

L3495

A Song of the Future - Gwyneth Walker

SSAA Chorus, Oboe, and Piano

A Song of the Future

Gwyneth Walker

For the Plano Senior High School A Cappella Women's Chorus of Plano, Texas,
and their 2017 Texas Music Educators Association Convention Performance,
Derrick D. Brookins and Lisa Newby, Conductors

A Song of the Future

for SSAA Chorus, Oboe, and Piano

Sidney Lanier (1842–1881)

Gwyneth Walker

Altered and with additional words by G. W.

Flowing ♩ = 108

gently soaring, with hope for the future

Piano

4

7

Ob.

mf espr.

lightly trembling accompaniment

dim.

p

with pedal

10

Ob.

Note setting and format by Gwyneth Walker Music Productions.

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13

Ob.

Musical score for measures 13-15. Oboe part has a melodic line with a slur. Piano accompaniment features a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes in the right hand and chords in the left hand.

16

Ob.

S1

S2

A1

A2

pp in the background

Ah

pp in the background

Ah

B

Musical score for measures 16-18. Oboe part has a melodic line with a slur and a box labeled 'B'. Soprano and Alto parts have long notes with 'Ah' text. Piano accompaniment has a rhythmic pattern with a box labeled 'B'. Dynamics include *pp in the background*.

19

Ob.

S1

S2

A1

A2

Ah

Ah

Musical score for measures 19-21. Oboe part has a melodic line with a slur. Soprano and Alto parts have long notes with 'Ah' text. Piano accompaniment has a rhythmic pattern.

22

Ob.

S1
S2

A1
A2

25 C

Ob.

p

All *mf* *espr.* (broad phrases)

S
A

Sail _ fast, sail _ fast, Ark* of my hopes, _

C

28

Ob.

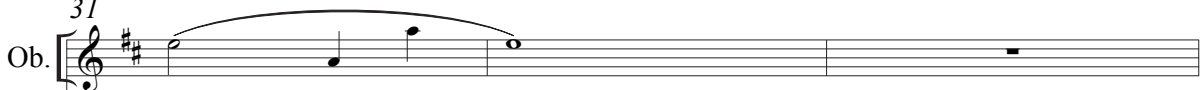
(All)

S
A

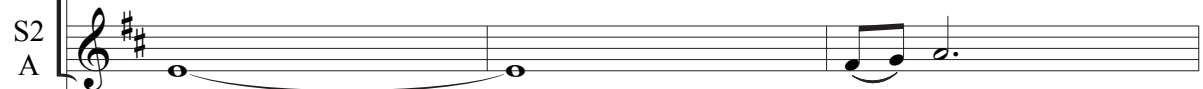
— Ark of my dreams, — my life to

*Ark = vessel, carrier

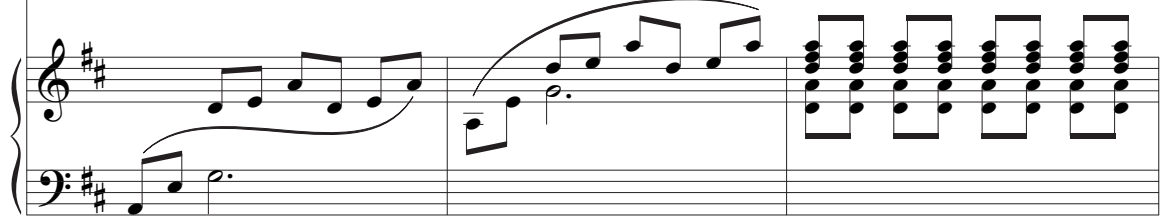
31

Ob. 

S1  come. _____ Sail,

S2  come. _____ Sail - fast,

A  come. _____ Sail - fast,



with pedal

34

S1  sail, Ark of my dreams. Sweep

S2  sail - fast, Ark of my dreams. Sweep

A  sail - fast, Ark of my dreams. Sweep



37 **D**

S1  Lord - ly o - ver the drown - ed Past, Fly glit - ter - ing through the

S2  Lord - ly o - ver the drown - ed Past, Fly glit - ter - ing through the

A1  Lord - ly o - ver the drown - ed Past, Fly glit - ter - ing through the

A2  Lord - ly o - ver the drown - ed Past, Fly glit - ter - ing through the

D



40

S1
S2

sun's strange beams; Sail fast, sail fast, sail fast, sail fast, sail

A1
A2

sun's strange beams; Sail fast, sail fast, sail fast, sail fast, sail

p

mf

Reo.

