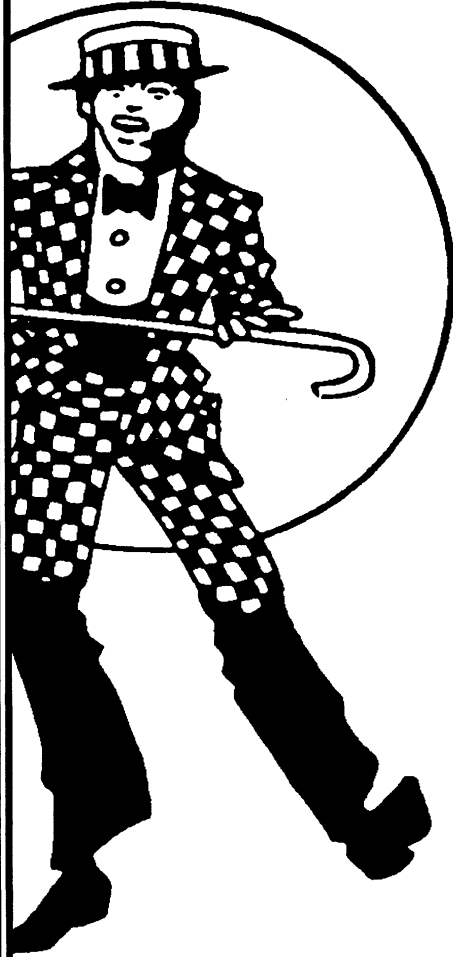


Catalog No. 5029



# "Bones, Be Good!"

(from *Dreams and Dances*)

by Gwyneth Walker

*SATB Chorus  
and Piano*

ECS  
PUBLISHING

# "Bones, Be Good!"

## PROGRAM NOTES AND BIOGRAPHIES

*"Bones, Be Good!"* is the first of three songs from Gwyneth Walker's DREAMS AND DANCES. All three are musical settings of poems by Lucille Clifton. The musical language, reflective of the poetry, is essentially an American language derived from jazz and folk idioms. *"Bones, Be Good!"* speaks of our unquenchable love of rhythm and dancing ("... tap dancin' for my life").

DREAMS AND DANCES was jointly commissioned by the Simsbury and Farmington, Connecticut High School Choruses and String Ensembles. The work was composed during the Fall of 1992 in Braintree, Vermont, New Canaan, Connecticut, and San Francisco, California. The premiere performances were given in Simsbury and Farmington in March of 1993.

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A product of New England, **Gwyneth Walker** (composer) was raised in New Canaan, Connecticut and now lives on a dairy farm in Braintree, Vermont. She has been composing full-time since 1982 after a 14 year career as a teacher of Theory and Composition at the Oberlin College Conservatory and the Hartt School of Music. Walker's catalog contains more than 90 commissioned works for orchestra, band, chorus, and chamber ensembles.

**Lucille Clifton** (poet) was born in 1936 in Depew, New York and educated at Howard University and the State University of New York at Fredonia. Formerly the Poet Laureate of the State of Maryland, she has taught at Goucher College and the American University in Washington, DC. She currently is Distinguished Professor of Humanities at St. Mary's College in Maryland.

Full score and set of string parts are available for sale.

Commissioned by the Simsbury, CT High School Concert Choir & String Orchestra and  
the Farmington, CT High School Chamber Singers & String Ensemble

# "Bones, Be Good!"

(No. 1 from *Dreams and Dances*)

for SATB Choir and Piano

Lucille Clifton

Gwyneth Walker

♩ = 88 **Swing rhythm** (*tempo stays constant throughout*)  
*snap fingers (hands at side, inconspicuously)*

S

A

T

B

♩ = 88 **Swing rhythm**

Piano

6

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11

*mf*

*mf*

*mf*

*mf*

*mf*

*mf*

*p*

15 A

beg my bones to — be good — but they just keep click-in' mu - sic, -

beg my bones to — be good — but they just keep click-in' mu - sic, -

beg my bones to — be good — but they just keep click-in' mu - sic, -

beg my bones to — be good — but they just keep click-in' mu - sic, -

A

*mf*

*p*

19

*p* click click click click  
*p* click click click click  
*p* click click click click  
*p* click click click click

swing rhythm  
*f* *p*

22

*mf* click click - in' mu - sic.  
*mf* click click - in' mu - sic.  
*mf* click click - in' mu - sic.  
*mf* click click - in' mu - sic.

