

Walker | The Rainbow Sign | Orch.

Full Score

GWYNETH WALKER

The Rainbow Sign

for Symphony Orchestra

Duration: 4' 15"

Program notes

"The Rainbow Sign" is the first in a planned set of AMERICAN SONGS FOR ORCHESTRA. Each of these "songs" (which can function as an overture or separate orchestral selection) will be based on a familiar American song. The premise will be to expand upon the song, and explore its musical character, through orchestral presentation.

The song basis for this first movement is the spiritual, "Hold On" (or "The Gospel Plow"), specifically the line: "God gave Noah the rainbow sign." An interpretation of this message might be that the sign has been given to Noah (and to us all) that the world is a place of many colors, many races and many unique individuals. Accepting these is the path to peace. And this is the natural order of life.

Musical imagery in this overture focuses on the rainbow (many orchestral timbres, overarching phrases) and unification/resolution (the merging of harmonies and confluence of melodic lines). The underlying rhythm is an insistent, driving rhythm, as if working the fields with a plow. Somehow, with determination, the rainbow will appear and prevail.

About the composer

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. She now lives on a dairy farm in Braintree, Vermont.

Gwyneth Walker is a proud resident of Vermont. She is the recipient of the Year 2000 "Lifetime Achievement Award" from the Vermont Arts Council.

Walker's catalog includes over 170 commissioned works for orchestra, band, chorus and chamber ensembles. The music of Gwyneth Walker is published by E. C. Schirmer of Boston (choral and vocal music) and MMB Music of St. Louis (orchestral and instrumental music).

The Rainbow Sign

for Symphony Orchestra

Gwyneth Walker

$\text{♩} = 120$

Piccolo

Flutes 1, 2

Oboes 1, 2

B♭ Clarinets 1, 2

Bassoons 1, 2

Horns in F 1, 2, 3, 4

Trumpets in C 1, 2, 3

Trombones 1, 2, 3

Tuba

Percussion 1 (Tambourine, Claves, Temple Blocks [5], Triangle, Wood Block, Slapstick)

Percussion 2 (Tom-Toms [3], Bongo, Hi-Hat Cymbal, Glockenspiel)

Violins 1, 2

Viola

Violoncello

Contrabass

$\text{♩} = 120$

9 **A**

Instrumentation and Dynamics:

- Picc.**: *p* to *mp* to *mf*
- Fls. 1, 2**: *p* to *mp* to *mf*
- Obs. 1, 2**: *p* to *mp* to *mf*
- Cls. 1, 2**: *p* to *mp* to *mf*
- Bsns. 1, 2**: *p* to *mp* to *mf*
- Hns. 1, 2, 3, 4**: *p* to *mp* to *mf*
- Tpts. 1, 2**: *p* to *mp* to *mf*
- Tbns. 1, 2, 3**: *p* to *mp* to *mf*
- Tuba**: *p* to *mp* to *mf*
- Perc. 1**: *mp* > *p*, *mp* > *p*, *mf* > *p*, *mf*
- Perc. 2**: *p* to *mp* to *p* to *mp* to *p* to *mf* to *p* to *mf* to *p* to *mf*
- Vlns. 1, 2**: *p* to *mp* to *mf*
- Vla.**: *p* to *mp* to *mf*
- Vlc.**: *p* to *mp* to *mf*
- Cb.**: *p* to *mp* to *mf*

This page of a musical score, page 4, covers measures 22 through 25. The score is for a full orchestra and strings. The instruments are arranged in the following order from top to bottom: Piccolo (Picc.), Flutes (Fls. 1 and 2), Oboes (Obs. 1 and 2), Clarinets (Cls. 1 and 2), Bassoons (Bsns. 1 and 2), Horns (Hns. 1, 2, 3, and 4), Trumpets (Tpts. 1, 2, and 3), Trombones (Tbns. 1, 2, and 3), Tuba, Percussion 1 (Perc. 1), Percussion 2 (Perc. 2), Violins (Vlns. 1 and 2), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vlc.), and Contrabass (Cb.).

The score is in the key of B-flat major (two flats) and 4/4 time. The tempo is not explicitly marked but appears to be a moderate pace. The dynamics range from *f* (forte) to *mf* (mezzo-forte) and *p* (piano). The woodwinds and strings have various articulations and techniques, including *arco* (arco), *gliss.* (glissando), *pizz.* (pizzicato), and *arco* (arco). The brass instruments play mostly sustained notes with some rhythmic patterns. The percussion parts are active, with Perc. 1 playing a rhythmic pattern and Perc. 2 playing a steady eighth-note accompaniment. The strings play a mix of sustained notes and rhythmic patterns, with some glissando effects.

