

Gwyneth Walker

Now Let Us Sing!

for Mixed Chorus and Piano

*Commissioned by the Colchester Community Chorus
in memory of Perrie Coope*

*Premiere Performance by the Colchester Community Chorus
Carol Reichard – Music Director
Colchester, Vermont
May 7, 2004*

Duration: 3' 30"

Program Notes

***Now Let Us Sing!** is a celebration of song – the singing of a community chorus, the singing of all creatures on the earth. A voice for everyone!*

The basis for this work is the traditional spiritual with the lyrics: "Now Let Us Sing 'til the power of the Lord comes down." This is an exhortation for all to lift up their voices, unafraid. After beckoning the chorus to sing, the lyrics spread out to include all of the animals on Noah's Ark as well!

Lines from the Prayer of St. Francis are interspersed: "the rising morn in praise rejoice, the lights of evening find a voice..." All the earth shall sing. Now!

About the Composer

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, Walker resigned from academic employment in 1982 in order to pursue a career as a full-time composer. She now lives on a dairy farm in Braintree, Vermont.

Walker's catalog includes over 130 commissioned works for orchestra, band, chorus and chamber ensembles. The music of Gwyneth Walker is published by E.C. Schirmer of Boston (choral & vocal music) and MMB Music of St. Louis (orchestral & instrumental music).

Gwyneth Walker is a proud resident of Vermont. She is the recipient of the Year 2000 "Lifetime Achievement Award" from the Vermont Arts Council.

Catalog No. 6600

Now Let Us Sing!

SATB and Piano

Commissioned by the Colchester, Vermont Community Chorus
in memory of Perrie Coope

Traditional lyrics, adapted by composer

Gwyneth Walker

♩=132 at a tempo of anticipation

Soprano

Alto

Tenor

Bass

pp (whispered on pitch)

Now, now, now, now,

♩=132 at a tempo of anticipation

Piano

pp unobtrusively

5 *pp* (sung softly) *p*

S. Now let us, now let us, now let us, now let us

A. Now let us, now let us, now let us, now let us

T. Now let us, now let us, now let us, now let us

B. now, now, now, (sing) *p* Now let us

5 *poco Ped. ad lib.*

2

A

9 *f* *boisterously*

S. sing 'till the pow'r of the Lord comes down. Sing 'till the pow'r of the Lord comes down.

A. *f* *boisterously*
sing 'till the pow'r of the Lord comes down. Sing 'till the pow'r of the Lord comes down.

T. *f* *boisterously*
sing 'till the pow'r of the Lord comes down. Sing 'till the pow'r of the Lord comes down.

B. *f* *boisterously*
sing. Now let us sing. Lift up your

A

9 *f*

13

S. Lift up your voice, be not a-fraid to sing 'till the pow'r of the Lord comes down.

A. Lift up your voice, be not a-fraid to sing 'till the pow'r of the Lord comes down.

T. Lift up your voice, be not a-fraid to sing 'till the pow'r of the Lord comes down.

B. voice, be not a - fraid to sing 'till the pow'r of the Lord comes down.

13

8^{va} 7

trill

17 **B**

S. *mf* The Lord said to No-ah: "There's go-na be — a flood." *gliss.*

A. *mf* The Lord said to No-ah: "There's go-na be — a flood." *gliss.*

T. *mf* The *mf*

B. *mf* The *mf*

17 **B**

mf *gliss.*

21 *mf* *gliss.*

S. The Lord said to No-ah: "The an-i-mals com-ing too." *gliss.*

A. *mf* The Lord said to No-ah: "The an-i-mals com-ing too." *gliss.*

T. *f* Lord said to No-ah: "Get your feet out of the mud!" *mf* The

B. *f* Lord said to No-ah: "Get your feet out of the mud!" *mf* The

21 *mf* *gliss.*

mf *gliss.*

25

S. *mf* > "two by two, two by two." And they will

A. *mf* > "two by two, two by two, two by two." And they will

T. Lord said to No-ah: "You can see them lin - ing up, two by two, two by two, two by two." And they will

B. Lord said to No-ah: "You can see them lin - ing up, two by two, two by two, two by two." And they will

25

mf

C

29 *f* boisterously

S. sing 'till the pow'r of the Lord comes down. Sing 'till the pow'r of the Lord comes down.

A. *f* boisterously

sing 'till the pow'r of the Lord comes down. Sing 'till the pow'r of the Lord comes down.

