

No. 1.3531 | Walker, Gwyneth | The Spirit of the Mesa | String Orchestra

FULL SCORE

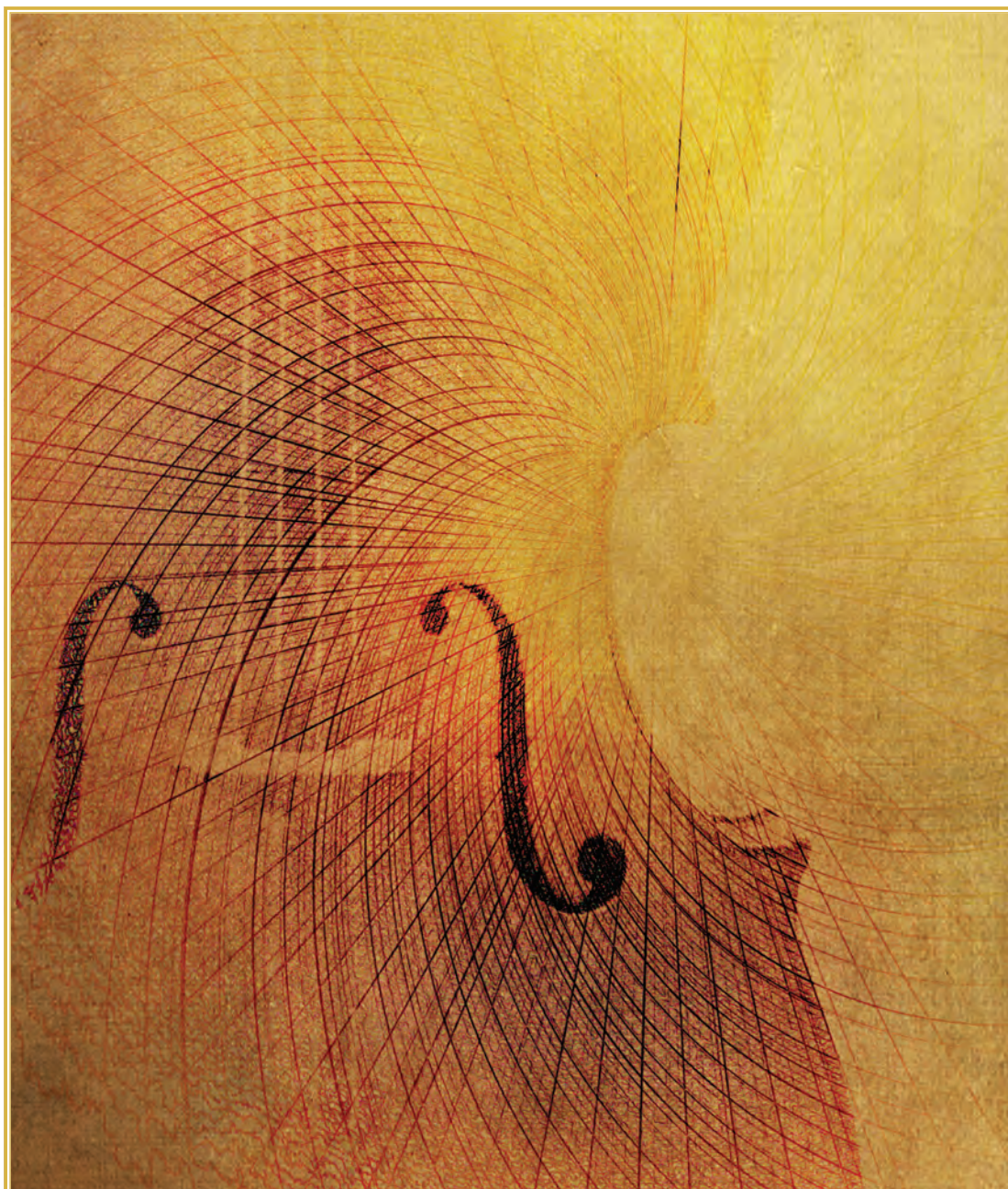
# The Spirit of the Mesa

*A Musical Portrait of Mesa Verde National Park (Colorado)*

“THE LAND” “THE PEOPLE” “THE SKY”

*for String Orchestra*

Gwyneth Walker



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Premiered by the Fort Lewis College Chamber Orchestra  
of Durango, Colorado, on December 9, 2015

***The Spirit of the Mesa*** is a musical portrait of the Mesa Verde (Colorado) Cliff Dwellings, and an homage to the mysterious Cliff Dwellers who vanished without explanation. The musical essay is divided into sections focusing on particular aspects of the Mesa Verde life: “The Land,” “The People,” “The Sky.”

