

GWYNETH WALKER

The Tree of Peace

for SSAA Chorus and Orchestra

The Tree of Peace

Duration: 5'30"

Instrumentation:

2 Flutes

Oboe

B♭ Clarinet

Bassoon

2 Horns in F

2 Trumpets in C

Trombone

Percussion (one player):

Timpani, Suspended Cymbal,

Glockenspiel, High Bongo

Strings

The text for The **Tree of Peace** has been adapted from the Quaker poem, *O Brother Man*, by John Greenleaf Whittier (1807–1892). This contemporary adaptation of the poem broadens the scope of the original with more inclusive language, opening with, “O, my sister and my brother, all who walk upon this earth, fold to your hearts each other.”

A new text fragment, “Listen, listen to one another,” is introduced into the poem, and serves as an interlude between the stanzas. The final sentence of the original poem becomes the focal point of this work, returning many times. “Love shall tread out the fire of anger, and in its ashes plant a tree of peace.”

The musical setting reflects the dual nature of the title, *Tree* (strength) and *Peace* (tenderness). The work opens with accented chords in the strings, clarinet, bassoon, and timpani. These chords are marked “with strength.” This is the conviction of the Tree of Peace.

The tender aspects are introduced in the arpeggio patterns in the strings and winds. These are marked “flowing.” The related choral phrases refer to humanity, “O, my brother and my sister,” to mercy and to the peace of the Lord. Passages of tenderness alternate and intertwine with passages of strength to form a confluence of the message—a prayer for peace.

—Notes by the composer

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

The Tree of Peace

for SSAA Chorus and Orchestra

Lyrics by Gwyneth Walker
Adapted from the poem *O Brother Man*
by John Greenleaf Whittier (1807-1892)

Gwyneth Walker

With strength ♩ = 88

1
Flutes

2

Oboe

B♭ Clarinet
f with strength

Bassoon
f with strength

Horns in F
1
2

Trumpets in C
1
2

Trombone

Percussion
(Timpani,
Suspended Cymbal,
Glockenspiel,
Hi Bongo)
One player
Timp. *f* *mf* *f* *mf* *f*

Soprano 1

Soprano 2

Choir
Alto 1

Alto 2

With strength ♩ = 88

1
Violins
f with strength
sostenuto

2
f with strength
sostenuto

Viola
f with strength
sostenuto

Violoncello
f with strength
sostenuto

Contrabass
f with strength

6

ritard.

a tempo, flowing

1 Fls. 2

Ob.

Cl.

Bsn.

Hns. 1 2

Tpts. 1 2

Tbn.

Perc.

S1

S2

Choir

A1

A2

Vlns. 1 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Cb.

ritard.

a tempo, flowing

f

to Glock.

f

p

p

p

A (♩ = 88)

11

1 Fls. *p*

2 *f* *p*

Ob. *p*

Cl. *p*

Bsn. *p*

Hns. 1 2

Tpts. 1 2

Tbn.

Perc.

S1 *p* *mp*

S2 *p* *mp*

Choir *p* *mp*

A1 *p* *mp*

A2 *p* *mp*

O, my sis-ter and my broth-er, all who walk up-on this

A (♩ = 88)

1 Vlns. *pizz.* *p*

2 *(f)* *pizz.* *p*

Vla. *pizz.* *p*

Vcl. *pizz.* *p*

Cb. *pizz.* *p*

1
Fls.

2

Ob.

Cl.

Bsn.

Hns. 1
2

Tpts. 1
2

Tbn.

Perc.

S1
earth, fold to your hearts each oth - er. *mf* *p*

S2
earth, fold to your hearts each oth - er. *mf* *p*

Choir

A1
earth, fold to your hearts each oth - er. *mf* *p*

A2
earth, fold to your hearts each oth - er. *mf* *p*

1
Vlns. *arco* *(p)*

2

Vla.

Vlc.

Cb.

19

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

Musical score for woodwinds. Flutes 1 and 2 play a melodic line with grace notes. Oboe plays a similar melodic line. Clarinet and Bassoon play a rhythmic accompaniment starting in the second measure. Dynamics include *p*.

Hns. 1 2 Tpts. 1 2 Tbn.

Musical score for brass and strings. Horns, Trumpets, and Trombone parts are mostly rests.

Perc. Glock. (very soft mallets)

Musical score for Percussion. Glockenspiel part with the instruction "Glock. (very soft mallets)" and dynamics *pp* and *pp* delicately.

S1 S2 Choir A1 A2

mf cantabile Where mer-cy dwells, the peace of the Lord is there. *p*

mf cantabile Where mer-cy dwells, the peace of the Lord is there. *p*

Musical score for voices. Soprano 1 and 2, and the Choir sing the lyrics "Where mer-cy dwells, the peace of the Lord is there." with dynamics *mf cantabile* and *p*. Alto 1 and Alto 2 parts are rests.

