tenderly*

B

What does he plant who plants a tree? He plants a friend of

1 *\*\**

2

Vla.

Vlc.

Cb. *pizz.*

\* A part for "Flute or Oboe" is available as an alternate for the Clarinet.

\*\*Cue-sized notes are for rehearsal only

12

Cl. *p* *mf* *mf*

S A *poco cresc.*  
 sun and sky; He plants the flag of breez - es free; The shaft of beau - ty, tow - ering high; He

T B *poco cresc.*  
 sun and sky; He plants the flag of breez - es free; The shaft of beau - ty, tow - ering high;

1 Vlns.  
 2 Vlns.  
 Vla.  
 Vlc.  
 Cb.

17

Cl. *p* *mf* *p* **B**

S A *p* *mf* *p*  
 plants a home to heaven a - nigh; in hushed and hap - py

T B *p* *mf* *p*  
 Hmm For song and moth - er - croon of bird in hushed and hap - py

1 Vlns. *mf* *pizz.*  
 2 Vlns. *div.* *unis.* *pizz.*

Vla. *pizz.* *arco* *pizz.*  
 (*p*) *mf* *p*

Vlc. *pizz.* *arco, div.* *pizz.*  
 (*p*) *mf* *unis.*

Cb. *pizz.* *arco* *pizz.*  
 (*p*) *mf* *p*

22

Cl.

S  
A  
T  
B

twi - light heard- the tre-ble of hea - ven's har - mo - ny- These things he plants who plants a

*cresc.* *f with strength*

*arco* *pizz.* *arco* *f with strength* *unis.* *div.*

Vlns. 1 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Cb.

*arco* *pizz.* *arco* *f with strength*

27

Cl.

S  
A  
T  
B

tree. tree.

*p* *mf* *tr*

“Tree patterns”

*Solo* *C* *Tutti*

Vlns. 1 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Cb.

*mp* *p* *unis.* *p*

*p* *div.*

32 *tr* *lightly tongued*

Cl. *mf* *div.*

S

A

T

B

Vlns. 1 *mf* *div.*

2 *mf*

Vla. *mf*

Vlc. *mf* *div.*

Cb. *mf*

*unis.*

37 **D** "Seeds"

Cl. *p*

S *p* *cresc.*

A *p* *cresc.*

T *p* *cresc.*

B *p* *cresc.*

What does she plant who plants a tree? She plants cool shade and ten - der rain, And seed and bud of

**D** *unis.* *poco cresc.*

Vlns. 1 *p* *poco cresc.*

2 *p* *poco cresc.*

Vla. *p* *poco cresc.*

Vlc. *pizz., unis.* *poco cresc.*

Cb. *p* *poco cresc.*



42

Cl. *mp* *mf* *mf* *p* *mf*

S  
A *(cresc.)* *mf*  
days to be, And years that fade and flush a - gain; She plants the glo - ry of the plain;

T  
B *(cresc.)* *mf* *p* *mf*  
days to be, And years that fade and flush a - gain; Hmm \_\_\_\_\_ And

1 *(cresc.)* *mp* *mf* *div.* *unis.*

2 *(cresc.)* *mp* *mf* *pizz.* *arco*

Vla. *(cresc.)* *mp* *mf* *pizz.* *mf* *arco, div.*

Vlc. *(cresc.)* *mp* *mf* *pizz.* *mf* *arco*

Cb. *(cresc.)* *mp* *mf* *pizz.* *mf* *arco*

47 **E**

Cl. *p* *p* *cresc.*

S  
A *p* *p* *cresc.*  
The har - vest of a com - ing age; the joy that un - born

T  
B *p* *p* *cresc.*  
plants the for - est's her - i - tage; The har - vest of a com - ing age; the joy that un - born

**E**

1 *pizz.* *arco* *pizz.*

2 *p* *pizz.* *arco* *pizz.*

Vla. *p* *pizz.* *arco* *pizz.*

Vlc. *p* *pizz. unis.* *arco* *pizz.*

Cb. *p* *pizz.* *arco* *pizz.*

52

Cl. *p*

S  
A  
(*cresc.*) *f* *p*  
eyes shall see — These things she plants who plants — a tree.

T  
B  
(*cresc.*) *f* *p*  
eyes shall see — These things she plants who plants — a tree.

1 *arco* *f with strength* *mp* *p*  
*div.* *unis.* *div.*

2 *arco* *f with strength* *p*

Vla. *arco* *f with strength* *p*

Vlc. *arco* *f with strength* *p*

Cb. *arco* *f with strength* *p*

*Solo*

57 **F**

Cl. *mf cantabile*

S  
A

T  
B

1 **F** *Tutti* *(p)* *cresc.*

2 *unis.* *gentle tremolo* *(p)* *cresc.*

Vla. *(p)* *gentle tremolo* *cresc.*

Vlc. *(p)* *div.* *gentle tremolo* *unis.*

Cb. *(p)* *gentle tremolo* *cresc.*

*(p)* *cresc.*

62 *lightly tongued* G

Cl. *p* *mf*

S  
A *p* What do we plant who plant a tree? \_\_\_\_\_

T  
B *p* What do we plant who plant a tree? \_\_\_\_\_

G

Vlns. 1 *(cresc.)* *mf* *p*

Vlns. 2 *(cresc.)* *mf* *p*

Vla. *(cresc.)* *mf* *p*

Vlc. *(cresc.)* *div.* *mf* *unis.* *p*

Cb. *(cresc.)* *mf* *p*



67 *(mf)*

Cl. *(mf)*

S  
A \_\_\_\_\_ We plant, in sap and leaf and wood, \_\_\_\_\_ In love of home and

T  
B \_\_\_\_\_ We plant, in sap and leaf and wood, \_\_\_\_\_ In love of home and

Vlns. 1

Vlns. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Cb.

