

GWYNETH WALKER

Tell the Earth to Shake

for SATB Chorus (divisi) and Orchestra

Commissioned by the Clearview Regional High School Vocal Ensemble,
Mullica Hill, New Jersey, Jack Hill – Music Director.

Premiered on February 2, 2005 at the National Convention of the American Choral Directors Association
– Los Angeles, California

Orchestral version premiered by the Buffalo (NY) Choral Arts High School Honors Choir
and the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra – Norman Zogaib, Conductor
May 6, 2007 – Hamburg, New York

Duration: 4'15"

Instrumentation

2 Flutes	2 Trumpets in C
Oboe	Trombone
B♭ Clarinet	Percussion (one player)
Bassoon	Medium and Low Tom-Toms, Bongo
2 Horns in F	Strings

Notes

The poem, by Thomas Merton (1915-1968), a Trappist Monk, presents the powerful voice of God: “Tell the earth to shake...for a new world is born, and all my people shall be one.” This is an insistent poem, with repetitions of stanzas, and only slight variations. Through forceful restatement, the poem grows into the closing lines:

*There shall be no more hate
And no more oppression
The old wrongs are done
My people shall be one*

The musical setting adopts the form of the poem. As the lyrics are structured into verse *pairings*, “tell the earth to shake” and “the old wrongs are over,” so the men’s voices are paired with, and answered by, the women’s voices. The alternation continues several times, with the tonal center shifting up a step with each section. The modulations, intended to increase the strength and intensity of the song, are effected through sections of “*pacem*” (peace). This word has been inserted by the composer to form bridges between the verses. For, as the earth will shake “with marching feet of messengers of peace,” so peace becomes the means of bringing the people together as one.

–Notes by the composer

–The Composer recommends performing this work as part of a set of three songs with orchestral accompaniment.

Tell the Earth to Shake – Full score: ECS Cat. No. 6937, Parts: ECS Cat. No. 6938, Octavo: ECS Cat. No. 6423

The Tree of Peace – Full score: ECS Cat. No. 6940, Parts: ECS Cat. No. 6941, Octavo: ECS Cat. No. 6939

There Is a Way to Glory – Full score: ECS Cat. No. 6975, Parts: ECS Cat. No. 6976, Octavo: ECS Cat. No. 6974

Tell the Earth to Shake

for SATB Chorus (divisi) and Orchestra

Thomas Merton (1915-1968)

Gwyneth Walker

The score is arranged in a standard orchestral format. At the top are the woodwinds: Flutes (1 and 2), Oboe, B♭ Clarinet, and Bassoon. Below these are the brass instruments: Horns in F (1 and 2), Trumpets in C (1 and 2), and Trombone. The percussion part is for one player, covering Medium and Low Tom-Toms and Bongo, with dynamics *f* and *p* indicated. The vocal part is for a SATB Chorus, with lyrics provided for each voice part. The lyrics are: Soprano: [Spoken (forcefully) by individual members of the chorus, one speaker per phrase]; Alto: Go tell the earth to shake; Tenor: And tell the thunder to wake the sky and tear the clouds apart; Bass: Tell my people to come out and wonder where the old world is gone; Soprano: For a new world is born; Alto: And all my people shall be one. At the bottom are the strings: Violins (1 and 2), Viola, Violoncello, and Contrabass. Each instrument part has a single note on a whole rest.

2 [A] At a marching tempo ♩ = 88

1 Fls. 2 Ob. Cl. Bsn. Hns. 1 2 Tpts. 1 2 Tbn. Perc. S. A. Choir T. B.

[A] At a marching tempo ♩ = 88

1 Vlns. 2 Vla. Vlc. Cb.

* Grace notes precede the beat.

6 **B**

Fls. 1
Fls. 2
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
Hns. 1
Hns. 2
Tpts. 1
Tpts. 2
Tbn.
Perc.
S.
A.
Choir
T.
B.
Vlns. 1
Vlns. 2
Vla.
Vlc.
Cb.

tell the earth to shake, with march-ing feet of mes-sen-gers of peace.

tell the earth to shake, with march-ing feet of mes-sen-gers of peace.

