

Gwyneth Walker

***A CONCERTO OF HYMNS
AND SPIRITUALS***

for Trumpet and Orchestra

- I. "All Creatures (of our God and King)"*
- II. "Steal Away"*
- III. "Go Tell it on the Mountain"*

Duration: 16 minutes

Commissioned by the Carson City Chamber Orchestra
Premiered by the Carson City Chamber Orchestra
Mark Lord – Trumpet Soloist David Bugli – conductor
Carson City, Nevada April 27, 1997

Program Notes for A Concerto of Hymns and Spirituals

This **Concerto** comprises three movements, each based on a particular hymn or spiritual. Each movement offers a distinct presentation and treatment of the original melody.

“All Creatures (of our God and King)” is a stately hymn. The qualities of spaciousness and breadth are emphasized in the gradual unfolding of the initial statement of the tune. One might hear the gentle breathing or pulsing of the earth in the string accompaniment. Then, as the energy of the music gathers, the creatures of the earth appear in the orchestra - -mosquitoes (!), birds in flight, elephants and horses perhaps. All contribute to the full treatment of this hymn tune.

“Steal Away” is a far more reflective presentation. The orchestra opens this movement with descending semi-tones marked ‘as falling tears.’ And this opening motif permeates the entire movement, surrounding the melody with tears. A duet is created between the solo trumpet and a clarinet, expanding upon the tears pattern. And indeed the movement closes with the two soloists elaborating these phrases over ‘sighing’ harmonic progressions in the orchestra.

“Go Tell it on the Mountain” is placed in a swing rhythm for a lively and joyous interpretation. Various newly-com posed counter motives are interspersed within the spiritual as a means of developing the rhythms inherent in the song. And there is frequent playful ‘theme-swapping’ between the trumpet and the orchestra. A section near the end of the movement features the Percussion Section while the trumpet enjoys the various uses of the mute. This is a particularly celebratory movement.

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, Walker 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.

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

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

A Concerto of Hymns and Spirituals

for Trumpet and Orchestra

Solo Trumpet in C

Gwyneth Walker

I. All Creatures (of Our God and King)

$\bullet = 80$ gently pulsing (as the breathing earth)

Vln.1

with breadth and space; floating

A

p \longleftarrow *mf* cantabile

10

B

15

21 (cantabile) **C**

(*mf*)

26

D gradual accel.

32

38 *f*

E Faster $\bullet = ca. 92$

43 **4**

Solo Trumpet in C

Flutes and Picc.

50

F
mf

54

57

G *poco accel.* -----

60

p *f*

H ♩ = 108

65

tr *tr*

69

3 *p sub,*

72

I *f* 4 4 *Picc. enters*

81 [J] ⁷ *f* [K] *trm*

91 *trm*

95

98 [L] *rit.* 2 2

105 *slower, grandly* *f* *molto rit.* *a tempo* (f) ♩ = 108

109 [M] 3

117 [N] *f* *freely* *rit.* 6 6

a tempo (♩ = 108)

118 *ff*

II. Steal Away

With gentle motion ♩ = 88
Clarinet 1

rit. - - - - -
cantabile

9

3

p

9

A ♩ = 66

mp

15

rit. - - - - - , a tempo

3

21

poco accel.

B slightly faster

mf

27

rit. - - - - - a tempo

33

C

3

41

mf

p

46

poco accel. - - - - - Faster rit. - - - - -

mp

mf

51

D a tempo (♩ = 66)

p

Vln.1

57 *mf* *p* *f* *legato*

62 *mf* *poco accel.*

67 **E** *slightly faster* *f* *rit.* 3 3 3 3

71 *a tempo* *p* 2 *poco accel.* *p* *mp* *mf*

77 *slightly faster* *f* *accel.* = 88 *with intensity* 6

82 *rit.* **F** *freely, but not too slowly* *mf* 3

86 **G** *a tempo* (♩ = 66) *p* 7

Solo Trumpet in C

96 H *tenderly*
mf

Musical staff 96-102: Treble clef, key signature of one flat. Measures 96-102. Measure 96 starts with a fermata. Measures 97-102 feature sixteenth-note runs with sixteenth-note groupings marked '6'. Dynamics include *mf* and *p*.

