

GWYNETH WALKER

Tell the Earth to Shake

for TTBB 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 TTBB Chorus (divisi) and Orchestra

Thomas Merton (1915-1968)

Gwyneth Walker

The musical score is arranged in a standard orchestral format. It includes staves for Flutes (2 Piccolo), Oboe, B♭ Clarinet, Bassoon, Horns in F (2), Trumpets in C (2), Trombone, Percussion (Medium and Low Tom-Toms, Bongo), Tenor 1, Tenor 2, Choir (Bass 1, Bass 2), Violins (2), Viola, Violoncello, and Contrabass. The percussion part features a dynamic shift from *f* to *p* for the Low Tom-Tom. The vocal parts include lyrics for Tenor 2 and Choir, with a performance instruction for Tenor 1: "[Spoken (forcefully) by individual members of the chorus, one speaker per phrase]".

2 [A] At a marching tempo ♩ = 88

1 Fls. *f*

2 Ob. *f*

Cl. *f*

Bsn. *f*

Hns. 1 2

Tpts. 1 2

Tbn.

Perc. *f* *mf*

T1

T2 *f*

Choir So

B1

B2 *f* So

[A] At a marching tempo ♩ = 88

1 Vlns. *f* *snap pizz.* *arco, non div.*

2 *f* *snap pizz.* *arco, non div.*

Vla. *f* *snap pizz.* *arco, non div.*

Vlc. *f*

Cb. *f*

* Grace notes precede the beat.

6 **B**

Fls. 1
Fls. 2
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
Hns. 1
Hns. 2
Tpts. 1
Tpts. 2
Tbn.
Perc.
T1
T2
Choir
B1
B2
Vlns. 1
Vlns. 2
Vla.
Vlc.
Cb.

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

B

10

1 Fls.

2 Fls.

Ob.

Cl.

Bsn.

Hns. 1

Hns. 2

Tpts. 1

Tpts. 2

Tbn.

Perc.

T1

Choir

T2

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

B1

B2

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

1 Vlns.

2 Vlns.

Vla.

Vlc.

Cb.

14 C

Fls. 1

Fls. 2

Ob.

Cl.

Bsn.

Hns. 1

Hns. 2

Tpts. 1

Tpts. 2

Tbn.

Perc.

T1

T2

Choir

B1

B2

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. ___

C

18

Fls. 1
Fls. 2
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
Hns. 1
Hns. 2
Tpts. 1
Tpts. 2
Tbn.
Perc.
T1
T2
Choir
B1
B2
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

22 **D**

poco accel.

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

p *p legato* *a2* *p legato* *p*

Choir T1 T2 B1 B2

Bongo (or Hi Tom-Tom)

one. pa - - - cem, pa - cem, pa - cem, pa - cem, one. pa - - - cem, pa - cem, pa - cem, pa - cem, pa - cem, pa - cem, pa - cem, pa - cem,

p *p* *p* *p* *p* *p* *p* *p*

D

poco accel.

1 Vlns. 2 Vlns. Vla. Vcl. Cb.

pizz. *p* *pizz.* *p* *p* *p* *p* *p*

26 **E** Slightly faster $\text{♩} = 96$

1 Fls. 2 Fls. Ob. Cl. Bsn. Hns. 1 2 Tpts. 1 2 Tbn. Perc. T1 T2 Choir B1 B2

E Slightly faster $\text{♩} = 96$

So shake! _____ feet _____ Ah, _____ (f)

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

So shake! _____ feet _____ Ah, _____ (f)

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

E Slightly faster $\text{♩} = 96$

Vlns. 1 2 Vla. Vlc. Cb.

arco

mp *p*

mp *p*

mp *p*

arco

arco

34 **F**

1 Fls. *f*

2 Fls. *f*

Ob. *f*

Cl. *f*

Bsn. *f*

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

2 *mf* *p* *mf* *p*

Tpts. 1

2

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

Perc.

T1 *f* *p* *f* *p*
old wrongs are o - ver, the old ways are done. There shall be no more

T2 *f* *p* *f* *p*
o - ver done

Choir

B1 *f* *p* *f* *p*
old wrongs are o - ver, the old ways are done. There shall be no more

B2 *f* *p* *f* *p*
o - ver done

F

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*

T1
hate and no more war. My peo - ple shall be one.

T2
p
pa - cem,

Choir

B1
hate and no more war. My peo - ple shall be one.

B2
p
pa - cem,

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*

T1 *f*
pa - - - cem, So shake! feet

T2 *f*
pa - cem, So tell the earth to shake, with march - ing feet of messengers of peace.

Choir *f*
pa - - - cem, So shake! feet

B1 *f*
pa - - - cem, So shake! feet

B2 *f*
pa - cem, So tell the earth to shake, with march - ing feet of messengers of peace.

(accel.)

