

# The Old Ball Game

[after a visit to Hensville Stadium – home of the Toledo, Ohio, *Mud Hens*]

for SATB Chorus and Piano

based on “Take Me Out to the Ball Game”

Gwyneth Walker

Music by Albert von Tilzer (1908)

Lyrics by Jack Norworth (1908, 1927)

adaped by Gwyneth Walker

[with optional choreography provided]

*\*playful chromaticism*

*♩. = 66*

*mf*

Piano

7

**A** (*Chorus may sway in time to the music – enjoying the baseball game*)

*unis. mf*

S  
A

Nel - ly Kel - ly loved base - ball games, knew

**A**

13

S  
A

all the play - ers and all their names. She knew when to shout

T  
B

*mf*

She knew when to shout

\*“Bouncing ball” motif – Chorus may pretend to follow a bouncing baseball rolling across the stage.

2

[fist pump in air for celebration]

19

S A

T B

“Yay!” and “Hoo - ray!” when they play.

to shout “Yay!” and “Hoo - ray!” when they

[Men thump chest in pride]

24

S A

T B

play. Her boy - friend by the name of Joe

[B] (stop swaying)

[B]

[Men extend hand as if proposing]

29

S A

T B

said, “to Con - ey Isle, dear, let us go,”

Then Nel - ly

*unis.*

34 [Women shake head in negative response] *rit. poco a poco*

S A start - ed to fret and pout, and then she be - gan to

T B and then she be - gan to *rit. poco a poco*

39 [not pitched] **C** *a tempo, with enthusiasm*

S A shout: "Hey!" "Take me, take me, take me to the

T B shout: "Hey!" "Take me out to the ball

44

S A old ball game. Take me, take me out with the crowd.

T B game. Take me out with the crowd.

49 *p* *mf*

S Ah \_\_\_\_\_ I don't care if I

A *p* *mf unis.*  
Ah \_\_\_\_\_ I don't care if I

T *mf*  
Buy me some pea-nuts and Crack-er Jack. I

B *mf*  
Buy me some pea-nuts and Crack-er Jack. I

55 *f* *f* *f* *f* *f*

S [fist pump in air for celebration] **D**  
nev-er get back. Root, root, root, root, root-ing for the home team, if  
(Mud Hens)

A *f* *unis.*  
nev-er get back. Root, root, root, root, root-ing for the home team, if  
(Mud Hens)

T *f*  
nev-er get back. And it's root, root, root for the home team, if  
(Mud Hens)

B *f*  
nev-er get back. And it's root, root, root for the home team, if  
(Mud Hens)

*f* *white-note gliss.*

61 [swing bat]

S they don't win, it's a shame. For it's one, two,

A they don't win, it's a shame. For it's one, two,

T they don't win, its a shame. For it's one, two,

B they don't win, its a shame. For it's one, two,

67

S three strikes, you're out, at the old ball game."

A three strikes, you're out, at the old ball game."

T three strikes, you're out, at the old ball game."

B three strikes, you're out, at the old ball game."

*unis.*

\*"Bouncing ball" motif – chorus may follow ball across stage  
Walker | *The Old Ball Game*

Four 8-measure sections suitable for pantomime of various *ad lib.* baseball actions: pitching, hitting, catching, running. . .

73 **E** Interlude [Section 1]

*(f)*  
*with slight pedal*

79 **F** [Section 2]

**G** [Section 3]  
*delicately (ladies running the bases)*

*cresc. poco a poco*

**H** [Section 4]

*f*  
*p sub.*  
*Ad.*

102 *unis. p* I *mf*

S Ah Nel - ly Kel - ly was such a

A *unis. p* *mf*  
Ah Nel - ly Kel - ly was such a

T

B

I *mf*

(*Rec.*)

108

S fan, Told the (*mf*)

A fan, Told the (*mf*)

T *unis.* She could shout just as loud as a man! *f boisterously*

B She could shout just as loud as a man! *f boisterously*

*f*

114

S *(mf)* ump he was wrong, all a - long. "Get him *f*

A *(mf)* ump he was wrong, all a - long. "Get him *f*

T *unis. f*  
"You are wrong, all a - long.

B *unis. f*  
"You are wrong, all a - long.

*mf*

*f*

119 [“ejected from game” thumb gesture] **J**

S gone!"

A gone!"

T *mf*  
Get you gone!" When the score was just two to

B *mf*  
Get you gone!" When the score was just two to

*mf*

*gliss. (to eject umpire!)*



124

S  
A  
T  
B

two, Nel - ly Kel - ly knew just what to do.

two, Nel - ly Kel - ly knew just what to do.