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

pizz. *arco* *(p)* *arco* *(p)*

Musical score for strings. Violins 1 and 2 play a melodic line with dynamics *pizz.* and *arco* *(p)*. Viola, Violoncello, and Contrabass play a rhythmic accompaniment.

23 **B**

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

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

Perc.

S1

S2 *mf* each_ kind - ness a gift,

Choir *mf cantabile*
 A1 To live right-ly is to love one an-oth - er

A2 *mf cantabile*
 To live right-ly is to love one an-oth - er

B

1 Vlns. *pizz.* *(p)* *arco* *pizz.*
 2 Vlns. *pizz.*
 Vla.
 Vlc. *simile*
 Cb.

27

C

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

Hns. 1 2 Tpts. 1 2 Tbn.

Perc. *pp* to Susp. Cym.

S1 *mf* each deed a prayer. *p* *(p)* O, my sis-ter and my

S2 *p* O, my sis-ter and my

Choir *p* O, my sis-ter and my

A1 *p* O, my sis-ter and my

A2 *p* O, my sis-ter and my

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

arco *pizz.* *(p)* *arco* *pizz.*

1
Fls.

2

Ob.

Cl.

Bsn.

Hns. 1
2

Tpts. 1
2

Tbn.

Perc. Susp. Cym. *pp* *f* to Bongo

S1
broth - er, fold to your hearts each oth - er. *f*

S2
broth - er, fold to your hearts each oth - er. *f*

Choir
A1
broth - er, fold to your hearts each oth - er. *f*

A2
broth - er, fold to your hearts each oth - er. *f*

1
Vlns. *arco* *f*

2 *f*

Vla. *f*

Vlc. *arco* *f*

Cb. *arco* *f*

ritard.

34

1 Fls. 1 *p*

2 Fls. 2 *p*

Ob.

Cl.

Bsn. *p*

Hns. 1

2

Tpts. 1

2

Tbn.

Perc. Bongo *p*

S1 *p*

S2 *p*

Choir

A1 *(p)*
Lis-ten, ___ lis-ten to one_ an-oth-er_

A2 *(p)*
Lis-ten, ___ lis-ten to one_ an-oth-er lis-ten, ___

ritard.

1 Vlns. *p*

2 *arco* *p*

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

Vlc. *p* *pizz.*

Cb. *p* *pizz.*

D

37 Slower ♩ = 72

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

S1 S2 Choir A1 A2

Walk with rev-'rence in the steps of those who have gone be-fore, where for - give - ness and wis - dom have stood.

Walk with rev-'rence in the steps of those who have gone be-fore, where for - give - ness and wis - dom have stood.

in the steps of those who have gone be-fore, where for - give - ness and wis - dom have stood.

Walk with rev-'rence in the steps of those who have gone be-fore, where for - give - ness and wis - dom have stood.

(p) *mf* *(p)* *mf* *mf* *mf*

D

Slower ♩ = 72

1 Vlns. 2 Vla. Vlc. Cb.

arco *arco* *arco*

40

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

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

S1
So shall the wide earth be-come a tem-ple, each lov-ing life a psalm of gra-ti - tude

S2
So shall the wide earth be-come a tem-ple, each lov-ing life a psalm of gra-ti - tude

Choir
A1
So shall the wide earth be-come a tem-ple, each life a psalm of gra-ti -

A2
So shall the wide earth be-come a tem-ple, each life a psalm of gra-ti -

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

1
Fls. *p legato*

2
Fls. *p legato*

Ob. *p legato*

Cl. *p legato*

Bsn. *p*

Hns. 1
2

Tpts. 1
2

Tbn. *p*

Perc. *p*

S1
walk with rev-'rence where for-give-ness and wis-dom have stood. *f*

S2
walk with rev-'rence where for-give-ness and wis-dom have stood. *f*

Choir
A1
tude.

A2
tude. *p*
Lis-ten, lis-ten to one an-oth-er,

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

2
Vlns. *pizz.*

Vla. *pizz.* *p*

Vlc. *pizz.* *p*

Cb. *pizz.* *p*

47

E *accel. poco a poco* (to m. 54)

1 Fls. *p*

2 Fls. *p*

Ob. *p*

Cl. *p*

Bsn. *p*

Hns. 1. *p*

2. *p*

Tpts. 1. *p*

2. *p*

Tbn. *p*

Perc. *p*

S1 *p*

S2 *p*

Choir Ah, _____

A1 *p*
Lis - ten, _____ lis - ten to one an - oth - er, lis - ten, _____

A2 *p*
lis - ten, _____ Lis - ten, _____ lis - ten to one an - oth - er,

E *accel. poco a poco* (to m. 54)

1 Vlns. *arco unis.*

2 Vlns. *p*

Vla. *p*

Vlc. *p*

Cb. *p*

51

1
Fls. *mp* *mf*

2
mp *mf*

Ob. *mp* *mf*

Cl. *mp* *mf*

Bsn. *mf*

Hns. 1 *mf* *a2*

2

Tpts. 1 *mf*

2

Tbn. *mf*

Perc. *mf*

S1 *mp* *mf*
ah, ah,

S2 *mp* *mf*
ah, lis - ten.

