

VLN

Gwyneth Walker

***AN AMERICAN
CONCERTO***

for Violin and Orchestra

Program Notes

*This work is entitled **An American Concerto** since its musical language strongly embodies what we have come to associate with typically 'American' music. The rhythms are definite and the harmonic language is open and clear.*

The listener might hear the three movements of this concerto as distinct elements from the American musical heritage -- rock, folk and jazz. Certainly these influences will be felt. Or perhaps these categories merge into one (American) composer's style.

"A Burst of Energy" is the most rock-influenced movement of the concerto. Open harmonies of fourths and fifths predominate. These intervals structure the melodic phrases as well. But the rhythms border on jazz. And the introduction of many players through short solo passages is a jazz-influenced technique. Throughout this brief movement, energy lurks within the raw sonorities.

"A Reflection" speaks in the language of folk music with a C Major melody in the solo violin. But the melody is framed by blurred background textures to add depth. On occasion, the violin blurs its own lines as the melody shifts to the orchestra. Often the soloist emerges in unaccompanied cadenza passages. Freedom -- a flexibility of tempo -- is important.

And "Another Stroll" is an easy-going jazz 'excursion' for an adventurous violinist! Personality and humor may accompany the strolling soloist on this short trip around the block.

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. And, as part of a focus on local performances, Gwyneth Walker will be creating a new musical theater work to be premiered at Chandler Hall, Randolph, VT in June, 2003.

An American Concerto

Solo Violin

for Violin and Orchestra

I. A Burst of Energy

Gwyneth Walker

in a jazz style
♩ = 100 *very rhythmic, with contained energy*

Vln.1

5 **A** **B**

mf relaxed

12 **C**

8va

15 **D**

p

19 **E**

mf

23 **F** 2

mf

27 **G** 2

mf

31 **H** 2

mf

76 R

f

80 S

(f)

84 T

87 U

90

93 V

96 W

non vibr.

99 X

(f)

103

8va

p *f*

II. A Reflection

(in memory of Daniel J. Robbins)

Slowly, mournfully

♩ = 72 or slower

gradual accel. -----

11

15

30

37

45

58

64

70

Vln.1

Trumpet enters

Horns

Strings, pizz.

mf cantabile

A

B

C

D

E

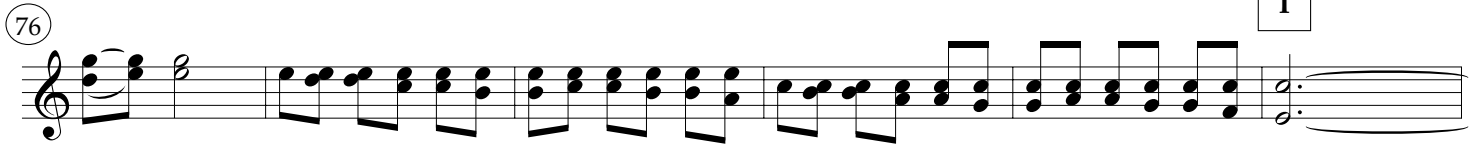
F

G

H

Solo Violin

76 I

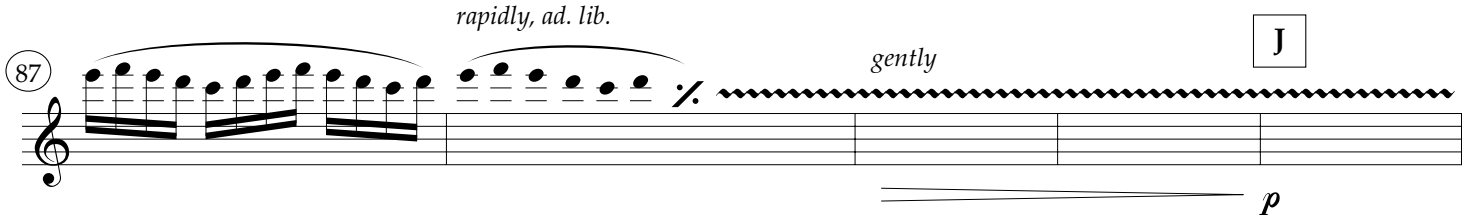


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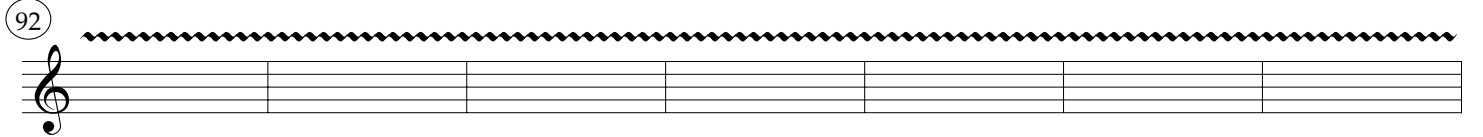


