Commissioned by the Illinois Music Educators Association District 7 Chorus Division, and performed by the Festival Choir on November 15, 2008, conducted by Dr. Brad Holmes

Our Dream of Freedom

for SATB Chorus and Piano

Langston Hughes (1902–1967)

Gwyneth Walker

1. Freedom Will Not Come Today







Freedom Will Not Come Today

Words: Copyright © 1994 by The Estate of Langston Hughes. Used by permission of Harold Ober Associates.









Led.

Led.









Hold Fast to Dreams

Words: Copyright © 1994 by The Estate of Langston Hughes. Used by permission of Harold Ober Associates.









Freedom

Freedom will not come

Today, this year

And own land.

Nor ever

Through compromise and fear.

I have as much right As the other fellow has To stand On my two feet I tire so of hearing people say,

Let things take their course.

Tomorrow is another day.

I do not need freedom when I'm dead.

I cannot live on tomorrow's bread.

Freedom

Is a strong seed

Planted

In a great need.

I live here, too.

I want freedom

Just as you.

Dreams

Hold fast to dreams for if dreams die life is a broken-winged bird that cannot fly.

Hold fast to dreams for when dreams go life is a barren field frozen with snow.

Words: Copyright © 1994 by The Estate of Langston Hughes.
Used by permission of Harold Ober Associates.

Program Notes

Freedom Will Not Come Today is a forceful song. The piano introduction grows in dynamic intensity leading to the entrance of the chorus, marked *boldly*. "Freedom will not come today, this year, or ever, through compromise and fear." This is a message of asserting one's right to freedom.

Hold Fast to Dreams, in contrast, has a gentle theme. Dreams can be precious and fragile. Thus, florid passages in the piano accompaniment reflect the dreams as they float above us. "Hold fast...for if dreams die, life is a broken-winged bird that cannot fly." At the end of this song a portion of the first song returns to link the dreams to the aspirations of freedom.

—Gwyneth Walker

Gwyneth Walker (b. 1947)

For biographical information about the composer, please visit her Web site. http://www.gwynethwalker.com

GWYNETH WALKER Our Dream of Freedom

for SATB Chorus and Piano

→ 1. Freedom Will

No. 7342

3. The Dream Keeper

No. 7343

Not Come Today
2. Hold Fast to Dreams

4. Dream of Freedom

No. 7344





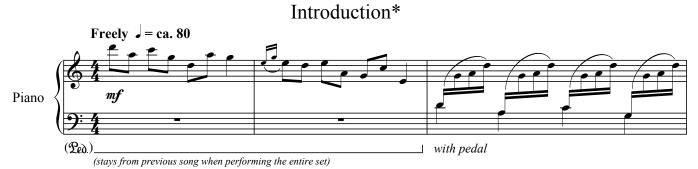
Commissioned by the Hamburg High School Concert Chorale for premiere at the NY State School Music Association Conference, December 6, 2008, Rochester, NY, Norman Zogaib, conductor

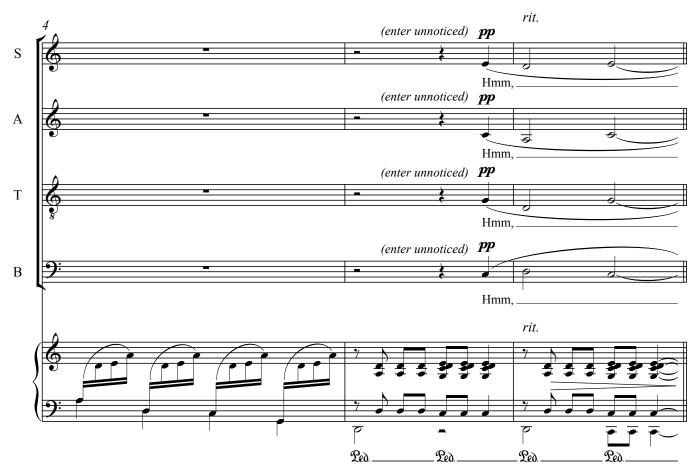
Our Dream of Freedom

for SATB Chorus and Piano

Langston Hughes (1902–1967)

Gwyneth Walker





^{*} Use this introduction when performing all four songs as a set.