C

27

Picc. *p*

Fls. 1 *p*

2

Obs. 1 *p*

2

Cls. 1 *p*

2

Bsns. 1

2

Hns. 1

2

3

4

Tpts. 1 *via sord.*

2 *via sord.*

3

Tbns. 1

2

3

Tuba

Perc. 1 Triangle *pp*

Perc. 2 Bongo *p*

C

Vlns. 1 *gliss.*

2 *gliss.*

Vla. *gliss.*

Vlc. *pizz.* *arco* *gliss.*

Cb. *pizz.* *arco* *gliss.*

32 D

Picc. *f* *mf* *p* *f*

Fls. 1 *f* *mf* *p* *f*
2 *f* *mf* *p* *f*

Obs. 1 *f* *mf* *p* *f*
2 *f* *mf* *p* *f*

Cls. 1 *f* *mf* *p* *f*
2 *f* *mf* *p* *f*

Bsns. 1 *f* *mf* *p* *f*
2 *f* *mf* *p* *f*

Hns. 1 *p* *f*
2 *p* *f*
3 *p* *f*
4 *p* *f*

Tpts. 1 *p* *f*
2 *p* *f*
3 *p* *f*

Tbns. 1 *p* *f*
2 *p* *f*
3 *p* *f*

Tuba *p* *f*

Perc. 1 *f* Tamb. *p* Claves *f*
Perc. 2 *f* Tom-Toms *f*

Vlns. 1 *f* *gliss.* *mf* *p* *f*
2 *f* *gliss.* *mf* *p* *f*

Vla. *f* *gliss.* *mf* *p* *f*

Vlc. *f* *pizz.* *p* *f* *arco*

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

36

Picc.

Fls. 1
2

Obs. 1
2

Cls. 1
2

Bsns. 1
2

Hns. 1
2
3
4

Tpts. 1
2
3

Tbns. 1
2
3

Tuba

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Vlms. 1
2

Vla.

Vlc.

Cb.

p

gliss.

40 E

Picc. *f*

Fls. 1 *f*

2 *f*

Obs. 1 *f*

2 *f*

Cls. 1 *f*

2 *f*

Bsns. 1 *f*

2 *f*

Hns. 1 *f*

2 *f*

3 *f*

4 *f*

Tpts. 1 *f*

2 *f*

3 *f*

Tbns. 1 *f* *glissando*

2 *f* *glissando*

3 *f*

Tuba *f*

Perc. 1 *p*

Perc. 2 *p*

Vlns. 1 *f* *gliss.* *mf* *pizz.*

2 *f* *gliss.* *mf* *pizz.*

Vla. *f* *gliss.* *mf* *pizz.*

Vlc. *f* *mf* *pizz.*

Cb. *f* *mf*

44

Picc. *p* *f*

Fls. 1 *a2* *p* *f* *a2*

Fls. 2

Obs. 1 *a2* *p* *f*

Obs. 2

Cls. 1 *p* *f*

Cls. 2

Bsns. 1

Bsns. 2

Hns. 1 *f* *a2*

Hns. 2 *f* *a2*

Hns. 3

Hns. 4

Tpts. 1 *a2*

Tpts. 2

Tpts. 3

Tbns. 1

Tbns. 2

Tbns. 3

Tuba

Perc. 1 Temple Blocks *p* *f*

Perc. 2 Glockenspiel *(gliss. for entire measure)* *p* *f* *glissando* *glissando*