H Slightly faster ♩ = 104

1 Vlns. *f*

2 Vlns. *f*

Vla. *f*

Vlc. *f*
non div.

Cb. *f*

51

1 Fls. *p* *f*

2 Fls. *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*

T1 ah, *f* *p*

T2 Pro - claim my law of love to ev - ery na - tion ev - ery race. *(f)*

Choir *f* *p*

B1 ah, *f* *p*

B2 Pro - claim my law of love to ev - ery na - tion ev - ery race. *(f)*

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

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

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

Vlc. *f*

Cb. *f*

55

I

ritard.

Slower

1 Fls. *sfp*

2 Fls. *sfp*

Ob. *sfp*

Cl. *sfp*

Bsn. *sfp*

Hns. 1 *sfp*

2 *sfp*

Tpts. 1 *sfp*

2 *sfp*

Tbn. *sfp*

Perc. *sfp*

T1 *f*
For the old world is end - ed, the old sky is torn a - part. A new day is born.

T2 *f*
For the old world is end - ed, the old sky is torn a - part. A new day is born.

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

B1 *f*
For the old world is end - ed, the old sky is torn a - part. A new day is born.

B2 *f*
A new day is born.

I

unis.

ritard.

non div.

Slower

1 Vlns. *sfp non div.*

2 Vlns. *sfp non div.*

Vla. *sfp div à 3*

Vlc. *sfp div.*

Cb. *sfp*

60

ritard.

J start slowly, accel. poco a poco

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

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

p legato

p

T1 T2

Choir B1 B2

mf *mp* *p* *pp*

They hate no more. They do not go to war. My peo-ple shall be one.

ritard.

J start slowly, accel. poco a poco

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

unis. pizz.

p

pizz.

p

65 (accel.)

1 Fls. *p*

2 Fls. *p*

Ob.

Cl.

Bsn. *p*

Hns. 1

2

Tpts. 1

2 *p legato*

Tbn.

Perc.

T1 *p*
pa - - - cem, pa - - - cem, pa - - - cem,

T2 *p*
pa-cem, pa-cem, pa - cem, pa - cem, pa - cem,

Choir

B1 *p*
pa - - - cem, pa - - - cem, pa - - - cem,

B2 *p*
pa-cem, pa-cem, pa - cem, pa - cem, pa - cem,

(accel.)

1 Vlns.

2 *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 *f*

Tpts. 1 *f*

2 *f*

Tbn. *f*

Perc. *f*

T1 *f*

T2 *f*

Choir

B1 *f*

B2 *f*

pa - - - cem, So shake! feet

pa - cem, pa - cem, So tell the earth to shake, with march - ing feet of

pa - - - cem, So shake! feet

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.

T1 *p*

Ah,

T2 *(f)*

Choir

B1 *p*

Ah,

B2 *(f)*

mes - sen - gers of peace. Pro - claim my law of love to ev - ery na - tion, ev - ery

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

2 *pizz.* *f* *p*

Vla. *pizz.* *f* *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*

T1 *p* *f*

T2 *f*

Choir
 B1 *p* *f*
 B2 *f*

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*

Ah, There shall be no more hate,
 race. to ev-ery na-tion, ev-ery

81

accel.

1
Fls.

2

Ob.

Cl.

Bsn.

Hns. 1
2

Tpts. 1
2

Tbn.

Perc.

T1
and no more op - pres - sion. _____ There shall be no more hate, _____

T2
race, _____ to ev - ery na - tion, ev - ery race, _____ to ev - ery na - tion, ev - ery

Choir
B1
and no more op - pres - sion. _____ There shall be no more hate, _____

B2
race, _____ to ev - ery na - tion, ev - ery race, _____ to ev - ery na - tion, ev - ery

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

Vlns. 1
arco, non div. *pizz.* *arco, non div.* *pizz.*

2

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

Vlc.

Cb.

85 (accel.)

Quickly

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

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

Perc.

T1
and no more op - pres-sion. There shall be no more hate, and no more op - pres-sion.
T2
race, to ev-ery na-tion, ev-ery race, to ev-ery na - tion,
Choir
B1
and no more op - pres-sion. There shall be no, there shall be no more hate.
B2
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.

89

M

ritard.

Slowly

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

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

Perc.

T1
T2
Choir
B1
B2

There shall be no more hate, and no more op-pres sion. 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
There shall be no, there shall be no more op-pres sion. 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** *arco* *div.* **Slowly**
sfp *sfp* *sfp* *div.* *sfp* *sfp*
sfp *sfp* *sfp* *sfp* *sfp* *sfp*

ritard.

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

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

Ob. *mp* *mf* *f*

Cl. *mp* *mf* *f*

Bsn. *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*

T1 shall be one. *p* *f* One!

T2 shall be one. *p* *f* One!

Choir B1 shall be one. *p* *f* One!

B2 shall be one. *p* *f* One!

a tempo ♩ = 112

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

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

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

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

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