The Dream Keeper

Words: Copyright © 1994 by The Estate of Langston Hughes. Used by permission of Harold Ober Associates.

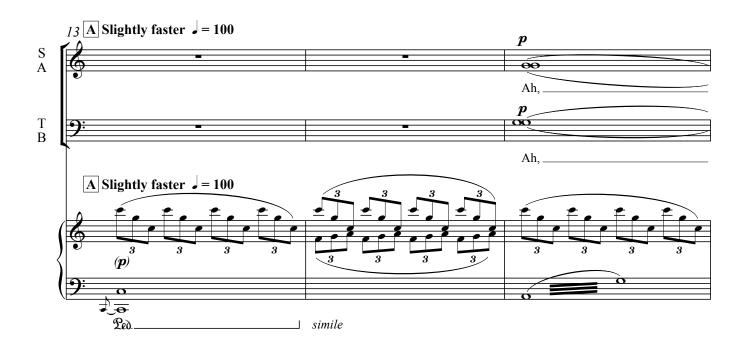
3. The Dream Keeper



^{*} Optional harmony holding over from the introduction.

^{**}Optional chord holding over from the introduction. Otherwise, re-strike chord to start the song.



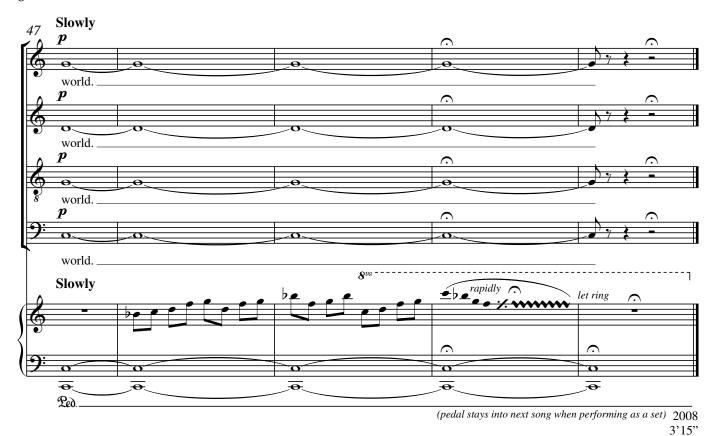












Program Notes

The Dream Keeper is a prayer for the protection of dreams. "Bring me all of your dreams, you dreamers." The choral writing is often in hymn style, while the arpeggiated piano accompaniment flows around the chorus, perhaps "wrapping" the dreamers in a "blue cloud-cloth" of safety.

-Gwyneth Walker

Gwyneth Walker (b. 1947)

For biographical information about the composer, please visit her Web site. http://www.gwynethwalker.com

The Dream Keeper

Bring me all of your dreams,
You dreamers,
Bring me all of your
Heart melodies
That I may wrap them
In a blue cloud-cloth
Away from the too-rough fingers
Of the world.

Words: Copyright © 1994 by The Estate of Langston Hughes. Used by permission of Harold Ober Associates.

