

MSM-50-8755

My Faith, My Hope - Gwyneth Walker
SATB and Organ

MY FAITH, MY HOPE

GWYNETH WALKER



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About the work

George Herbert's poem "The Call" has inspired many musical settings, most notably from within the *Five Mystical Songs* by Ralph Vaughan Williams. This new choral version, with added lyrics by the composer, approaches the text as both a personal expression of faith ("my Faith, my Hope") and a general statement ("Such a Way, as gives us breath / Such a Truth, as ends all strife"). Each verse of the Herbert poem is punctuated by the phrase "My Faith, my Hope, my Strength, my Light."

The very tender verse of "Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart" is set in a lower, gentler key, with sweet dissonance. The music then rises to the original tonality for a final, triumphant statement which combines all of the invocations: "Come, my Way, my Truth, my Heart, my Life, my Faith, my Strength, my Light!"

—Gwyneth Walker

About the composer

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).

Commissioned by the Fairmount Presbyterian Church of Cleveland Heights, Ohio;
premiered on October 23, 2016, Robert Moncrief, Music Director

My Faith, My Hope

SATB and Organ

George Herbert, *alt.*

Gwyneth Walker

Moderate tempo ♩ = 108

p gently, as a personal expression of faith

Soprano
Alto

My Faith, my Hope, my Strength, my — Light . . . —

Tenor
Bass

My Faith, my Hope, my Strength, my — Light . . . —

Moderate tempo ♩ = 108

Strings

pp barely audible

Organ

Foundations

5

mf boldly

Note setting and format by Gwyneth Walker Music Productions.

Text: George Herbert, 1593–1633, and written in 1633; *alt.* Gwyneth Walker (PD).

Music: Gwyneth Walker (ASCAP), b. 1947, newly composed, and copyright © 2017 Birnamwood with this publication.

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A VERSE 1

9 *mf* as a universal expression of faith

S
A

Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life: Such a Way, as

T
B

Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life: Such a Way, as

A

Strings

p accomp.

12

S
A

gives us breath: Such a Truth, as ends all strife: Such a

T
B

gives us breath: Such a Truth, as ends all strife:

15

S
A

Life, Such a Life out - liv - eth death.

T
B

Such a Life out - liv - eth death.

Foundations

mf

19 **B**

(mf)

poco rit.

S
A

My Faith, my Strength, my Light ...

T
B

my Hope, my Strength, my Light ...

B Foundations *poco rit.*

mf

a tempo

Foundation + Mutation (light, colorful)

23

mf

VERSE 2

C Same tempo

26

mf cantabile
Unis.

T
B

Come, my Light, my *Feast, my Strength: _____

C Same tempo

29

p

S
A

Ah, _____

Div.

T
B

Such a Light, as shows a feast: _____

Strings

p

* "Feast" = Holy Communion

32 *(p)* *mf cantabile*

S
A
T
B

Ah, _____ Such a Feast, as *mends in length: _____

Strings *p* Foundation + Mutation

35

S
A
T
B

Such a Strength, as makes his **guest. _____

Ah, _____

Strings *mf*

* "mends in length" = grows and endures

** "makes his guest" = Christ's presence at communion

38

D

S
A

mf rejoicing

my Faith,

T
B

Come, Spir - it, come! my Hope,

D

Foundations
mf

p

VERSE 3

E Slightly slower
(*mf*)

42

S
A

my Strength, my Light... Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart:

T
B

my Strength, my Light. Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart:

E Slightly slower
Strings
p accomp.

46

S
A

Such a Joy, as none can move: Such a Love, as

T
B

Such a Joy, as none can move: Such a Love, as

49

S
A

none can part: *p* Such a Heart, Such a Heart, Such a Heart, as joys in

T
B

none can part: *p* Such a Heart, as joys in

52 *accel. cresc.* **F** *a tempo* (♩ = 108) *f with power*

S A love. My Faith, my Hope, my Strength, my

T B *cresc.* *f* love.

accel. cresc. **F** *a tempo* (♩ = 108) Foundations

f

f

56 *f with power*

S A Light . . . My Faith, my Hope, my Strength, my

T B My Faith, my Hope, my Strength, my Light . . .

Piano accompaniment for measures 56-59.

60 G

S
A

Light ...

T
B

My Faith, my Hope, my Strength, my Light ...

G Full Plenum with Reeds
triumphantly

(f)

63

S
A

T
B

72

S all _____ strife.

A Such a Way, as ends _____ all _____ strife.

T Such a Way, as ends _____ all _____ strife.

B Such a Way, as ends _____ all _____ strife.

75 **I** Start slowly and accel. poco a poco (to m. 81)

S

A *p* with growing excitement
Come, my Heart,

T *p* with growing excitement
Come, my Truth, Come, my Heart,

B *p* with growing excitement
Come, my Way, Come, my Truth, Come, my Heart,

I Start slowly and accel. poco a poco (to m. 81)

Strings

p

Man.

(*accel.*)

Quickly

78 *p* with growing excitement

f

S
A
T
B

Come, my Life, Come, my Faith, Come, my Hope, Come, my Strength, ___

Come, my Life, Come, my Faith, Come, my Hope, Come, my Strength, ___

Come, my Life, Come, my Faith, Come, my Hope, Come, my Strength, ___

(*accel.*)

Quickly

Foundations

cresc.

f

82

molto rit.

S
A
T
B

my Light!

my Light, my Light!

my Light, my Light!

Full Plenum with Reeds

molto rit.

ff

ff

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