B

10

1 Fls. 2

Ob.

Cl.

Bsn.

Hns. 1 2

Tpts. 1 2

Tbn.

Perc.

S.

A.

Choir

T.

B.

1 Vlns. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Cb.

Pro - claim my law of love to ev - ery na-tion, ev - ery race.

Pro - claim my law of love to ev - ery na-tion, ev - ery race.

p

f

14 C

Fls. 1
Fls. 2
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
Hns. 1
Hns. 2
Tpts. 1
Tpts. 2
Tbn.
Perc.
S.
A.
Choir
T.
B.
Vlns. 1
Vlns. 2
Vla.
Vlc.
Cb.

f For the old wrongs are o - ver, the old days are gone. —
f For the old wrongs are o - ver, the old days are gone. —

18

Fls. 1

Fls. 2

Ob.

Cl.

Bsn.

Hns. 1

Hns. 2

Tpts. 1

Tpts. 2

Tbn.

Perc.

S.

A.

Choir

T.

B.

Vlns. 1

Vlns. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Cb.

p *f*

p *f*

p *f*

p *f*

A new world is ri - sing where my peo - ple shall be

A new world is ri - sing where my peo - ple shall be

30

1 Fls. 2 Fls.

Ob.

Cl.

Bsn.

Hns. 1 2

Tpts. 1 2

Tbn.

Perc.

S

A

Choir

T

B

1 Vlns. 2 Vlns.

Vla.

Vlc.

Cb.

claim my law of love to ev - ery na - tion, ev - ery race. And say the

claim my law of love to ev - ery na - tion, ev - ery race. And say the

34 **F**

1 Fls. *f*

2 Fls. *f*

Ob. *f*

Cl. *f*

Bsn. *f*

Hns. 1 *mf* *p* *mf* *p*

2 Hns. *mf* *p* *mf* *p*

Tpts. 1

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

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

Perc.

S *(f)* *(f)*
old wrongs are o - ver, the old ways are done. There shall be no more

A *(f)* *(f)*
old wrongs are o - ver, the old ways are done. There shall be no more

Choir

T *f* *p* *f* *p*
o - ver done

B *f* *p* *f* *p*
o - ver done

1 Vlns. *mf* *p* *mf* *p*
2 players only

2 Vlns. *mf* *p* *mf* *p*
2 players only

Vla. *mf* *p* *mf* *p*
2 players only

Vlc.

Cb.

39

G

1 Fls. *f*

2 Fls. *f*

Ob. *f*

Cl. *f*

Bsn. *f* *p*

Hns. 1

2

Tpts. 1

2

Tbn. *p legato*

Perc. *p*

S. hate and no more war. My peo - ple shall be one.

A. hate and no more war. My peo - ple shall be one.

Choir *p*

T. pa - cem, *p*

B. pa - cem, *p*

1 Vlns. *Tutti f*

2 Vlns. *Tutti f*

Vla. *Tutti f*

Vlc. *pizz. p*

Cb. *pizz. p*

G

47 (accel.)

H Slightly faster ♩ = 104

1 Fls. *f*

2 Fls. *f*

Ob. *f*

Cl. *f*

Bsn. *f*

Hns. 1 *f*

2 *f*

Tpts. 1 *f*

2 *f*

Tbn. *f*

Perc. *f*

S. *f*
pa - - - cem, So shake! feet

A. *f*
pa - - - cem, So shake! feet

Choir *f*
pa - cem, So tell the earth to shake, with march-ing feet of mes-sen-gers of peace.

T. *f*

B. *f*
pa - cem, So tell the earth to shake, with march-ing feet of mes-sen-gers of peace.

(accel.)

H Slightly faster ♩ = 104

1 Vlns. *f*

2 Vlns. *f*

Vla. *f*

Vlc. *f*
non div.

Cb. *f*

51

1
Fls. 1 *p* *f*

2
Fls. 2 *p* *f*

Ob. *p* *f*

Cl. *p* *f*

Bsn. *p* *f*

Hns. 1 *p* *f*

2 *p* *f*

Tpts. 1 *p* *f*

2 *p* *f*

Tbn. *p* *f*

Perc. *f* *p*

S. *f* *p*

A. *f* *p*

Choir

T. *unis. (f)* *unis.*

B. *(f)*

Pro - claim my law of love to ev - ery na - tion ev - ery race.

