

1.3542 | Walker | The Dove and Other Songs of Peace | String Quartet

# THE DOVE

*and Other Songs of Peace*

GWYNETH WALKER

*String Quartet*

**E.C.** Schirmer  
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# THE DOVE

## *and Other Songs of Peace*

**Duration: 15 minutes**

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### **Program Notes**

*The Dove* is a set of five short pieces for string quartet, with the common theme of peace. The first four movements are based on traditional American folksongs and spirituals. The last movement is original.

*I've Got Peace Like a River* presents several verses, with interludes interspersed. The players start in unison with the theme. After expansion during the variations, the parts merge back to a peaceful closeness at the end.

*The Dove, She Is a Pretty Bird* is an English song (known alternatively as *The Cuckoo*) which has been adopted into the American folk repertoire. This new arrangement opens with "wings" motives in the violins. The melody is introduced in the cello, followed by the viola, while the "wings" float above. The final stanza, marked "plaintively," is presented by the upper strings in a high register. The cello, perhaps a "trembling dove," descends beneath. At the end, the dove flies away.

*From the Hills I Gather Courage* is based on the familiar American song *Peace, I Ask of Thee, O River*. A middle section, marked "flowing," combines descending (river flowing) lines in the lower strings with "feathery light" (waves) touches in the upper strings. These countermotives frame the theme, with the final lightness fading out.

The viola is the lead voice in *Study War No More*. This movement is an arrangement of the spiritual *Down by the Riverside*. The introductory free section for viola may be heard to express the lyrics "Gonna lay down my burden." The descending lines are emphatic! The other instruments join in this music, which is joyous and celebratory. Swing rhythm is featured. Near the end, the theme returns in "Grand March" style. The viola has a particularly triumphant cadenza near the end.

The last movement, *In the Spirit of Peace*, was inspired by the peace songs of the previous movements. Set in the "gentle, string-friendly" key of A major, the opening section may be heard as a quiet prayer. The music then grows in tempi and dynamics, leading to a strong and intense statement. Upward leaps of octaves are gestures of hope. The ending is once again serene.

**Gwyneth Walker (b. 1947)**

For biographical information visit:  
[www.gwynethwalker.com](http://www.gwynethwalker.com)

# The Dove

## and Other Songs of Peace

for String Quartet

Gwyneth Walker

### 1. I've Got Peace Like a River

Very peacefully  $\text{♩} = 60$

\*"I've got peace like a riv - er..."

Musical score for Violin I, Violin II, Viola, and Violoncello, measures 1-5. The score is in 3/2 time and begins with a piano (*p*) dynamic. The lyrics "I've got peace like a riv - er..." are written above the Violin I staff.

Musical score for Violin I, Violin II, Viola, and Violoncello, measures 6-10. Measure 6 is marked with a box containing the letter 'A'. The score continues with various musical notations and dynamics.

Musical score for Violin I, Violin II, Viola, and Violoncello, measures 11-15. Measure 11 is marked with a box containing the number '11'. The score concludes with dynamics including *mf* and *(p)*.

\*Lyrics from the original song are inserted to indicate their association with the musical phrase.

A version for string orchestra is also available: 1.3543

**B** Slightly faster  $\text{♩} = 69$

16 *poco accel.* *rolled pizz.*

21 *rolled pizz.*

26 **C** *arco* *mf*

31 **D** *p*

36 *accel. poco a poco*

*cresc. poco a poco*

*cresc. poco a poco*

*cresc. poco a poco*

*cresc. poco a poco*

**E**  
41 **Faster** ♩ = 80

*f boldly*

*f boldly*

*f boldly*

*f boldly*

*p sub.*

*p sub.*

*p sub.*

*p sub.*

*f*

*f*

*f*

*f*

46

*p*

*p*

*p*

*p sub.*

*f*

*f*

*f*

*f*

51 **F**

*p non cresc.*

*p non cresc.*

*p non cresc.*

*p sub.*

*(p)*

*(p)*

*(p)*

*(p)*

*cresc. poco a poco*

*cresc. poco a poco*

*cresc. poco a poco*

*cresc. poco a poco*

G Slower ♩ = 69

56 *rit.*

(cresc.) *f sempre*  
 (cresc.) *f*  
 (cresc.) *f*  
 (cresc.) *f*

60 *rit. to end*

*mf* *f sempre* *mf* *f*  
*mf* *f* *mf* *f sempre*  
*mf* *f* *mf* *f*

64 *(rit.)* *peacefully*

"Peace like a riv - er in my soul."

