

Gwyneth Walker

Every Life

Shall Be a Song

for TTBB Chorus, Brass Quintet, Percussion and Piano

Every Life Shall Be a Song

duration 3:30

*Commissioned by the Boston Gay Men's Chorus
for premiere at their 35th anniversary season celebration concert
June 4, 2017 – Symphony Hall – Boston, Massachusetts
Reuben Reynolds – conductor*

Every Life Shall Be a Song is a celebration of life, unity, and music – a setting of a poem by the 19th century British author John Addington Symonds (1840–1893). The text speaks of the future with hope. “A loftier race than e’er the world has known shall rise.” The healing and transforming power of music is essential to this hope. “When every life shall be a song, then all the earth is a paradise.”

The musical expression alternates between added-tone chords (*building* for the future) and melodic phrases (for the more tender passages in the poem – “we will be gentle, brave and strong”). Throughout, the message is triumphant. “These things shall be!”



Widely performed throughout the country, the music of American composer **Gwyneth Walker** is beloved by performers and audiences alike for its energy, beauty, reverence, drama, and humor. 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. For nearly 30 years, she lived on a dairy farm in Braintree, Vermont. She now divides her time between her childhood hometown of New Canaan, Connecticut and the musical communities of Sarasota, Florida and Randolph, Vermont.

Gwyneth Walker has been a proud resident of Vermont for many years. She is the recipient of the Year 2000 “Lifetime Achievement Award” from the Vermont Arts Council as well as the 2008 “Athenaeum Award for Achievement in the Arts and Humanities” from the St. Johnsbury (VT) Athenaeum. In 2012, she was elected as a Fellow of the Vermont Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Walker’s catalog includes over 300 commissioned works for orchestra, chamber ensembles, chorus, and solo voice. A special interest has been dramatic works that combine music with readings, acting, and movement. The music of Gwyneth Walker is published by E. C. Schirmer (choral and vocal music) and Lauren Keiser Music (orchestral and instrumental music).

Further information concerning Gwyneth Walker and her works is available at:

www.gwynethwalker.com

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John Addington Symonds (1840–1893)
G. Walker, alt.

Gwyneth Walker

The musical score is arranged in systems. The top system includes C Trumpets (1 and 2), Horn in F, Trombone, and Tuba, all marked with a forte (*f*) dynamic. The Percussion part includes Timpani, Tenor Drum, Suspended Cymbal, and Crash Cymbals, also marked *f*. The tempo is indicated as ♩ = 108. The vocal parts for Tenor 1, Tenor 2, Bass 1, and Bass 2 enter in the second system with the lyrics "These things shall be. These things shall be. These things shall". The vocal parts are marked *unis. f triumphantly*. The Piano part enters in the third system with a forte (*f*) dynamic and the instruction *f triumphantly*. The tempo remains ♩ = 108. The score concludes with a double bar line and a *l.v.* (loco) marking.

Brass and Percussion parts (ECS Catalog No. 7340) are available from the publisher.

8 *rit.* **A Slightly faster** ♩ = 120

Tpts. 1 2 *sfp* *sfp* *sfp* *sfp* *f* *p*

Hn. *sfp* *sfp* *sfp* *sfp* *f* *p*

Tbn. Tuba *sfp* *sfp* *sfp* *f* *p*

Perc. *f* *p*

T1 *unis. mf*
T2 be, these things shall be, these things shall be: a loft-ier race than e'er the world has known shall

B1 *unis. mf*
B2 be, these things shall be, these things shall be: a loft-ier race than e'er the world has known shall

A Slightly faster ♩ = 120

Pno. *mf*

14

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

Hn. *p* *f* *p* *f*

Tbn. Tuba *p* *f* *p* *f*

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

T1 *f* *mf* *f*
T2 rise with flame of free-dom in our souls and light of know-ledge in our eyes.

B1 *f* *unis. mf* *f*
B2 rise with flame of free-dom in our souls and light of know-ledge in our eyes.

Pno. *f* *mf* *f*

21 B

Tpts. 1 2

Hn.

Tbn. Tuba

Perc.

T1 T2

B1 B2

Pno.

p *mf*

mf flowing

sc simile

These things shall be.

These things shall be. _____

27

Tpts. 1 2

Hn.

Tbn. Tuba

Perc.

Tenor Drum

T1 T2

B1 B2

Pno.

p

unis. mf cantabile

mf cantabile

We will be gen - tle, brave and strong, to speak no words of war, but dare all that may plant our

all that may plant our

67

Tpts. 1 2 *mf* *p* *mf*

Hn. *mf* *p* *mf*

Tbn. Tuba *mf* *p* *mf*

Perc. *mf* *p* *mf* *p*

T1 *mf*

T2 and ev - ery life

B1 might - ier mu - sic fill the skies, and

B2 might - ier mu - sic fill the skies, and

Pno. *mf* *p* *mf* *p*

72

Tpts. 1 2 *p* *mf*

Hn. *p* *mf*

Tbn. Tuba *p* *mf*

Perc. *mf* *p*

T1 *mf* when all the earth is

T2 shall be a song, when all the earth is

B1 ev - ery life shall be a song, when all the earth,

B2 ev - ery life shall be a song, when all the earth,

Pno. *mf* *p*