1 *pizz.* *f* *p* *f* *arco* *div.*

2 *pizz.* *f* *p* *f* *arco*

Vla. *pizz.* *f* *p* *f* *arco*

Vlc. *f* *p* *f*

Cb. *f* *p* *f*

55

I

ritard.

Slower

1 Fls. 2 Fls. Ob. Cl. Bsn. Hns. 1 2 Tpts. 1 2 Tbn.

Perc. S. A. Choir T. B.

For the old world is end - ed, the old sky is torn a - part. A new day is born.

For the old world is end - ed, the old sky is torn a - part. A new day is born.

1 Vlns. 2 Vlns. Vla. Vlc. Cb.

I *unis.* *ritard.* *non div.* **Slower**

60

ritard.

J start slowly, accel. poco a poco

1 Fls. 2 Fls. Ob. Cl. Bsn.

1 Hns. 2 Hns. Tpts. 1 Tpts. 2 Tbn. Perc.

S. A. T. B.

mf They hate no more. *mp* They do not go to war. *p* My peo-ple shall be *unis.* *pp* one.

mf They hate no more. *mp* They do not go to war. *p* My peo-ple shall be *pp* one.

mp They do not go to war. *p* My peo-ple shall be *pp* one.

p My peo-ple shall be *pp* one.

ritard.

J start slowly, accel. poco a poco

1 Vlns. 2 Vlns. Vla. Vlc. Cb.

65 (accel.)

1 Fls. *p*

2 Fls. *p*

Ob. *p*

Cl. *p*

Bsn. *p*

Hns. 1 *p*

2 Hns. *p*

Tpts. 1 *p legato*

2 Tpts. *p legato*

Tbn. *p*

Perc. *p*

S. *p*
pa - - - cem, pa - - - cem, pa - - - cem,

A. *p*
pa - - - cem, pa - - - cem, pa - - - cem,

Choir T. *p*
pa-cem, pa-cem, pa - cem, pa - cem, pa - cem,

B. *p*
pa-cem, pa-cem, pa - cem, pa - cem, pa - cem,

(accel.)

1 Vlns. *p*

2 Vlns. *p*

Vla. *unis. p*

Vlc. *arco*

Cb. *arco*

(accel.)

K Faster ♩ = 112

70

1 Fls. *f*

2 Fls. *f*

Ob. *f*

Cl. *f*

Bsn. *f*

Hns. 1 *f*

2 Hns. *f*

Tpts. 1 *f*

2 Tpts. *f*

Tbn. *f*

Perc. *f*

S. *f* pa - - - - cem, So shake! feet

A. *f* pa - - - - cem, So shake! feet

Choir T. *f* pa - cem, pa - cem, So tell the earth to shake, with march - ing feet of

B. *f* pa - cem, So tell the earth to shake, with march - ing feet of

K Faster ♩ = 112

(accel.)

1 Vlns. *f* non div.

2 Vlns. *f* non div.

Vla. *f* non div.

Vlc. *f*

Cb. *f*

73

1 Fls. *p*

2 Fls. *p*

Ob. *p*

Cl. *mf*

Bsn.

Hns. 1

2

Tpts. 1

2

Tbn.

Perc.

S. *p*
Ah,

A. *p*
Ah,

Choir
T. *(f)*
mes-sen-gers of peace... Pro-claim my law of love to ev-ery na-tion, ev-ery

B. *(f)*
mes-sen-gers of peace... Pro-claim my law of love to ev-ery na-tion, ev-ery

Vlns. 1 *f* *pizz.* *p*

2 *f* *pizz.* *p*

Vla. *f* *pizz.* *p*

Vlc.

Cb.