*mf* *dim. poco a poco* *p* *rolled pizz.*  
*mf* *dim. poco a poco* *p* *rolled pizz.*  
*mf dim. poco a poco* *p* *rolled pizz.*  
*mf* *dim. poco a poco* *p* *rolled pizz.*

## 2. The Dove, She Is a Pretty Bird

Freely, slowly, as an introduction

"wings" motive

arco

*p*

Violin I

Violin II

Viola

Violoncello

*p*

"wings" motive

arco

*p*

**A**

Gently flowing ♩ = 120

Solo

\*"The dove she is a pret - ty bird,

*mf* sempre

7

*p*

*p*

she sings as she flies, she brings us glad

14

*p*

*p*

pizz.

arco

*p*

*mf*

tid - ings and tells us no lies."

\*Lyrics from the original song are inserted to indicate their association with the musical phrase.



**B**  
20

Musical score for measures 20-26. It features a piano introduction with a melody in the right hand and accompaniment in the left hand. Dynamics include *(p)* and *p*.

27

Musical score for measures 27-33. The piano continues with the melody and accompaniment. Dynamics include *p*.

34 **C**

Musical score for measures 34-39. This section is marked **C** and includes *rolled pizz.* and *arco* markings. Dynamics include *p*, *cresc.*, and *mf*.

40 **D**

Musical score for measures 40-46. This section is marked **D** and includes *arco* markings. Dynamics include *(cresc.)*, *mf*, and *mf*.

46

*mf*

*mf*

52

*mf*

58 *accel.*

**E** With motion and intensity ♩ = 132

*f*

*f*

*cresc.*

*cresc.*

*f*

64

**F**

*(f)*

*(f)*

*molto rit.*

70

**G** Slower, plaintively ♩ = 108

76

82

88

*rit. to end*

## 3. From the Hills I Gather Courage

Moderate tempo ♩ = 88

\*"Peace, I ask of thee, O riv - er, peace, peace, peace. When I learn to live se -

Violin I *p peacefully*

Violin II *p peacefully*

Viola *p peacefully*

Violoncello *p peacefully*

6 rene - ly, cares will cease." A

*mp*

*mp*

*mp*

*mp*

11

\*Lyrics from the original song are inserted to indicate their association with the musical phrase.

15 *poco rit.* **B** *a tempo* (♩ = 88)

*mf*  
*mf*  
*mf*  
*mf*

19 *accel. poco a poco* **Flowing** ♩ = 120

*mf*  
*mf*  
*mf*  
*mf*

24 **C** *feathery light*

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

28 *feathery light*

*p*  
*simile*  
*simile*

31

34

D

37

41

rit.

E Slower ♩ = 96

45

Musical score for measures 45-49. The score is in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It consists of four staves: two treble clefs and two bass clefs. The music features a mix of eighth and sixteenth notes, often beamed together, and includes various rests and phrasing slurs.

50

Musical score for measures 50-53. The score continues in the same key signature and time signature. It features similar rhythmic patterns and phrasing as the previous system, with a focus on melodic lines in the upper staves and harmonic support in the lower staves.

54 **F**

Musical score for measures 54-57. Measure 54 begins with a boxed 'F' indicating a first ending. The music continues with eighth and sixteenth notes, maintaining the established rhythmic and melodic motifs.

58 *rit.*

Musical score for measures 58-61. Measure 58 is marked with 'rit.' (ritardando). The music features a series of sixteenth notes in the upper staves, with a final measure containing a double bar line and repeat signs, indicating the end of a section.

62 **G** Tempo I ♩ = 88 *accel. poco a poco*

*f* *p* *f* *p*

66 (*accel.*) **Faster with more accel. (celebratory)**

*p* *cresc. poco a poco* *cresc. poco a poco* *cresc. poco a poco*

70 **H** Tempo I ♩ = 88 (*with increasing calmness*) *molto rit.*

*(cresc.)* *(cresc.)* *(cresc.)* *(cresc.)* *f* *mf* *f* *mf* *f* *mf*

74 *poco rit.* **Free measure** *freely, unmeasured*

*mp* *p* *mp* *pp* *pp* *pp* *pp*



# 4. Study War No More

Slowly, freely  
as an introduction

Viola

*f*

Vla.

5

tap body of Viola  
emphatically

arco

tap

arco

rit.

pizz.

*p*

9 Joyfully ♩ = 120, swing eighths

Vln. I

*p*

Vln. II

*p*

Vla.

arco

*mf*

Vc.

