

Commissioned by SINGERS MARIN in celebration of their 25th concert season, Jan Pedersen Schiff, Founder and Artistic Director
Premiered by WINGS OF SONG and the SINGERS MARIN YOUTH CHORUSES on April 23, 2013, Davies Symphony Hall, San Francisco, CA

The Gospel Ship

for SSA Chorus, Piano and optional Children's Chorus

Traditional
G. Walker, alt.

Gwyneth Walker

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It begins with a piano introduction marked "Grandly as an introduction" and "f". The piano part features a steady accompaniment with a "with pedal" instruction. The vocal parts for Soprano and Alto enter with the lyrics "I've got good news to bring, and" under the instruction "Moderate tempo ♩=108" and "f in celebration". The piano part includes a "Ped." (pedal) marking. The score continues with a four-measure rest for the piano, followed by the vocalists singing "this is why I sing. All my joys with you I'll share." The piano part resumes with an "emphatically" marking and a "8^{vb}" (8va below) marking.

Note setting and format by
Gwyneth Walker
Music Productions.

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7 *stacc.*

S I'm gon-na take a trip on that Old Gos-pel Ship and go sail - ing through the

A I'm gon-na take a trip on that Old Gos - pel_Ship and go sail - ing through the *stacc.*

10 **With energy** ♩ = 120

S air.

A air.

With energy ♩ = 120

(f)

with slight pedal

Children's Chorus joins in

13 (f) A

S Oh, I'm gon-na take a trip on that Old Gos - pel_Ship. I'm

(f) A

A Oh, I'm gon-na take a trip on that Old Gos - pel_Ship. I'm

16

S go-ing far be-yond the sky. I'm gon-na shout and sing un-

A go-ing far be-yond the sky. I'm gon-na shout and sing un-

19

S til the heav-ens ring, when I bid this world *stacc.*

A til the heav-ens ring, when I bid this world good *stacc.*

more pedal

22

S good - bye, good - bye.

A bye, good - bye.

25

Women only

B Same tempo

S1

Solo mf with excitement and anticipation

S2

Oh, I can scarce-ly wait, I'll

Solo mf with excitement and anticipation

A

I know I won't be _ late. I'll

B Same tempo

pp a quiet background of anticipation

28

Solo mf with excitement and anticipation

S1

And when my ship comes in, I'll

(Solo)

S2

spend all my time _ in pray'r. And when my ship comes in, I'll

(Solo)

A

spend all my time _ in pray'r. And when my ship comes in, I'll

Children's Chorus joins in

31 (Solo) *f* *stacc.* *Tutti*

S1 not be seen a-gain, when I'm sail - ing through the air. Oh,

S2 (Solo) *f* *stacc.* *Tutti*

not be seen a-gain, when I'm sail - ing through the air. Oh,

A (Solo) *f* *stacc.* *Tutti*

not be seen a-gain, when I'm sail - ing through the air. Oh,

34 **C** *unis.*

S I'm gon-na take a trip on that Old Gos - pel Ship. I'm go-ing far be - yond the

A I'm gon-na take a trip on that Old Gos - pel Ship. I'm go-ing far be - yond the

C *f*

6

37

S sky. _____ I'm gon-na shout and sing un - til the heav- ens

A sky. _____ I'm gon-na shout and sing un - til the heav- ens ring, -

40

S ring, _____ when I bid _____ this world good - bye, *stacc.*

A _____ when I bid _____ this world good - bye, good - *stacc.*

more pedal _____

43

S good - bye. _____ If

A bye. _____


Women only *poco rit.*
Sop. 2 Solo *mf*

poco rit.
p

D More freely ♩ = 108

46 (Solo)

S2



you're a-shamed of me, you real - ly ought not be.

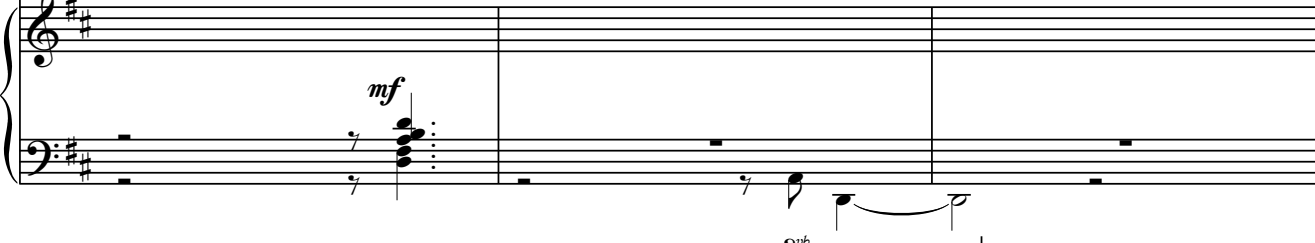
A

Solo mf a wise, older singer offers guidance



It's time to give your-self some

D More freely ♩ = 108



mf

8^{vb}

49

S1 *Sop. 1 Solo mf*


S2 *Sop. 2 Solo*



If it's too much fault you find, then you'll be left be - hind, _____

A


(Solo)



care. _____ then you'll be left be - hind, _____

Ch.