77

L

1 Fls. *f* *p* *f*

2 Fls. *f* *p* *f*

Ob. *f* *p* *f*

Cl. *f* *p* *f*

Bsn. *f* *p* *f*

Hns. 1 *p* *f* *p*

2 *p* *f* *p*

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

2 *p* *f* *p*

Tbn. *p* *f* *p*

Perc. *p* *f*

S. *p* *f*
Ah, There shall be no more hate,

A. *p* *f*
Ah, There shall be no more hate,

Choir *unis.* *f*
race. to ev-ery na-tion, ev-ery

T. *f*
race. to ev-ery na-tion, ev-ery

B. *f*
race. to ev-ery na-tion, ev-ery

1 Vlns. *arco* *f* *p* *f* *pizz.*

2 *arco* *f* *p* *f* *pizz.*

Vla. *arco* *f* *p* *f* *pizz.*

Vlc. *f* *p* *f*

Cb. *f* *p* *f*

81

accel.

1
Fls. 2

Ob.

Cl.

Bsn.

Hns. 1 2

Tpts. 1 2

Tbn.

Perc.

S
and no more op - pres - sion. There shall be no more hate,

A
and no more op - pres - sion. There shall be no more hate,

Choir
T
race, to ev - ery na - tion, ev - ery race, to ev - ery na - tion, ev - ery

B
race, to ev - ery na - tion, ev - ery race, to ev - ery na - tion, ev - ery

un.

arco, non div. *pizz.* *arco, non div.* *pizz.*

1
Vlns. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Cb.

accel.

85 (accel.)

Quickly

1 Fls. 2 Fls. Ob. Cl. Bsn.

Hns. 1 2 Tpts. 1 2 Tbn. Perc.

S. A. Choir T. B.

and no more op - pres-sion. There shall be no more hate, and no more op - pres-sion.

and no more op - pres-sion. There shall be no, there shall be no more hate.

race, to ev-ery na-tion, ev-ery race, to ev-ery na - tion, unis. unis. unis.

race, to ev-ery na-tion, ev-ery race, to ev-ery na - tion,

(accel.)

Quickly

1 Vlns. 2 Vlns. Vla. Vlc. Cb.

arco, non div. pizz. arco, non div. pizz. arco, non div. pizz. arco, non div. pizz.

89

M ritard.

Slowly

1 Fls. 2 Fls. Ob. Cl. Bsn.

1 Hns. 2 Hns. 1 Tpts. 2 Tpts. Tbn.

Perc.

S. A. Choir T. B.

There shall be no more hate, and no more op-pression. The old wrongs are done. My peo-ple

There shall be no, there shall be no more op-pression. The old wrongs are done. My peo-ple

to ev-ery na-tion, to ev-ery na-tion, The old wrongs are done. My peo-ple

to ev-ery na-tion, to ev-ery na-tion, The old wrongs are done. My peo-ple

1 Vlns. 2 Vlns. Vla. Vlc. Cb.

arco, non div. pizz. arco, non div. pizz. **M** ritard. arco div. Slowly

arco, non div. pizz. arco, non div. pizz. *sfp* arco *sfp* div.

arco, non div. pizz. arco, non div. pizz. *sfp* arco *sfp*

Vlc. *sfp* div. *sfp*

Cb. *sfp* *sfp*

1 Fls. *mp* *mf* *f*

2 Fls. *mp* *mf* *f*

Ob. *mp* *mf* *f*

Cl. *mp* *mf* *f*

Bsn. *p* *mp* *mf* *f*

Hns. 1 *p* *mp* *mf* *f*

2 *p* *mp* *mf* *f*

Tpts. 1 *p* *mp* *mf* *f*

2 *p* *mp* *mf* *f*

Tbn. *p* *mp* *mf* *f*

Perc. *p* *mp* *mf* *f*

S. *unis. p* shall be one. *f* One!

A. *p* shall be one. *f* One!

Choir T. *p* shall be one. *f* One!

B. *p* shall be one. *f* One!

Vlns. 1 *unis. pizz. arco p* *mf* *f* *ritard.*

2 *unis. pizz. arco p* *mf* *f*

Vla. *pizz. arco p* *mf* *f*

Vlc. *unis. pizz. arco p* *mf* *f*

Cb. *pizz. arco p* *mf* *f*