T. *f* boisterously

sing 'till the pow'r of the Lord comes down. Sing 'till the pow'r of the Lord comes down.

B. *f* boisterously

sing. ————— And they will sing. ————— They lift their

C

29 *f*

33

S. They lift their voi - ces, they're not a-fraid to sing 'till the pow'r of the Lord comes down.

A. They lift their voi - ces, they're not a-fraid to sing 'till the pow'r of the Lord comes down.

T. They lift their voi - ces, they're not a-fraid to sing 'till the pow'r of the Lord comes down.

B. voi - ces, they're not a - fraid _____ to sing 'till the pow'r of the Lord comes down.

33

8^{va}

37 **D** [pyramids of joy] *divisi* *p* now, now, now, now,

S. *p* now, now, now, now,

A. *p* now, now, now, now,

T. *p* now, now, now, now,

B. *p* now, now,

37 **D** *p*

41

S. *now,* *now,* *now,* *now* *f* All

A. *now,* *now,* *now,* *now* *f* All

T. *now,* *now,* *now,* *now* *f* All

B. *now,* *now,* *now* *f* All

cresc. *cresc.* *cresc.*

41

45 **E**

S. *unison p* *f*
 crea - tures who on earth do dwell, lift up your voi - ces, let them swell! —

A. *p* *f*
 crea - tures who on earth do dwell, lift up your voi - ces, let them swell! —

T. *p.* *f*
 crea - tures who on earth do dwell, lift up your voi - ces, let them swell! The

B. *p.* *f*
 crea - tures who on earth do dwell, lift up your voi - ces, let them swell! The

45 **E**

49 *p* lightly

S. The sil - ver moon with shim-mer-ing gleam,

A. *p* lightly
The sil - ver moon with shim-mer-ing gleam,

T. *mf cantabile* burn - ing sun with gold - en beam, the (*mf*)

B. *mf cantabile* burn - ing sun with gold - en beam, the (*mf*)

49 *mf*

F 53 *p*

S. the clouds that sail in heav'n a - long,

A. *p*
the clouds that sail in heav'n a - long,

T. *mf* rush - ing wind that blows so strong, the (*mf*)

B. *mf* rush - ing wind that blows so strong, the (*mf*)

F 53 *mf* *p*

57 *divisi (p)*

S. makes mu - sic for our list - 'ning ear,

A. *(p)* makes mu - sic for our list - 'ning ear,

T. *divisi (mf)* flow - ing - wa - ter pure and clear the

B. *divisi (mf)* flow - ing - wa - ter - pure and clear the

57 *mf* *p*

G 61 *p*

S. which brings to us both warmth and light, the

A. *p* which brings to us both warmth and light, the

T. fire so mas - ter - ful and bright,

B. fire so mas - ter - ful and bright,

61 **G** *mf* *p*

65 *mf*

S. ri - sing morn in praise re - jice,

A. *mf* ri - sing morn in praise re - jice,

T. *unis. p* the lights of eve - ning,

B. *unis. p* the lights of eve - ning,

65 *mf* *p*

68 *p*

S. lights of eve - ning find a voice, and

A. *p* lights of eve - ning, lights of eve - ning find a voice, and

T. *div.* lights of eve - ning, lights of eve - ning find a voice, and *unis.*

B. *div.* lights of eve - ning, lights of eve - ning find a voice, and *unis.*

68 *p*

71 **H** *f*

S. sing 'till the pow'r of the Lord comes down, — Sing 'till the pow'r of the

A. sing 'till the pow'r of the Lord comes down, — Sing 'till the pow'r of the

T. sing 'till the pow'r of the Lord comes down, — Sing 'till the pow'r of the

B. sing. — And they will sing. —

74 *unis.*

S. Lord comes down. They lift their voi - ces, they're not a - fraid to

A. Lord comes down. They lift their voi - ces, they're not a - fraid to

T. Lord comes down. They lift their voi - ces, they're not a - fraid to

B. — They lift their voi - - - ces, they're not a - fraid — to