43

S1

fast. _____ E *p* Breaths of new birds from a

S2

fast. _____

A1

fast. _____ *p* Breaths of new birds from a

A2

fast. _____

E *p*

46

S1 dry - ing lea* *mf* My

S2 *p* with news of the fu - ture will scent the sea; My *mf*

A1 dry - ing lea* My

A2 *p* with news of the fu - ture will scent the sea;

49 *with excitement* *rit.* **Slower**

S1 brain is beat - ing like the heart of Haste;

S2 brain is beat - ing like the heart of Haste;

A1 brain is beat - ing like the heart of Haste;

A2 *p lightly* I'll loose_ me a bird up - on this

with excitement *rit.* **Slower**

*lea = meadow

52

Ob. *gently (as a tiny bird)* *accel.* **Tempo I** (♩ = 108)

p *mf*

S1

S2

A1

A2

Pres-ent waste;*

answering Altos *accel.* **Tempo I** (♩ = 108)

p *mf*

56

Ob. **F** *p*

[sustain notes]
p trembling, as a "tiny dove"

S1

S2

A1

A2

Go, trem-bling song, go trem-bling,
p trembling, as a "tiny dove"

Go, trem-bling song, go trem-bling,

F

with pedal

p

*Release a dove in flight, like Noah on the Ark

59

Ob.

S1
S2

A1
A2

trem - bling, trem - bling song, And stay not long; oh, stay not,

trem - bling, trem - bling song, And stay not long; oh, stay not,

61

S1
S2

A1
A2

stay not, stay not long: Thou art on - ly a ti - ny and

stay not, stay not long: Thou art on - ly a ti - ny and

rit.

rit.

63

S1
S2

A1
A2

qui - et dove, but thine eye is faith, and thy wing is

qui - et dove, but thine eye is faith, and thy wing is

(rit.) **Slower** *strong break* *strong break*

(rit.) **Slower** *strong break* *strong break*

G Tempo I *celebratory* (♩ = 108)

66 *accel.*

mf *f*

cresc. *f*

love.

cresc. *f*

love.

accel.

G Tempo I *celebratory* (♩ = 108)

70

H

p

[sustain notes]
p *trembling* (as before)

Go, trem-bling song, go trem-bling,

p *trembling* (as before)

Go, trem-bling song, go trem-bling,

H

p

with pedal

I Tempo I *very celebratory* (♩ = 108)

80

Ob. *f*

S1 *f*

S2

love, _____

A1 *f*

A2

love, _____

I Tempo I *very celebratory* (♩ = 108)

f

80b

80c

82

Ob.

S1

S2

unis.

A1

love, _____

love, _____

A2

love, _____

love, _____

5 5 5 5 5 5

with pedal

84

Ob.

S1 *unis.*
love,

S2
love,

A1
love,

A2
love,

86

Ob.

S1
love.

S2

A1
love.

A2
love.

The image shows a page of a musical score for 'A Song of the Future'. It features five staves: Oboe (Ob.), Soprano 1 (S1), Soprano 2 (S2), Alto 1 (A1), and Alto 2 (A2), and a grand piano (Piano) section at the bottom. The Oboe part begins with a melodic line marked 'rit.' (ritardando) and a measure number of 88. The vocal parts (S1, S2, A1, A2) have long, sustained notes with a slur over them, indicating a long note. The piano accompaniment features a rhythmic pattern of repeated notes, also marked 'rit.' and with a slur over the entire section. The key signature is two sharps (F# and C#).

3:15

August 26, 2016
Randolph, Vermont

Program Notes

A Song of the Future is a musical setting of a text by American poet Sidney Lanier (1842–1881). The opening lines establish the central image of setting forth into a new life:

Sail fast, sail fast, Ark of my hopes, Ark of my dreams;

The voyage into the future is aligned with Noah's journey on the Ark. Thus, the music opens with flowing lines (as waves) in the piano accompaniment leading to an Oboe theme which soars up an octave (reaching out across the sea). This theme is then adopted by the chorus.

A contrasting middle section is quiet in dynamics and small in scope, expressing the tiny dove which Noah released on a search for the new land. Both the chorus and the accompaniment speak of the trembling dove with trembling repeated notes.

The closing lines of the poem create especially beautiful imagery for the dove:

Thou art only a tiny and quiet dove, but thine eye is faith, and thy wing is love.

A journey into the future must be made with faith, and with love.

A Song of the Future

for SSAA Chorus, Oboe, and Piano

Oboe

Gwyneth Walker

Flowing ♩ = 108

4 (Pno.)

8 **A** Play *mf espr.*

13 **B** (Chorus sings "Ah" in background)

18

23 **C** (Chorus sings Theme) *p*

28

37 **D** (Chorus) **E** Lord - ly o - ver the drown ed Past, Fly Breaths of new birds from a dry - ing lea

6

47 *with excitement rit. Slower* (Pno.)

2

(Alto 2) I'll loose me a bird up - on this Pres - ent waste -

53 *gently (as a tiny bird)* *accel.* **Tempo I** (♩ = 108)

p *mf*

56 **F**

p

61 *rit.* **Slower** *strong break* *strong break*

(Chorus) wing is

66 *accel.* **G** **Tempo I celebratory** (♩ = 108)

mf *f*

69

72 **H** *rit.*

p

77 **Slower** *accel.* **I** **Tempo I very celebratory** (♩ = 108)

(Chorus) wing is *f*

82

87 *rit.*