102 *p* *mf*

Musical staff 102-106: Treble clef, key signature of one flat. Measures 102-106. Measure 102 starts with a fermata. Measures 103-106 feature sixteenth-note runs with sixteenth-note groupings marked '6'. Dynamics include *p* and *mf*.

106 *poco accel.* *p* *mp* *mp*

Faster *accel.* I $\text{♩} = 88$ *with intensity*

Musical staff 106-111: Treble clef, key signature of one flat. Measures 106-111. Measure 106 starts with a fermata. Measures 107-111 feature sixteenth-note runs with sixteenth-note groupings marked '6'. Dynamics include *p*, *mp*, and *mf*.

111 *mf* *mf* *f* *as a long sigh*

Musical staff 111-116: Treble clef, key signature of one flat. Measures 111-116. Measure 111 starts with a fermata. Measures 112-116 feature sixteenth-note runs with sixteenth-note groupings marked '6'. Dynamics include *mf* and *f*.

116 *rit.* J $\text{♩} = 66$

Musical staff 116-124: Treble clef, key signature of one flat. Measures 116-124. Measure 116 starts with a fermata. Measures 117-124 feature sixteenth-note runs with sixteenth-note groupings marked '6'. Dynamics include *mf* and *f*.

124 *rit.* $\text{♩} = 66$ 3 3 3 3 3 3 5

Musical staff 124-132: Treble clef, key signature of one flat. Measures 124-132. Measure 124 starts with a fermata. Measures 125-132 feature sixteenth-note runs with sixteenth-note groupings marked '6'. Dynamics include *mf* and *f*.

132 K *as a sigh* *f* *p* *f*

Musical staff 132-138: Treble clef, key signature of one flat. Measures 132-138. Measure 132 starts with a fermata. Measures 133-138 feature sixteenth-note runs with sixteenth-note groupings marked '6'. Dynamics include *f* and *p*.

138 *p* *f espr.* L *freely, but not too slowly*

Musical staff 138-142: Treble clef, key signature of one flat. Measures 138-142. Measure 138 starts with a fermata. Measures 139-142 feature sixteenth-note runs with sixteenth-note groupings marked '6'. Dynamics include *p* and *f*.

142 M *a tempo* $\text{♩} = 66$ *rit.*

Musical staff 142-148: Treble clef, key signature of one flat. Measures 142-148. Measure 142 starts with a fermata. Measures 143-148 feature sixteenth-note runs with sixteenth-note groupings marked '6'. Dynamics include *f* and *p*.

f *p*

Musical staff 148-154: Treble clef, key signature of one flat. Measures 148-154. Measure 148 starts with a fermata. Measures 149-154 feature sixteenth-note runs with sixteenth-note groupings marked '6'. Dynamics include *f* and *p*.

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III. Go Tell It On The Mountain

$\text{♩} = 88$ at a walking or "prancing" tempo swing eighths

Suspended Cymbal

5

cup mute

A

p

10

14

B

18

tr

23

senza sord.

rit. - - - - -

C Freely, quasi recitative, but not slowly

mf

27

//

31

//

D

Solo Trumpet in C

35

38

E a tempo $\text{♩} = 88$

42

F

46

49

53

G

56

Solo Trumpet in C

61 **H**

mf

64

poco accel. - - - - -

tr

69 **I** **Faster** $\text{♩} = 100$

f

74 **J**

80 *tr* *rit.* - - - - -

(f)

85 **K** **Freely, quasi recitative, but not slowly**

89

93 **L**

Solo Trumpet in C

97 *rit.*

101 **M** a tempo $\text{♩} = 100$ *mf*

107 **N** *f*

110 *f*

114 **O**

118

122

126 **P** *plunger mute*

Solo Trumpet in C

134 plunger mute
mf playfully

138 *tr* *tr* **Q** *p* *f*

143 *tr* *p* *f* *p* *sim.*

R

148 *f* (*f*)

153

S

157 *tr* *tr*

162 *senza sord.* **T** *sfp* *mp* 7

167

sfz *mf* *sfz* *f*

173

U *Free measures*

(f) optional lip trill/shake

175

W

(f) optional lip trill/shake

177

180

Y

chromatic descent ad lib.

start slowly

accel. - - - - -

p *ff*

* highest note possible