She —  
She —

[Tutti use hands to form  
"T" gesture for "time out"]

[long break  
for time out]

**Slowly**

129 *rit. poco a poco*

S  
A  
T  
B

raised her hand and she called "TIME OUT!" And then she be -

raised her hand and she called "TIME OUT!" And then she be -

"TIME OUT!" And then she be -

"TIME OUT!" And then she be -

*rit. poco a poco*

[long break  
for time out] **Slowly**

134 *accel.*

S gan to shout:

A gan to shout:

T gan to shout;

B gan to shout;

*accel.*  
(a series of glissandi, approximate range indicated)

gliss. gliss. gliss. gliss.

**K** *a tempo, with enthusiasm*

139 *(f)*

S "Take me, take me, take me to the old ball game. Take me,

A *unis. (f)* "Take me, take me, take me to the old ball game. Take me,

T *(f)* "Take me out to the ball game. Take me

B *(f)* "Take me out to the ball game. Take me

**K** *a tempo, with enthusiasm*

*(f)*

144

S *unis. p*  
take me out with the crowd. Ah

A *p*  
take me out with the crowd. Ah

T *mf*  
out with the crowd. Buy me some pea - nuts and

B *mf*  
out with the crowd. Buy me some pea - nuts and

149

S *mf*  
I don't care if I nev - er get

A *mf*  
I don't care if I nev - er get

T  
Crack - er Jack. I nev - er, nev - er, nev - er,

B  
Crack - er Jack. I nev - er, nev - er, nev - er,

154 *f* [L] [fist pump in air for celebration]

S back. root, root, root, root, root - ing for the home team, if  
(Mud Hens)

A back. *unis.* root, root, root, root, root - ing for the home team, if  
(Mud Hens)

T 8 nev - er. . . And it's root, root, root for the home team, if  
(Mud Hens)

B nev - er. . . And it's root, root, root for the home team, if  
(Mud Hens)

*f* *white-noise gliss.*

159 [M]

S they don't win, it's a shame. \_\_\_\_\_

A they don't win, it's a shame. \_\_\_\_\_ [swing bat]

T 8 they don't win, it's a shame. \_\_\_\_\_ For it's one, two

B they don't win, it's a shame. \_\_\_\_\_ For it's one, two

[M]

[swing bat]

165

S  
and it's one, two, three strikes, you're out, and it's

A  
and it's one, two, three strikes, you're out, and it's

T  
three strikes, you're out, and it's

B  
three strikes, you're out, and it's

171

S  
one, two, three strikes, you're out, at the old \_\_\_\_\_

A  
one, two, three strikes, you're out, at the old \_\_\_\_\_

T  
one, two, three strikes, you're out, at the old \_\_\_\_\_

B  
one, two, three strikes, you're out, at the old \_\_\_\_\_

177 N

S ball..."

A ball..."

T ball..."

B ball..."

unis. *p* Nel - ly

unis. *p sub.* Nel - ly Kel - ly loved...

*loco* *p sub.* *with slight pedal*

182 *p cresc.* S1

S2 Nel - ly Kel - ly loved... Nel - ly Kel - ly loved...

unis. *p cresc.* Nel - ly Kel - ly loved... Nel - ly Kel - ly loved...

T Kel - ly loved...

B

*cresc.* *more pedal*

**O** Free measure (recite on pitch, conduct ad lib.)

187 *mf*

S Nelly Kelly loved baseball more than anything in her life... more than going to Coney Island with Joe...  
\*[more than eating hot dogs at *Nathan's Grill*... more than riding her motorcycle down Broadway at night...]

A *mf*

T *mf*

B Nelly Kelly loved baseball more than anything in her life... more than going to Coney Island with Joe...  
\*[more than eating hot dogs at *Nathan's Grill*... more than riding her motorcycle down Broadway at night...]

**O** Free measure *mf*

[restrike chord or tremolo if chorus needs support on pitch]

**P** Slowly grandly (♩ = ca. 132)

188 *f* *accel.*

S "at the old ball

A *unis. f* "at the old ball

T *f* "at the, at the old ball

B *unis. f* "at the, at the old ball

**P** Slowly grandly (♩ = ca. 132)

*f* *accel.*

*Rec.*

\*Substitute phrases of local color, as many as you wish.

16 (accel.) *a tempo* (♩ = 66)

193

S game!"

A *unis.* game!"

T game!"

B game!"

(accel.) *a tempo* (♩ = 66)

(*Reo.*)

198 *rit.* *shout (not on pitch)*

S GO MUD HENS!\*

A *shout (not on pitch)* GO MUD HENS!\*

T *shout (not on pitch)* GO MUD HENS!\*

B *shout (not on pitch)* GO MUD HENS!\*

*rit.* *shout (not on pitch)*

GO MUD HENS!\*

*8<sup>vb</sup>*

(*Reo.*)

\*or local team name  
Walker | *The Old Ball Game*

duration 3:30  
August 6, 2022  
New Canaan, Connecticut