77 **I** *p* with anticipation

S. sing 'till the pow'r of the Lord comes down. now let us, now let us,

A. sing 'till the pow'r of the Lord comes down. now let us, now let us,

T. sing 'till the pow'r of the Lord comes down. now let us, now let us,

B. sing 'till the pow'r of the Lord comes down. now let us, now let us,

P with anticipation

P with anticipation

P with anticipation

P with anticipation

77 **I** *p*

8va

81 *mp*

S. now let us, now let us, now let us, now let us,

A. now let us, now let us, now let us, now let us,

T. now let us, now let us, now let us, now let us,

B. now let us, now let us, now let us, now let us,

mp

mp

mp

mp

81 *mp*

J [pyramids of joy]

85 *div.* *mf* *mf* *mf*

S. now let us, now let us, now, now, now, now,

A. now let us, now let us, now, now,

T. now let us, now let us,

B. now let us, now let us,

85 *mf*

89 *mf* *mf* *mf* *mf* *mf* *mf* *mf* *mf*

S. now, now, now, now,

A. now, now,

T. now, now, now, now, now, now,

B. *div.* *mf* *mf* *mf* *mf* *mf* *mf* *mf*

89

93 *mf* *f* **K** *unis.*

S. Let us sing! All crea - tures who on earth do dwell,

A. *mf* *div.* *f* Let us sing, let us sing! All crea - tures who on earth do dwell,

T. *f* Now let us sing, let us sing, let us sing! All crea - tures who on earth do dwell,

B. *f* *unis.* Now let us sing, let us sing, let us sing! All crea - tures who on earth do dwell,

93 **K** *f*

97 *p* *f* *rit.* *p* **Slowly**

S. lift up your voi - ces, let them swell! — all we folk of ten - der heart, with

A. *p* *f* lift up your voi - ces, let them swell! — all we folk of ten - der heart,

T. *p.* *f* lift up your voi - ces, let them swell! And all we folk of ten - der heart,

B. *p* *f* lift up your voi - ces, let them swell! And all we folk of ten - der heart,

97 *p* *f* *rit.* *p* **Slowly**

101 **accel.**
cresc.
 S. lov - ing - kind - ness, lov - ing - kind - ness, lov - ing - kind - ness take our part, and
 A. *p* *cresc.* lov - ing - kind - ness, lov - ing - kind - ness take our part, and
 T. *p* *cresc.* lov - ing - kind - ness take our part, and
 B. *mf* *cresc.* take our part, - and

101 **accel.**
mf *cresc.*

L sing! _____ And sing! _____ We lift our

105 *f*
 S. sing 'till the pow'r of the Lord comes down. Sing 'till the pow'r of the Lord comes down.
 A. *f* sing 'till the pow'r of the Lord comes down. Sing 'till the pow'r of the Lord comes down.
 T. *f* sing 'till the pow'r of the Lord comes down. Sing 'till the pow'r of the Lord comes down.
 B. *div. f* sing! _____ And sing! _____ We lift our

L 105 *f*

109

voi - ces, we're not a - fraid to sing 'till the pow'r,

unis.

We lift our voi - ces, we're not a-fraid to sing 'till the pow'r, sing 'till the pow'r,

We lift our voi - ces, we're not a-fraid to sing 'till the pow'r, sing 'till the pow'r,

We lift our voi - ces, we're not a-fraid to sing 'till the pow'r, sing 'till the pow'r,

We lift our voi - ces, we're not a-fraid to sing 'till the pow'r, sing 'till the pow'r,

voi - ces, we're not a - fraid to sing 'till the pow'r, sing 'till the pow'r,

113

rit.

div.

sing 'till the pow'r of the Lord comes down!

sing 'till the pow'r of the Lord comes down!

sing 'till the pow'r of the Lord comes down, down, down, down, down, down, down!

sing 'till the pow'r of the Lord comes down, down, down, down, down, down, down!

rit.