Chorus with anxiety of being "left behind" mf



I'll be



p

mf

loco

rit. *accel. poco a poco (to E)*

52 (Soli) *f*, *p*

S1 when I'm sail - ing through the,

S2

A (Solo) *f* *p*

sail - ing through the,

Ch. *f* *p*

left be - hind! sail - ing through the,

rit. *accel. poco a poco (to E)*

f *p*

with pedal no pedal

Children's Chorus joins in

(*accel.*) 55 Tutti *f* **E** *a tempo* (♩ = 120)

S1 sail - ing through the air. Oh, I'm gon-na take a trip on that

S2 *Tutti* *f*

sail - ing through the air. Oh, I'm gon-na take a trip on that

A *Tutti* *f*

sail - ing through the air. Oh, I'm gon-na take a trip on that

(*accel.*) **E** *a tempo* (♩ = 120)

f

with pedal

58

S Old Gos - pel Ship. I'm go-ing far be-yond the sky.

A Old Gos - pel Ship. I'm go-ing far be - yond the sky.

61 *unis.*

S I'm gon-na shout and sing un - til the heav-ens ring, when I

A I'm gon-na shout and sing un - til the heav-ens ring, when I

64

S bid this world, when I bid this world

A bid this world, when I bid this world good

p *echo (a few voices)* when I bid this world, *Tutti f*

p *echo (a few voices)* when I bid this world, *Tutti f*

p *(as an echo)* *f*

more pedal

67 **F** *energetically, in "hoe-down" style*

S good - bye, good - bye.

A bye, good - bye.

F *energetically, in "hoe-down" style*

f

slight pedal

Chorus joyously claps hands or taps legs
as "accompaniment" for piano interlude.

70

Claps

73

Claps

Women only

76

poco rit.

G Reflectively ♩ = 108

mf

S
If sor-rows fill your day, with trou-bles on the way,

A
with trou-bles on the way, and your

poco rit.

8va-1

G Reflectively ♩ = 108

79

S
Your jour-ney won't be long if you

A
road is wear-y with des-pair. long

for rehearsal only

82

S
live a life of song, and go sail - ing through the air. Your

A
live a life of song, and go sail - ing through the air. Your

Play

mf

stacc.

f

stacc.

f

div.

85 **H** *rit.* *mf*

S jour-ney won't be long if you live a life of song, a

A jour-ney won't be long if you live a life of song, a life of song, a

H *f* *p* *mf* *rit.*

for rehearsal only - - - - -

88 *rit.* *f* *accel. poco a poco (to I)* *(f)*

S life of song, sail - ing through the,

A life of song, and go sail - ing through the,

rit. *f* *(f)* *Play accel. poco a poco (to I)* *(f)*

91 **I** *a tempo* (♩ = 120)

S sail - ing through the air. Oh, I'm gon-na take a trip on that

A sail - ing through the air. Oh, I'm gon-na take a trip on that

stacc. *stacc.* *stacc.*

I *a tempo* (♩ = 120)

8^{va} *loco*

94

S Old Gos - pel Ship. I'm go - ing way be - yond the sky.

A Old Gos - pel Ship. I'm go - ing way be - yond the sky.

8^{vb} loco

97

S I'm gon-na shout and sing un - til the heav - ens ring,

A I'm gon-na shout and sing un - til the heav - ens ring, ring,

Ped.

100

S ring, When I

A ring, When I

Ped.

6

103

S1
bid this world *p cresc. poco a poco*

S2
bid this world good - bye, *p cresc. poco a poco*

A
bid this world good - bye, *p cresc. poco a poco*

p cresc. poco a poco
with pedal

106

S1 *mf* good - bye, good - bye! *ff*

S2 *(cresc.)* good - bye! *ff*

A *(cresc.)* good - bye! *ff*

(cresc.) *ff*
8^{va}

The Gospel Ship

Traditional
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Refrain 1 & 2

With energy

A

C

13/33

f (2nd time)

Children's
Chorus

Oh, (Oh,) I'm gon-na take a trip on that Old Gos - pel - Ship. I'm

16/36

go-ing far be - yond the sky. I'm gon-na shout and sing un - til the heav - ens ring, -

20/40

stacc.

when I bid _____ this world good - bye. _____

Women sing
Verse

Refrain 3

56

f E *a tempo* (♩ = 120)

Oh, I'm gon-na take a trip on that Old Gos - pel - Ship. I'm

59

go-ing far be - yond the sky. I'm gon-na shout and sing un - til the heav - ens ring, -

p *echo* (a few voices)

63

when I bid _____ this world, *Tutti*
f

when I bid _____ this world, _____ when I

66

bid _____ this world - good - bye. _____

Women sing
Verse

Refrain 4

92 **Sing** **I** *a tempo* (♩ = 120)

Oh, I'm gon-na take a trip on that Old Gos - pel Ship. I'm

95 go-ing way be - yond the sky. I'm gon-na shout and sing un - til the heav - ens ring, —

99 ring, — When I bid — this

104 world — good - bye, — good - bye!

Program Notes

The Gospel Ship is a new arrangement of a traditional spiritual. The character of this version is shaped by the lyrics, “I’m gonna shout and sing, until the heavens ring...” For this is a song of celebration. The Gospel Ship (i.e., a vessel of music) transports the singers above earthly troubles, on up to heaven.

Music has the power to overcome daily challenges. The burden is lightened, and the weary road is shortened. Thus, the climax of this work comes with the lyrics, “your journey won’t be long if you live a life of song.” Indeed, with voices joined together, we shall go “sailing through the air!”

—Gwyneth Walker

Gwyneth Walker (b. 1947)

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

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