GWYNETH WALKER Our Dream of Freedom

for SATB Chorus and Piano

Freedom Will
 Not Come Today

No. 7342 \rightarrow 3. The Dream Keeper

No. 7343

2. Hold Fast to Dreams

4. Dream of Freedom

No. 7344





Quickly J = 144

Commissioned by the Hamburg High School Concert Chorale for premiere at the NY State School Music Association Conference, December 6, 2008, Rochester, NY, Norman Zogaib, conductor

Our Dream of Freedom

for SATB Chorus and Piano

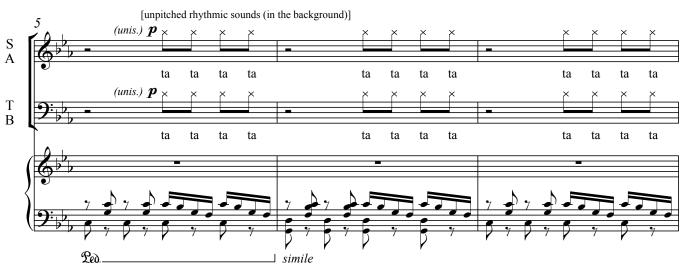
Langston Hughes (1902–1967)

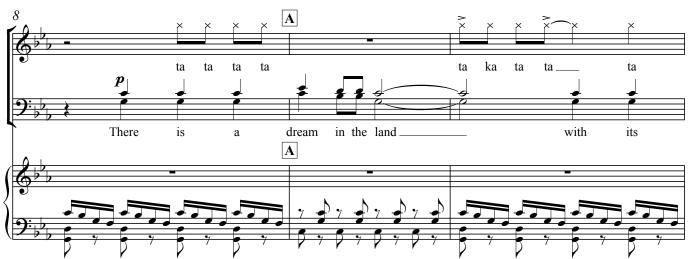
Piano

Gwyneth Walker



(Ped.) (pedal remains from previous song)





Dream of Freedom

Words: Copyright \bigcirc 1994 by The Estate of Langston Hughes. Used by permission of Harold Ober Associates.





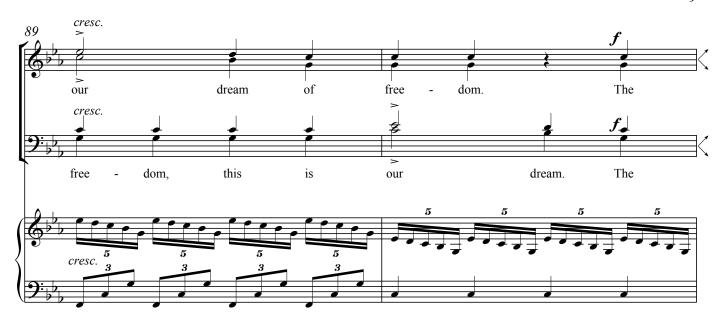


















2'45" Total: 11'00" May 28, 2008 Braintree, Vermont

Dream of Freedom

There is a dream in the land With its back against the wall. By muddled names and strange Sometimes the dream is called.

There are those who claim
This dream for theirs alone —
A sin for which we know
They must atone.

Unless shared in common Like sunlight and like air, The dream will die for lack Of substance anywhere.

The dream knows no frontier or tongue,
The dream no class or race.
The dream cannot be kept secure
In any one looked place.

This dream today embattled, With its back against the wall — To save the dream for one It must be saved for ALL — Our dream of freedom!

Words: Copyright © 1994 by The Estate of Langston Hughes.
Used by permission of Harold Ober Associates.

Program Notes

The final song, *Dream of Freedom*, is energetic, with rhythmic sounds coming from the chorus. This song represents the fight for freedom "with its back against the wall." The dream is described as "embattled," and the singing is marked *emphatically*. Accents fill the musical score. Interspersed are quiet reminders of "Dreamers, dream on." At the conclusion of the song comes the line, "to save the dream for one it must be saved for all." Thus, the final chord expands to ten pitches, as "notes for all."

—Gwyneth Walker

Gwyneth Walker (b. 1947)

For biographical information about the composer, please visit her Web site. http://www.gwynethwalker.com

GWYNETH WALKER Our Dream of Freedom

for SATB Chorus and Piano

Freedom Will
 Not Come Today
 Hold Fast to Dreams

No. 7342 3. The Dream Keeper

No. 7343

→4. Dream of Freedom

No. 7344