87 J

rapidly, ad. lib. *gently* *p*

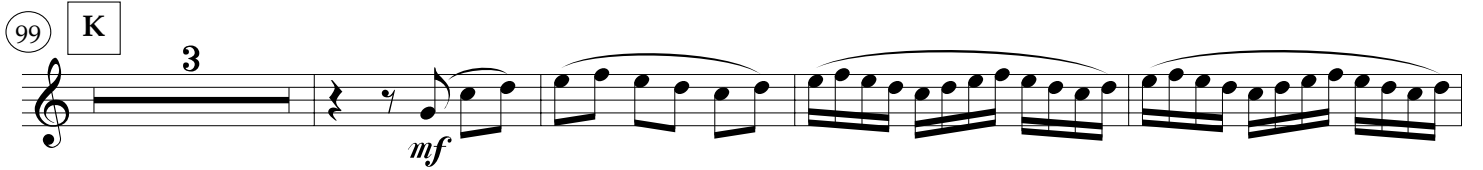


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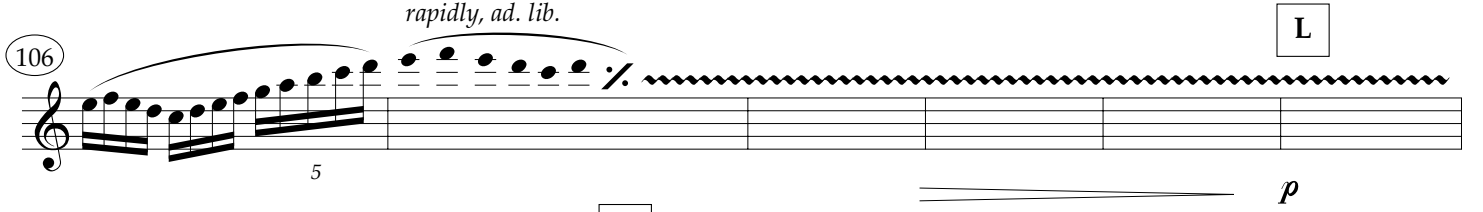
99 K

mf



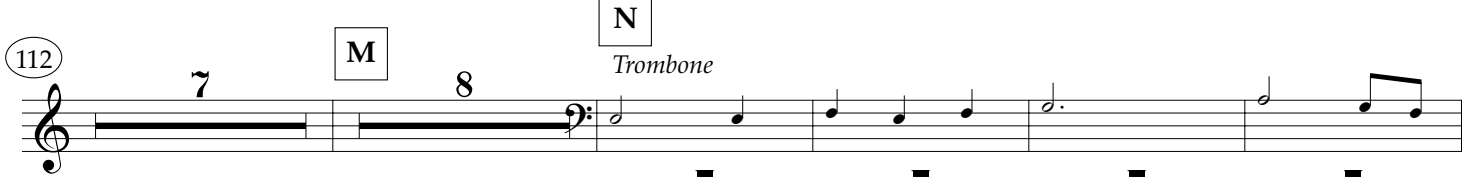
106 L

rapidly, ad. lib. *p*




112 M N

Trombone

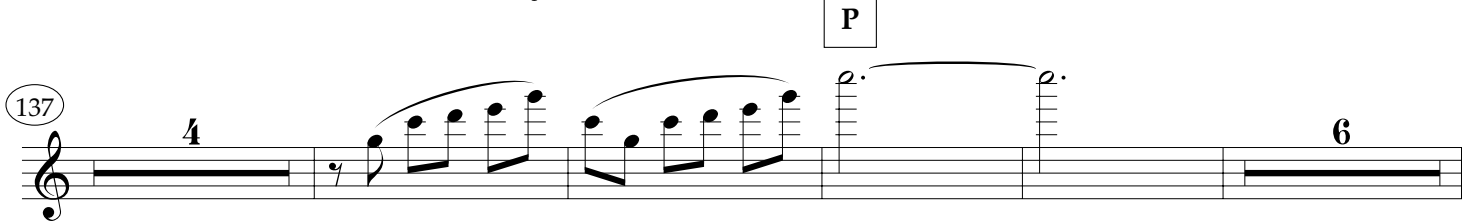


131 O

f



137 P



170 **T** *freely*

f

176

182 *rit.*

U Quickly, flowing $\bullet = \text{ca. } 168$
 $\circ = \text{ca. } 56$

186 *rit.*

190 *a tempo* *rit.*

194 **V** *a tempo* *rit.*

198 *a tempo* *rit.*

202 **W** *freely* *rit.*

205 *rit.*

Solo Violin

gradual accelerando and crescendo to **Y**

X start slowly

208 *p*

Y ♩ = 120

209 *f* dramatically

Z

214

219 *(f)* *rit.* *(f)*

223

226 *freely* *mf* *p*

III. Another Stroll

At a strolling tempo ♩ = 108

bow placed on music stand or held in left hand

gentle, nonchalant finger tremolo on body of violin, as if anticipating a stroll

A *p*

9 **B** *pick up bow* *high gliss.* *pp* *barely audible* **C**

14 *(high gliss.)* **D** *mf* *nonchalantly*

19 **E**

22 **F** *pizz.* *(mf)*

25 **G** *arco* *(mf)*

29 **H** *pizz.*

33 **I** *arco* *p* *mf*

81 **O**

(f)

85 **P**

f

87

89 **Q**

p

92 **R** especially joyful

f

95 **S**

98

102 **T**

(f)

105

f

108 **U**

f

111

115 **V** (a tempo)

on the string
exuberantly

118

with abandon

121

123

, a tempo loosen string dur.