Choir
A1 *mf*
lis - ten, lis - ten to one an - oth - er. Lis - ten, lis - ten to one an - oth - er.

A2 *mf*
Lis - ten, lis - ten, lis - ten to one an - oth - er.

1
Vlns. *mf* 6 6 6 6

2 *mf*

Vla. *mf* 6 6 6 6

Vlc. *mf* arco

Cb. *mf* arco

F With strength ♩ = 88

ritard.

55

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

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

Perc.

Susp. Cym. To Timp. Timp.

S1
S2
Choir
A1
A2

Then _____ shall all shack - les fall. _____

Lis - ten. Lis - ten. Lis - ten. _____ Then shall all shack - les fall. _____

Lis - ten. Lis - ten. Lis - ten. _____ Then shall all shack - les fall. _____

Lis - ten. Lis - ten. Lis - ten. _____ Then shall all shack - les fall. _____

F With strength ♩ = 88

ritard.

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

58

1 Fls. *mf* *p*

2 Fls. *mf* *p*

Ob. *mf* *p*

Cl. *mf* *p*

Bsn. *mf*

Hns. 1 *mf*

2 *mf*

Tpts. 1 *mf*

2 *mf*

Tbn. *mf*

Perc. *mf* *p*

S1 *mf* *p*

S2 *mf* *p*

Choir *mf* *p*

A1 *mf* *p*

A2 *mf* *p*

Vlns. 1 *mf* *p* *div. unis.*

2 *mf* *p*

Vla. *mf* *p*

Vlc. *mf* *p*

Cb. *mf* *p*

The vio-lence of war o-ver the earth shall cease. Love shall tread out the fire of an-ger, and in its

62

G

1 Fls. 2 Fls.

Ob.

Cl.

Bsn.

Hns. 1 2

Tpts. 1 2

Tbn.

Perc.

S1 ash - es plant a tree of peace. *cresc.* Then shall all shack - les fall. *most voices f* O, my fewer voices

S2 ash - es plant a tree of peace. *cresc.* Then shall all shack - les fall. *most voices f* O, my fewer voices

Choir A1 ash - es plant a tree of peace. *cresc.* Then shall all shack - les fall. *most voices f* O, my fewer voices

A2 ash - es plant a tree of peace. *cresc.* Then shall all shack - les fall. *most voices f* O, my fewer voices

1 Vlns. 2 Vlns.

Vla.

Vlc.

Cb.

66

1 Fls. *mf*

2 Fls. *mf*

Ob. *mf*

Cl. *mf*

Bsn. *mf*

Hns. 1 *mf*

2 *mf*

Tpts. 1 *mf*

2 *mf*

Tbn. *mf*

Perc. *mf*

S1
The vio-lence of war o-ver the earth shall cease.____
sis-ter and my broth-er, fold to your hearts each oth-er.____

S2
The vio-lence of war o-ver the earth shall cease.____
sis-ter and my broth-er, fold to your hearts each oth-er.____

Choir
The vio-lence of war o-ver the earth shall cease.____
sis-ter and my broth-er, fold to your hearts each oth-er.____

A1
The vio-lence of war o-ver the earth shall cease.____
sis-ter and my broth-er, fold to your hearts each oth-er.____

A2
The vio-lence of war o-ver the earth shall cease.____
sis-ter and my broth-er, fold to your hearts each oth-er.____

1 Vlns. *mf*

2 Vlns. *mf*

Vla. *mf*

Vlc. *mf*

Cb. *mf*

70

1 Fls. *p*

2 Fls. *p*

Ob. *p*

Cl. *p*

Bsn. *mf*

Hns. 1 *mf*

2 *mf*

Tpts. 1

2

Tbn. *mf*

Perc. *mf* *p* to Glock.

S1 *mf* Love shall tread out the fire of an-ger, *p* and in its ash-es plant a tree of *mf* Where mer-cy dwells, the Lord is there.

S2 *mf* Love shall tread out the fire of an-ger, *p* and in its ash-es plant a tree of *mf* Where mer-cy dwells, the Lord is there.

Choir *mf* Love shall tread out the fire of an-ger, *p* and in its ash-es plant a tree of *mf* Where mer-cy dwells, the Lord is there.