72

Cl. *(mf)* *poco cresc.*

S  
A  
loy - al - ty ——— And far - cast thought of civ - ic good—  
*poco cresc.*

T  
B  
loy - al - ty ——— And far - cast thought of civ - ic good—

1  
Vlns. *poco cresc.*

2  
*poco cresc.*

Vla. *poco cresc.*

Vlc. *poco cresc.*

Cb. *poco cresc.*

76

Cl. *(cresc.)* *mf* *p* *mf* *p*

S  
A  
*(cresc.)* Our bless - ings on the neigh - bor - hood,  
*mf*

T  
B  
Hmm ——— Our bless - ings on the neigh - bor - hood,

1  
Vlns. *mf* *div.* *unis.*

2  
*mf* *pizz.* *arco*

Vla. *mf* *pizz.* *arco, div.*

Vlc. *mf* *pizz.* *arco*

Cb. *mf* *pizz.* *arco*

81 **H**

Cl. *p* *poco cresc.* *mp*

S *p.* *poco cresc.*  
Who in the hol - low of His hand holds all the growth of all our land- A

A *p.* *poco cresc.*  
Who in the hol - low of His hand holds all the growth of all our land- A

T *p.* *poco cresc.*  
Who in the hol - low of His hand holds all the growth of all our land- A

B *p.* *poco cresc.*  
Who in the hol - low of His hand holds all the growth of all our land- A

**H** with the excitement of the growing tree

1 *p* *poco cresc.*

2 *p* *poco cresc.*

Vla. *p* *poco cresc.*

Vlc. *p unis.* *poco cresc.*

Cb. *p* *poco cresc.*

85

Cl. *(cresc.)* *f*

S *(cresc.)* *f* *p*  
na - tion's growth from sea to sea stirs in the heart who plant a tree.

A *(cresc.)* *f* *p*  
na - tion's growth from sea to sea stirs in the heart who plant a tree.

T *(cresc.)* *f* *p*  
na - tion's growth from sea to sea stirs in the heart who plant a tree.

B *(cresc.)* *f* *p*  
na - tion's growth from sea to sea stirs in the heart who plant a tree.

1 *div.* *f* *unis.* *Solo* *mp*

2 *(cresc.)* *f* *div.* *p*

Vla. *(cresc.)* *f* *p*

Vlc. *(cresc.)* *div.* *f* *unis.* *p*

Cb. *(cresc.)* *f* *p*

90 I

Cl. *p*

S *(p)*  
Who in the hol - low of His hand holds all the growth of all our land- A

A *(p)*  
Who in the hol - low of His hand holds all the growth of all our land- A

T *(p)*  
Who in the hol - low of His hand holds all the growth of all our land- A

B *(p)*  
Who in the hol - low of His hand holds all the growth of all our land- A

I

Vlns. 1 *p*  
*pizz. unis.*

Vlns. 2 *pizz.*

Vla. *pizz., div.*

Vlc. *pizz.*

Cb. *pizz.*

95

Cl. *mp* *mf* *f*

S *poco cresc.*  
na - tion's growth from sea to sea, the tre - ble of hea - ven's har - mo - ny, the joy that un - born

A *poco cresc.*  
na - tion's growth from sea to sea, the tre - ble of hea - ven's har - mo - ny, the joy that un - born

T *f*  
na - tion's growth from sea to sea, the tre - ble of hea - ven's har - mo - ny, the joy that un - born

B *f*  
na - tion's growth from sea to sea, the tre - ble of hea - ven's har - mo - ny, the joy that un - born

Vlns. 1 *Tutti pizz. mp* *mf* *arco* *div.* *f*

Vlns. 2 *mp* *mf* *arco* *f*

Vla. *mp* *mf* *arco* *f*

Vlc. *mp unis.* *mf* *arco* *f*

Cb. *mp* *mf* *arco* *f*

100 *rit.* **J** Slower *a tempo*  
 Cl. *mf* "Tree patterns"  
 S A *f* *p*  
 T B *f* *p*  
 eyes shall see— These things we plant when we plant a tree.  
 eyes shall see— These things we plant when we plant a tree.  
 Vlns. 1 2 *rit.* **J** Slower *a tempo*  
 Vla. *div.*  
 Vlc. Cb.

105 *rit.* *pp*  
 Cl. *pp*  
 S A *pp* Hmm  
 T B *pp* Hmm  
 Vlns. 1 2 *pp* *pizz.*  
 Vla. *pp* *pizz.*  
 Vlc. *pp* *pizz., unis.*  
 Cb. *pp* *pizz.*  
*pp*