Vlns. 1 *p* *f* *rolled pizz.* *mf*

Vlns. 2 *p* *f* *rolled pizz.* *mf*

Vla. *p* *f* *rolled pizz.* *mf*

Vlc. *p* *f* *rolled pizz.* *mf*

Cb. *p* *f* *mf*

49

F

Picc. *p* *f*

Fls. 1 *a2* *p* *f* *mf*

Obs. 1 *p* *f* *mf*

Cls. 1 *p* *f* *mf*

Bsns. 1 *f*

Hns. 1 2 3 4

Tpts. 1 2 3

Tbns. 1 *a2* *f*

2 3

Tuba *f*

Perc. 1 *p* *f* *mf* Wood Block

Perc. 2

Vlns. 1 *arco* *p* *f* *mf*

2 *arco* *p* *f* *mf*

Vla. *arco* *p* *f* *mf*

Vlc. *arco* *f*

Cb. *arco* *f*

54

This page of a musical score, numbered 54, features a variety of instruments. The woodwind section includes Piccolo (Picc.), Flutes (Fls. 1 and 2), Oboes (Obs. 1 and 2), Clarinets (Cls. 1 and 2), Bassoons (Bsns. 1 and 2), and Horns (Hns. 1, 2, 3, and 4). The brass section consists of Trumpets (Tpts. 1, 2, and 3), Trombones (Tbns. 1, 2, and 3), and a Tuba. Percussion includes Percussion 1 (Perc. 1) and Percussion 2 (Perc. 2). The string section includes Violins (Vlns. 1 and 2), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vlc.), and Contrabass (Cb.). The score is written in a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a common time signature. It contains several dynamic markings, including *f* (forte), and performance instructions such as *gliss.* (glissando) and *v* (accents). The woodwinds and strings play complex rhythmic patterns, while the brass instruments provide a steady accompaniment. The percussion parts are active throughout the measures.

G

59

Picc.

Fls. 1

2

Obs. 1

2

Cls. 1

2

Bsns. 1

2

Hns. 1

2

3

4

Tpts. 1

2

3

Tbns. 1

2

3

Tuba

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Vlins. 1

2

Vla.

Vlc.

Cb.

64

Picc. *f*

Fls. 1 2 *f*

Obs. 1 2 *f*

Cls. 1 2 *f*

Bsns. 1 2 *f* *a2* *f*

Hns. 1 2 3 4 *f*

Tpts. 1 2 3 *p* *f*

Tbns. 1 2 3 *p* *f*

Tuba *p* *f*

Perc. 1 Tamb. *p* *f* Claves *f*

Perc. 2 Tom-Toms *f*

Vlns. 1 2 *H*

Vla. *H*

Vlc. *arco gliss*

Cb. *arco gliss*

68

Picc.

Fls. 1
2

Obs. 1
2

Cls. 1
2

Bsns. 1
2

Hns. 1
2
3
4

Tpts. 1
2
3

Tbns. 1
2
3

Tuba

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Vlns. 1
2

Vla.

Vlc.

Cb.

p

gliss.

I

72

Picc.

Fls. 1 2

Obs. 1 2

Cls. 1 2

Bsns. 1 2

Hns. 1 2 3 4

Tpts. 1 2 3

Tbns. 1 2 3

Tuba

Perc. 1 Wood Block

Perc. 2

Vlns. 1 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Cb.

f, *p*, *pizz.*, *gliss.*

Detailed description: This is a page of a musical score for an orchestra, page 15, starting at measure 72. The score is divided into two systems. The first system includes Piccolo, Flutes (1 and 2), Oboes (1 and 2), Clarinets (1 and 2), Bassoons (1 and 2), Horns (1, 2, 3, and 4), Trumpets (1, 2, and 3), Trombones (1, 2, and 3), Tuba, Percussion 1 (Wood Block), and Percussion 2. The second system includes Violins (1 and 2), Viola, Violoncello, and Contrabass. The music is in a key with one flat and a common time signature. Dynamics range from fortissimo (*f*) to pianissimo (*p*). The wood block part in Perc. 1 is marked with *p*. The strings in the second system have a *pizz.* (pizzicato) marking. Slurs and glissando markings are present in the Trombone and Viola parts.

Picc.

Fls. 1
2

Obs. 1
2

Cls. 1
2

Bsns. 1
2

Hns. 1
2
3
4

Tpts. 1
2
3

Tbns. 1
2
3

Tuba

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Vlns. 1
2

Vla.

Vlc.

Cb.

