

Gwyneth Walker

Every Life
Shall Be a Song

for TTBB Chorus 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

Tempo: ♩ = 108

Dynamic: *un. f triumphantly*

Lyrics: These things shall be. These things shall

Dynamic: *f triumphantly*

Tempo: ♩ = 108

Dynamic: *f triumphantly*

Tempo: *rit.*

Tempo: *rit.*

This TTBB arrangement was commissioned by the Boston Gay Men's Chorus. Use of this score PDF by other choruses is strictly prohibited.

(rit.) **A Slightly faster** ♩ = 120

10 *unis. mf* *f*

T1
T2
B1
B2

be: a loft-ier race than e'er the world has known shall rise

be: a loft-ier race than e'er the world has known shall rise

(rit.) **A Slightly faster** ♩ = 120

15 *mf* *f*

T1
T2
B1
B2

with flame of free-dom in our souls and light of know-ledge in our

with flame of free-dom in our souls and light of know-ledge in our

19

T1
T2
B1
B2

eyes. These things shall be.

eyes. These things shall be.

23

T1
T2
B1
B2

eyes. These things shall be.

eyes. These things shall be.

23 **B**

T1
T2

B1
B2

B

mf flowing

And. *simile*

27

T1
T2

B1
B2

unis. mf cantabile

We will be gen - tle, brave and strong, to speak no words of war, but dare

p

31 *unis. mf cantabile*

T1
T2

B1
B2

all that may plant our kin - ship firm on earth and fire and sea and air.

all that may plant our kin - ship firm on earth and fire and sea and air.

35 *f*

T1 T2 8 These things shall be. These things shall be.

B1 B2 *f* These things shall be.

C 39 *unis.* *p* *mf*

T1 T2 8 Na - tion . . . land . . . un - armed . . . as com - rades . . . in

B1 B2 *unis. mf cantabile* Na - tion with na - tion, land with land, un - armed shall live as com - rades free; in

43

T1 T2 8 ev - ery heart and brain shall throbb the pulse of our sweet un - i - ty, the

B1 B2 ev - ery heart and brain shall throbb the pulse of our sweet un - i - ty.

47

T1
T2

8 pulse of our sweet un - i - ty. *f*

B1
B2

These things shall be.

51

T1
T2

8 *f* These things shall be. *p* Ah,

B1
B2

These things shall be.

mf bring out

ped. *simile*

55

T1
T2

8 I dream

B1
B2

p Ah,

59 *accel.* **E** Slightly faster, with energy ♩ = 132

T2 *mf*
I dream, I dream

B1 *mf*
I dream, I dream

B2 *mf*
I dream, I dream

accel. **E** Slightly faster, with energy ♩ = 132

p *mf*

63 *mf*

B1 *mf* and

B2 *mf*
New arts shall bloom of loftier mold, and

p

67 *mf*

T2 *mf* and

B1 *mf*
mightier music fill the skies,

B2 *mf*
mightier music fill the skies,

mf *p*

71 *mf*

T1 _____ when

T2 ev - ery life _____ shall be a song, _____ when

B1 _____ and ev - ery life shall be a song, _____

B2 _____ and ev - ery life shall be a song, _____

mf p

75

T1 all the earth _____ is pa - ra - dise, _____

T2 all the earth _____ is pa - ra - dise, _____

B1 _____ when all the earth, _____

B2 _____ when all the earth, _____

mf p

5 5 5 5

3

Rec.

78 *cresc.*

T1
8 pa - ra - dise.

T2
8 pa - ra - dise.

B1
pa - ra - dise, pa - ra - dise.

B2
pa - ra - dise, pa - ra - dise.

cresc.

Leo. *Leo.* *Leo.*

F 81 *f* *poco rit.*

T1
f New arts shall bloom, and might-ier mu - sic fill

T2
f New arts shall, new arts shall bloom and might-ier mu - sic fill

B1
f New arts shall, new arts shall bloom and might-ier mu - sic fill

B2
f New, arts shall bloom, and might-ier mu - sic fill

f *poco rit.* *p*

93

mf

Very Grandly, rit. to end

T1
when ev - ery life shall be a song, —

T2
be a song, — when ev - ery life shall be a song, —

B1
be a song, — when ev - ery life shall be a song, —

B2
be a song, — when ev - ery life shall be a song, —

Very Grandly, rit. to end

97 (rit.)

f

T1
then all the earth is pa - ra - dise! —

T2
then all the earth is pa - ra - dise! —

B1
then all the earth is pa - ra - dise! —

B2
then all the earth is pa - ra - dise! —

(rit.)

f

8va - 1

Ped.

loco