“The Land” unfolds as open space. Harmonies are sparse (lacking 3rds to fill in the chords). Phrases float slowly above a rhythmic pulse, with space between the high and low sounds. There is a stillness to the landscape. Then perhaps comes a hint of life, a faint suggestion of vegetation. But the overwhelming barrenness prevails.

Tiny specks of sound (solo violin, high range) are heard. Then two violins, a step apart, form a playful pair of friends. Activity arises in “The People” section. After community exuberance, the music returns to the two friends (violins) a step apart. The activity calms.

“The Sky” is filled with stars (blurred, rapid patterns in the upper strings). A solo cello looks up to the celestial lights in wonderment. Eventually all of the strings share in the reverence for the sky. The tempo increases into a joyous celebration of the stars, the climax of the music.

A quiet ending speaks to the stillness that remains today.

#### **GWYNETH WALKER (b. 1947)**

Widely performed throughout the country, the music of American composer **Gwyneth Walker** is beloved by performers and audiences alike for its energy, beauty, reverence, drama, and humor. Dr. Gwyneth Walker (b. 1947) is a graduate of Brown University and the Hartt School of Music. She holds B.A., M.M., and D.M.A. degrees in Music Composition. A former faculty member of the Oberlin College Conservatory, she resigned from academic employment in 1982 in order to pursue a career as a full-time composer. For nearly 30 years, she lived on a dairy farm in Braintree, Vermont. She now divides her time between her childhood hometown of New Canaan, Connecticut, and the musical communities of Sarasota, Florida and Randolph, Vermont.

Gwyneth Walker has been a proud resident of Vermont for many years. She is the recipient of the Year 2000 “Lifetime Achievement Award” from the Vermont Arts Council as well as the 2008 “Athenaeum Award for Achievement in the Arts and Humanities” from the St. Johnsbury (VT) Athenaeum. In 2012, she was elected as a Fellow of the Vermont Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Walker’s catalog includes over 300 commissioned works for orchestra, chamber ensembles, chorus, and solo voice. A special interest has been dramatic works that combine music with readings, acting, and movement. The music of Gwyneth Walker is published by E. C. Schirmer (choral and vocal music) and Lauren Keiser Music (orchestral and instrumental music).

Further information concerning Gwyneth Walker and her works is available at: [www.gwynethwalker.com](http://www.gwynethwalker.com)

→ Full Performance Set	No. 1.3531
Additional Score	No. 1.3531A
Individual Parts	No. 1.3531B

# The Spirit of the Mesa

for String Orchestra

Gwyneth Walker

“The Land” (to portray a dry, open land without inhabitants)

Moderate tempo ♩ = 108

Violin I  
Violin II  
Viola  
Violoncello  
Contrabass

Vln. I  
Vln. II  
Vla.  
Vlc.  
Cb.

9

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vlc.

Cb.

*arco*

*v u.h.*

**B** (*a stillness to the landscape*)

12

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vlc.

Cb.

*mp*

15

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vlc.

Cb.

19 C

Vln. I *p* *mf*

Vln. II *p* *mf*

Vla. *p* *mf*

Vlc. *p* *mf*

Cb. *p* *mf*

22

Vln. I *v* *v* u.h.

Vln. II *v* *v* u.h.

Vla. *v* *v* u.h.

Vlc.

Cb.

25

Vln. I *v*

Vln. II *v*

Vla. *v*

Vlc.

Cb.

29

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vlc.

Cb.

*Solo*

*p*

*rit.*

*pizz.*

*p*

**D** Fragmented rhythms (a hint of life, sparse vegetation)

33 *a tempo*

(Solo)

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vlc.

Cb.

*(p)*

*(Solo)*

*(p)*

*(Solo) short pizz.*

*(p)*

*(Solo) short pizz.*

*(p)*

(coming to life)

36 *accel.*

More lively ♩ = 120

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vlc.

Cb.

*Tutti*

*mf*

*Tutti*

*mf*

*Tutti, arco*

*mf*

*Tutti, arco*

*mf*

*(pizz.)*

*mf*



47

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vlc.

Cb.

51

**F**

off str.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vlc.

Cb.

*mf*

*pizz.*

55

*Solo*

*p*

*(p)*

*(arco)*

*p*

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vlc.

Cb.