90 K

Picc. *p* *f*

Fls. 1 *a2* *p* *f*

2

Obs. 1 *a2* *p* *f*

2

Cls. 1 *a2* *p* *f*

2

Bsns. 1 *p* *f*

2

Hns. 1 *p* *f*

2

3

4

Tpts. 1 *p* *f*

2

3

Tbns. 1 *p* *f*

2

3

Tuba *p* *f*

Perc. 1 *p* *f*

2 *mf* *f* *p* *f*

Temple Blocks

Tom-Toms

Glock. *glissando* *glissando*

Vlns. 1 *f* *p*

2 *f* *p*

Vla. *f* *p*

Vlc. *f* *rolled pizz.* *p* *f*

Cb. *mf* *p* *f*

Picc. *p* *f*

Fls. 1 *p* *f*
2 *a2* *a2*

Obs. 1 *p* *f*
2 *a2*

Cls. 1 *p* *f*
2

Bsns. 1 *p* *f*
2

Hns. 1
2
3
4

Tpts. 1 *f* *p* *a2*
2 *f* *p*
3

Tbns. 1
2
3

Tuba

Perc. 1 *p* *f*

Perc. 2 *p* *f* *glissando*

Vlns. 1 *f* *p*
2 *f* *p*

Vla. *f* *p*

Vlc. *f* *arco* *rolled pizz.* *p* *f*

Cb. *f* *p* *pizz.* *f*

L
99

Picc. *p* *f*

Fls. 1 2 *p* *f*

Obs. 1 2 *p* *f*

Cls. 1 2 *p* *f*

Bsns. 1 2 *p* *f*

Hns. 1 2 3 4 *f* *a2*

Tpts. 1 2 3

Tbns. 1 2 3 *f* *a2*

Tuba *f*

Perc. 1 *p* *f*

Perc. 2 *p* *f* *glissando*

Vlns. 1 2 *p* *f*

Vla. *p* *f*

Vlc. *arco* *f* *rolled pizz.* *p* *f*

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

103

This page contains the musical score for measures 103 through 106 of an orchestral piece. The score is arranged in a standard orchestral layout with the following parts and staves:

- Picc.** (Piccolo): Treble clef, measures 103-106.
- Fls.** (Flutes): Treble clef, measures 103-106.
- Obs.** (Oboes): Treble clef, measures 103-106.
- Cls.** (Clarinets): Treble clef, measures 103-106.
- Bsns.** (Bassoons): Bass clef, measures 103-106.
- Hns.** (Horns): Treble clef, measures 103-106.
- Tpts.** (Trumpets): Treble clef, measures 103-106.
- Tbns.** (Tenors): Bass clef, measures 103-106.
- Tuba**: Bass clef, measures 103-106.
- Perc. 1**: Snare drum, measures 103-106. Includes a *Slapstick* instruction.
- Perc. 2**: Tom-Toms, measures 103-106.
- Vlns.** (Violins): Treble clef, measures 103-106.
- Vla.** (Viola): Treble clef, measures 103-106.
- Vlc.** (Violoncello): Bass clef, measures 103-106.
- Cb.** (Contrabass): Bass clef, measures 103-106.

The score features dynamic markings of *f* (forte) and *p* (piano) throughout. The key signature is one flat (B-flat major or D minor), and the time signature is 4/4. The music is characterized by a strong rhythmic pulse, with many notes marked with accents and slurs. The percussion parts provide a steady accompaniment, with the snare drum playing a consistent pattern and the tom-toms adding depth.

M

107

Picc.

Fls. 1
2

Obs. 1
2

Cls. 1
2

Bsns. 1
2

p

Hns. 1
2
3
4

Tpts. 1
2
3

Tbns. 1
2
3

Tuba

Perc. 1

Bongo
Perc. 2 *p*

M

Vlns. 1
2

Vla.

Vlc.
p sub.

Cb.
p sub.

pizz. arco

112

N

This page of a musical score covers measures 112 through 115. The instruments and parts are as follows:

- Picc.** Piccolo flute, starting in measure 114.
- Fls.** Flutes 1 and 2, playing chords and moving lines.
- Obs.** Oboes 1 and 2, playing chords and moving lines.
- Cls.** Clarinets 1 and 2, playing chords and moving lines.
- Bsns.** Bassoons 1 and 2, playing chords and moving lines.
- Hns.** Horns 1, 2, 3, and 4, playing chords and moving lines.
- Tpts.** Trumpets 1, 2, and 3, playing chords and moving lines.
- Tbns.** Trombones 1, 2, and 3, playing chords and moving lines.
- Tuba** Tuba, playing a moving line.
- Perc. 1** Percussion 1, playing Tambourine (Tamb.) in measure 114.
- Perc. 2** Percussion 2, playing Tom-Toms in measure 114.
- Vlns.** Violins 1 and 2, playing moving lines.
- Vla.** Viola, playing a moving line.
- Vlc.** Violoncello, playing a moving line with *pizz.* and *arco* markings.
- Cb.** Contrabass, playing a moving line with *pizz.* and *arco* markings.