*p*

A VERSE 1

13

*mf*

*mf*

*mf*

*pizz.*

arco

arco

*pizz.*

*mf*

B

18

*pizz.*

*pizz.*

*pizz.*

*mf*

arco

23 *arco*  $\vee$

28 **C** REFRAIN *p*

32 *f*

**D** 37 *f*

41 E

46 *lightly, tip of bow*

*mf* *lightly, tip of bow* *p*

*mf* *pizz.* *p*

VERSE 2

50 F Same tempo

*pizz.* *arco* *v*

*mf* *pizz.* *arco* *v*

*mf* *pizz.* *arco* *v*

*mf* *pizz.* *arco*

54

58 **G** *pizz.* *arco*  $\vee$

Musical score for measures 58-61. The score is in 3/4 time and includes various articulations like *pizz.* and *arco*. It features triplets and slurs.

62

Musical score for measures 62-65. This section continues the piano introduction with complex rhythmic patterns, including many triplets and slurs.

66 **H** REFRAIN *p*

Musical score for measures 66-69. This section is the start of the "REFRAIN" and is marked with a piano (*p*) dynamic. It features a mix of eighth and quarter notes.

70 *f*

Musical score for measures 70-73. This section continues the refrain and is marked with a forte (*f*) dynamic. It features a mix of eighth and quarter notes.

75 **I**

Musical score for measures 75-78. The score is in 4/4 time and features a key signature of one flat (B-flat). It consists of four staves: two treble clefs and two bass clefs. The first two staves are marked with a forte (*f*) dynamic. The music includes various melodic lines with slurs and accents, and a bass line with some chordal textures.

79

Musical score for measures 79-82. The key signature changes to two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The music continues with melodic lines in the upper staves and a more active bass line. The dynamics are not explicitly marked in this section.

83 **J INTERLUDE**

Musical score for measures 83-86, labeled as an interlude. The key signature is two flats. The score is marked with a piano (*p*) dynamic and includes the instruction *sub.* (sustained). The music features a consistent rhythmic pattern of eighth notes across all four staves, with slurs and accents.

87

Musical score for measures 87-90. The key signature remains two flats. The score is marked with a piano (*p*) dynamic and includes the instruction *cresc. poco a poco* (crescendo poco a poco). The music continues with the eighth-note rhythmic pattern, showing a gradual increase in volume.

91 **K**

*f*

95

98 *rit.*

**VERSE 3**

**L** Grandly, triumphantly ♩ = 100 (♩ = 50)

101

105

M

Musical score for measures 105-108. The score is in 3/4 time and features a key signature of one flat. It consists of four staves: two treble clefs and two bass clefs. The music includes various rhythmic patterns, including eighth and sixteenth notes, and triplet markings (indicated by a '3' above the notes) in the final two measures.

109

Musical score for measures 109-112. The score continues in the same key signature and time signature. It features a melodic line in the upper staves and a bass line in the lower staves, with various note values and phrasing.

**Suddenly quickly** ♩ = 132  
*even eighths (no swing)*

N REFRAIN

113

Musical score for measures 113-115, the start of the Refrain. The tempo is marked 'Suddenly quickly' with a metronome marking of ♩ = 132. The instruction 'even eighths (no swing)' applies to this section. The score features a complex rhythmic pattern of eighth notes across all four staves.

116

Musical score for measures 116-118. The score continues the Refrain with a similar rhythmic pattern of eighth notes, showing some melodic variation in the upper staves.

119 O

122 *rit.* *freely, as a cadenza*

125 *rit.* **Tempo I** ♩ = 120  
(even eighths)

128

\*As an optional flourish, the cellist may twirl her instrument after the conclusion of the final chord.



# 5. In the Spirit of Peace (We Stand Together)

Serenely  $\text{♩} = 72$

*p* gently

*poco rit.*

Violin I

Violin II

Viola

Violoncello

**A** *a tempo* ( $\text{♩} = 72$ )

5 "In the spir - it of peace we stand to - geth - - - er."

*p*

Violin I

Violin II

Viola

Violoncello

8

*mp*

Violin I

Violin II

Viola

Violoncello

12 *poco rit.* **B** *a tempo* (♩ = 72)

16

19 *on the string*

22 *molto rit.* **C** *Faster* ♩ = 108, *with motion*

26 *rapidly, blurred*

*p* *mp*

29 *rapidly, blurred*

*p* *mp* *mp sub.*

32

*mp* *mf*

35 **D**

*mf* *mf*

38

*mf*

3 3 3 3 (stay *mf*)

*mf*

(stay *mf*)

(stay *mf*)

**E** With intensity (♩ = 108)

41

*f*

*f*

*f*

*f*

*rit. poco a poco*

44

*f*

8<sup>va</sup>

8<sup>va</sup>

(rit.) **Tempo I** ♩ = 72  
*loco*  
48 *mf* 3

53 **F** *Very serenely*  
*p*

56 *mp* *mf*

60 *rit. to end* *dim. to end*





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