58

*rit.*

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vlc.

Cb.

*rolled pizz.*

*Solo*

*(p)*

“The People” (*playful tempo, signs of activity*)

**G** *a tempo* (♩ = 120)

61

*(Solo)*

Vln. I

*(p)*

Vln. II

*(p)*

Vla.

*Solo*

*p*

65

*(very playfully)*

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vlc.

Cb.

*Tutti pizz.*

*mf*

*Tutti pizz.*

*mf*

*Tutti*

*mf*

*Tutti pizz.*

*mf*

*Tutti (pizz.)*

*mf*



77

Vln. Solo

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vlc.

Cb.

80

Vln. Solo

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vlc.

Cb.

*rit.*

## Slightly slower

82 *lightly separate* *rit.*

Vln. Solo *(f)* *p*

Vln. I *sfp*

Vln. II *sfp*

Vla. *sfp*

Vlc. *sfp*

Cb. *sfp*

## I Gently, reflectively ♩ = 108

86 *(join section)*

Vln. Solo *p sost.*

Vln. I *(Tutti)* *p sost.*

Vln. II *Solo* *p sost.* *Tutti*

90 *rapidly, unmeasured, a blur of sound as stars filling the sky (change bow ad lib.)*

Vln. I *pp*

Vln. II *pp*

Vla. *p* *pp*

Vlc. *Solo* *mf espr.*

**J** "The Sky" (as though looking up at the sky in wonderment)

93

Vln. I *(pp)* as a background

Vln. II *(pp)* as a background

Vla. *(pp)* as a background

Vlc. high harmonics - sul G as stars, rhythm ad lib.

Cb. *pp* as a background

97

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vlc.

Cb.

102

**K**

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla. fade out

Vlc. *Tutti* *mf*

Cb.

*mf espr.*

107

Vln. I  
Vln. II  
Vla.  
Vlc.  
Cb.

112

Vln. I  
Vln. II  
Vla.  
Vlc.  
Cb.

**L** With more motion ♩ = 120

116

Vln. I  
Vln. II  
Vla.  
Vlc.  
Cb.

*p* *mf* *mf*

*pizz.* *p*

120 *accel.*

Vln. I  
Vln. II  
Vla.  
Vlc.  
Cb. *arco*  
*mf*

This system contains measures 120 through 123. It features five staves: Violin I, Violin II, Viola, Violoncello, and Contrabass. The tempo is marked 'accel.' and the dynamic is 'mf'. The Contrabass part is marked 'arco'. The music consists of rhythmic patterns with some melodic lines in the upper staves.

**M** (the wonder of the sky)  
♩ = 132

124

Vln. I  
Vln. II  
Vla.  
Vlc.  
Cb.

This system contains measures 124 through 127. It features five staves: Violin I, Violin II, Viola, Violoncello, and Contrabass. The tempo is marked '♩ = 132'. The dynamic is 'f'. The music features long, sustained notes in the upper staves and rhythmic patterns in the lower staves.

128

Vln. I  
Vln. II  
Vla.  
Vlc.  
Cb.

This system contains measures 128 through 131. It features five staves: Violin I, Violin II, Viola, Violoncello, and Contrabass. The music includes a 'div.' (divisi) marking in the Violin I part. The lower staves continue with rhythmic patterns.

133

With energy

*unis.*  
off str.

Vln. I *p*

Vln. II *div.* *p*

Vla. *v*

Vlc.

Cb.

*f*  
*unis.*  
off str.

*f*  
off str.

*(f)*  
off str.

*(f)*  
off str.

*(f)*

(the joy of the stars)

**N** ♩ = 80 or faster

138 *accel.*

Vln. I *mf*

Vln. II *mf*

Vla. *mf*

Vlc. *mf*

Cb. *mf*

*pizz.*

*pizz.*

*rolled pizz.*

*rolled pizz.*

*rolled pizz.*

142

*gathering energy*

Vln. I

Vln. II *arco*

Vla. *arco*

Vlc.

Cb.



**O** Slightly faster  $\text{♩} = 88$

146

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vlc.

Cb.

*f*

*rolled pizz.*

150

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vlc.

Cb.

154

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vlc.

Cb.

**P**

*f*

*arco*

*pizz.*

*div.*

158

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vlc.

Cb.

*arco*

*unis.*

*div.*

*pizz.*

162

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vlc.

Cb.

*arco*

*unis.*

*div.*

*pizz.*

166

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vlc.

Cb.

**Q**



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