*mf* *p*

27 **B**

*p* *mf*  
bones, be good! \_

*p* *mf*  
bones, be good! \_

*p* *mf*  
bones, be good! \_

*p* *mf*  
bones, be good! \_

**B**

*f* *p* *f*

31

They just keep on click-in' mu - sic. \_

They just keep on click-in' mu - sic. \_

*(mf)*  
bones, be good, be good, be good. They just keep on click-in' mu - sic,

*(mf)*  
bones, be good, be good, be good. They just keep on click-in' mu - sic,

*mf*

35 C *spoken* x

Yeah *spoken* x

Yeah *spoken* x

mu - sic. *spoken* x

mu - sic. *spoken* x

Yeah

39 *(mf)*

I spin in the cen - ter of my -

*(mf)*

I spin in the cen - ter of my -

43

self. a fool - ish fright - ful wo -

self. a fool - ish fright - ful wo -

*(mf)* spin in the cen - ter of my - self, — a

*(mf)* spin in the cen - ter of my - self, — a

*mf*

47

*p* man, — Mov - in' my skin a - gainst \_ the wind,

*p* man, — Mov - in' my skin a - gainst \_ the wind,

*mf* fool - ish fright - ful wo - man, ah —

*mf* fool - ish fright - ful wo - man, ah —

*p* *mf*

**D**



51 *mf*

mov-in' my skin a - gainst the wind, and tap tap tap tap

mov-in' my skin a - gainst the wind, and tap tap tap tap

mov-in' my skin a - gainst the wind, and tap tap tap tap

mov-in' my skin a - gainst the wind, and tap tap tap tap

54 *f* **E**

danc - in' *f* **E**

danc - in' *f*

danc - in' *f* tap tap *f*

danc - in' *f* danc - in' for my life *f*

*white-note gliss.* **E**

58

tap danc - in' tap tap tap danc - in' tap tap

for my life, for my life, tap,

*p* *f*

62

*spoken p* Yeah Ah

*spoken p* Yeah Ah

tap danc - in' tap tap tap danc - in' tap tap

tap, for my life, tap, tap, for my life, tap,

66 *(percussively-mostly air sound)* F

ta ta ta ta ta ta ta ta

tap danc - in' tap tap tap danc - in' tap tap

tap, for my life, tap, tap, for my life, tap,

F

70

ta ta ta ta ta ta ta ta ta

tap danc - in' tap tap tap danc - in'

tap, for my life, tap, tap, for my

F

73

ta ta ta ta ta ta ta ta ta ta ta ta

tap tap tap danc - in' tap tap tap danc - in'

life, tap, tap, for my life, tap, tap, for my

bones, be good!

77 **G**

bones, be good! -

bones, be good! -

bones, be good! -

bones, be good! -

**G**

81

*f* they just keep on click-in' mu - sic. \_

*f* they just keep on click-in' mu - sic. \_

*p* bones, be good, be good, \_ be good! they just keep on click-in' mu - sic. \_

*p* bones, be good, be good, \_ be good! they just keep on click-in' mu - sic. \_

*p* *mf* *f*

85

**H**

**H** *f* *mf*

89 *f* scat singing

ya ba ba ba ya — ba ba ba da ya ba ba ba ya — ba ba ba da

ya ba ba ba ya — ba ba ba da

93

ba da ba da ba da ba da ba da ba da ba da

ba da ba da ba da ba da ba da ba da ba da

*f* mov-in' my skin a- gainst \_ the wind,

*f* mov-in' my skin a- gainst \_ the wind,

97

*f* mov-in' my skin a - gainst \_ the wind,

*f* mov-in' my skin a - gainst \_ the wind, *p*

and tap tap tap tap tap tap tap tap *p*

tap tap tap tap

101

*p* tap a tap a tap a tap a danc - in' *f*

*p* tap tap tap tap tap tap tap tap tap a tap a tap a tap a danc - in' *f*

tap tap tap tap tap tap tap tap tap tap tap tap tap dance, *f* I mean

tap tap tap tap tap tap tap tap tap tap tap tap tap dance, *f* I mean

105

danc - in! tap tap

danc - in! danc in' for my life,

J

p

\*

109

mov - in' my skin a - gainst

tap danc - in' tap tap tap danc - in' tap tap

for my life, tap tap, for my life, tap

mf

p



113

— the wind, *p echo* mov - in' my skin a - gainst — the wind,  
 tap danc - in' tap tap tap danc - in'  
 tap, *f* for my life, tap tap, *p* for my gliss.

116

*mf* click click, *p echo* click - in' mu - sic, click click,  
 mov - in' my skin a - gainst — the wind, mov - in' my skin a - gainst —  
 tap tap tap danc - in' tap tap  
 life, tap tap, for my life, tap

119

*mf* K

a fool - ish fright - ful wo - man, a

click - in' mu - sic, click click, click - in' mu - sic,

the wind, mov - in' my skin a - gainst the wind,

tap danc - in' tap tap tap danc - in'

tap, for my life, tap tap, for my

*p* K *f harshly*

122

*cresc.*

fool - ish fright - ful wo - man, just a fool - ish fright - ful

click click, click - in' mu - sic, *cresc.* click click,

mov - in' my skin a - gainst the wind, mov - in' my skin a - gainst

tap tap tap danc - in' tap tap

life, tap tap, for my life, tap

*cresc.* *8va*.....

*cresc.*

125 *(cresc.)*

wo - man, - just a fool - ish fright - ful wo - man,  
 click - in' mu - sic, click click, click in' - mu - sic,  
 the wind, mov - in' my skin a - gainst the wind,  
 tap danc - in' tap tap tap danc - in'  
 tap, for my life, tap tap, tap,

*(cresc.)*

**with energy**

128 **L** *f* *scat singing*

ba da ba da da da ba da da - ba da ba ya ba ba ba ya - ba ba ba da  
 ah Ya ba ba ba ya - ba ba ba da  
 ah

**L** **with energy**

132

ya ba ba ba ya ba ba ba da ya ba ba ba da ba,  
ya ba ba ba ya ba ba ba da ya ba ba ba da ba,  
ya ba ba ba ya ba ba ba da ya ba ba ba da ba,  
ya ba ba ba ya ba ba ba da ya ba ba ba da ba,

135

ya ba ba ba da ba ya ba da ba ba da ba da ya ba da da *snap fingers (hands up, in front of face)*  
ya ba ba ba da ba ya ba da ba ba da ba da ya ba da da *snap fingers (hands up, in front of face)*  
ya ba ba ba da ba ya ba da ba ba da ba da ya ba da da *snap fingers (hands up, in front of face)*  
ya ba ba ba da ba ya ba da ba ba da ba da ya ba da da *snap fingers (hands up, in front of face)*  
ya ba ba ba da ba ya ba da ba ba da ba da ya ba da da

Duration: 2'50"