Dynamic markings include *f* (forte) and *p* (piano). Performance instructions include *div.* (divisi) for strings and *a2* for Bassoon 2. A rehearsal mark 'N' is placed above measures 114 and 115.

116

This page contains the musical score for measures 116 through 119 of an orchestral piece. The score is arranged in a standard orchestral layout with the following parts and staves:

- Picc.** (Piccolo): One staff, treble clef, playing a melodic line with accents.
- Fls.** (Flutes): Two staves (1 and 2), treble clef, playing a melodic line with accents.
- Obs.** (Oboes): Two staves (1 and 2), treble clef, playing a melodic line with accents.
- Cls.** (Clarinets): Two staves (1 and 2), treble clef, playing a melodic line with accents.
- Bsns.** (Bassoons): Two staves (1 and 2), bass clef, playing a rhythmic accompaniment.
- Hns.** (Horns): Three staves (1, 2, 3), treble clef, playing a rhythmic accompaniment.
- Tpts.** (Trumpets): Three staves (1, 2, 3), treble clef, playing a rhythmic accompaniment.
- Tbns.** (Tenors): Two staves (1 and 2), bass clef, playing a rhythmic accompaniment.
- Tuba**: One staff, bass clef, playing a rhythmic accompaniment.
- Perc. 1** (Percussion 1): One staff, snare drum, playing a rhythmic pattern.
- Perc. 2** (Percussion 2): One staff, bass drum, playing a rhythmic pattern.
- Vlns.** (Violins): Two staves (1 and 2), treble clef, playing a melodic line with accents.
- Vla.** (Viola): One staff, treble clef, playing a melodic line with accents.
- Vlc.** (Violoncello): One staff, bass clef, playing a melodic line with accents.
- Cb.** (Contrabass): One staff, bass clef, playing a melodic line with accents.

The score is in 3/4 time and features a variety of rhythmic patterns and melodic lines across the different sections. The woodwinds and strings play melodic lines with accents, while the brass and percussion provide a strong rhythmic foundation.

120

O

Picc. 1 2

Fls. 1 2

Obs. 1 2

Cls. 1 2

Bsns. 1 2

Hns. 1 2 3 4

Tpts. 1 2 3

Tbns. 1 2 3

Tuba

Perc. 1 Temple Blocks

Perc. 2

Vlns. 1 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Cb.

124

Picc. *f* *p* *f*

Fls. 1 *f* *p* *f*
2

Obs. 1 *f* *p* *f*
2

Cls. 1 *f* *p* *f*
2

Bsns. 1 *f* *p* *f*
2 *a2* *f*

Hns. 1 *f* *p* *f*
2 *f* *p* *f*
3 *f* *p* *f*
4 *f* *p* *f*

Tpts. 1 *f* *p* *f*
2 *f* *p* *f*
3 *f* *p* *f*

Tbns. 1 *f* *p* *f*
2 *f* *p* *f*
3 *f* *p* *f*

Tuba *f* *p* *f*

Perc. 1 *f* *p* *f*

Perc. 2 *p* *f*

Vlns. 1 *f* *p* *f*
2 *f* *p* *f*

Vla. *f* *p* *f*

Vlc. *f* *p* *f* *f* *f*

Cb. *f* *p* *f*

Picc. *p cresc.* *ff*

Fls. 1 2 *p cresc.* *ff*

Obs. 1 2 *p cresc.* *ff*

Cls. 1 2 *p sub.* *cresc.* *ff*

Bsns. 1 2 *p sub.* *cresc.* *ff*

Hns. 1 2 3 4 *p* *cresc.* *ff*

Tpts. 1 2 3 *p* *cresc.* *ff*

Tbns. 1 2 3 *p* *cresc.* *ff*

Tuba *p* *cresc.* *ff*

Perc. 1 Tamb. *p* *ff*

Perc. 2 *p* Glock. *cresc.* *ff*

Vlns. 1 2 *p* *cresc.* *ff*

Vla. *p* *cresc.* *ff*

Vlc. *p sub.* *cresc.* *ff*

Cb. *p sub.* *cresc.* *ff*

ritard.
unis.
div.