A1 *mf* Love shall tread out the fire of an-ger, *p* and in its ash-es plant a tree of *mf* Where mer-cy dwells, the Lord is there.

A2 *mf* Love shall tread out the fire of an-ger, *p* and in its ash-es plant a tree of *mf* Where mer-cy dwells, the Lord is there.

1 Vlns. *p*

2 *p*

Vla. *p*

Vlc. *p*

Cb. *p*

ritard.

H Flowing ♩ = 108

74

1 Fls. *f*

2 Fls. *f*

Ob. *f*

Cl. *f*

Bsn. *p* *f*

Hns. 1 *f* *a2*

2 *f* *a2*

Tpts. 1 *f*

2 *f*

Tbn. *f*

Perc. *f* Glock.

S1 *unis. f* *(f)*

S2 *unis. f* *(f)*

Choir A1 *unis. f*

A2 *unis. f*

peace, plant a tree of
Plant a tree of peace, a tree of peace. Ah,

ritard.

H Flowing ♩ = 108

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

2 Vlns. *pizz.* *(p)* *f* *arco*

Vla. *pizz.* *(p)* *f* *arco*

Vlc. *pizz.* *(p)* *f* *arco*

Cb. *pizz.* *(p)* *f* *arco*

ritard.

Slower ♩ = 72

78

1 Fls. *p*

2 Fls. *p*

Ob. *p*

Cl. *(non dim.)*

Bsn. *p*

Hns. 1 *p*

2 *p*

Tpts. 1 *p*

2 *p*

Tbn. *p*

Perc.

S1 ah, love shall tread out the fire of

S2 ah, love shall tread out the fire of

Choir

A1 *(f)* Ah, love shall tread out the fire of

A2 *(f)* Ah, love shall tread out the fire of

ritard.

Slower ♩ = 72

1 Vlns. *p*

2 Vlns. *p*

Vla. *p*

Vcl. *f*

Cb. *p*

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

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

Perc.

S1
S2
Choir
A1
A2

an - ger, and in its ash - es plant a tree of peace.
an - ger, and in its ash - es plant a tree of peace.
an - ger, and in its ash - es plant a tree of peace.
an - ger, and in its ash - es plant a tree of peace.

p sub.

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

f

rolled pizz.
p
rolled pizz.
p

88

ritard.

1 Fls. *mp* *p*

2 Fls. *mp* *p*

Ob. *p* *mp*

Cl. *p* *mp*

Bsn. *mp*

Hns. 1

2

Tpts. 1

2

Tbn.

Perc.

S1

S2

Choir

A1

A2

ritard.

1 Vlns.

2 Vlns.

Vla. *rolled pizz.* *p*

Vlc. *rolled pizz.* *p*

Cb. *pizz.* *p*

93 **J** Tempo primo ♩ = 88

1
Fls.

2
Ob.

Cl.

Bsn.

Hns. 1
2

Tpts. 1
2

Tbn.

Perc.

S1

S2

Choir

A1

A2

mf

mp *Ah

Lis-ten, lis-ten to one a-noth-er.

Lis-ten, lis-ten to one a-noth-er.

Lis-ten, lis-ten to one a-noth-er.

Lis-ten, lis-ten to one a-noth-er.

Lis-ten, lis-ten to one a-noth-er.

Lis-ten, lis-ten to one a-noth-er.

gliss. up and down keyboard

p

St. mute

St. mute

p

a2

p

p

p

J Tempo primo ♩ = 88

1
Vlns.

2

Vla.

Vlc.

Cb.

p

arco, sul tasto

p

arco, sul tasto

p

arco, sul tasto

p

arco, sul tasto

p

*A few voices hold pitch on "Ah," most voices sing the pattern.
Walker / The Tree of Peace

96

1 Fls.
2 Fls.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
Hns. 1
2 Hns. *a2*
Tpts. 1
2 Tpts.
Tbn.
Perc. *gliss. up and down keyboard*
S1 **p* (Ah)
S2 **p* (Ah)
Choir
A1 **p* (Ah)
A2 **p* (Ah)
1 Vlns.
2 Vlns.
Vla.
Vlc.
Cb.

Lis - ten, _ lis - ten to one _ a - noth - er, lis - ten to one _ a - noth - er, lis - ten to one _ a - noth - er. _
Lis - ten, _ lis - ten to one _ a - noth - er, lis - ten to one _ a - noth - er, lis - ten to one _ a - noth - er. _
Lis - ten, _ lis - ten to one _ a - noth - er, lis - ten to one _ a - noth - er, lis - ten to one _ a - noth - er. _
Lis - ten, _ lis - ten to one _ a - noth - er, lis - ten to one _ a - noth - er, lis - ten to one _ a - noth - er. _

*A few more voices join the held "Ah." A few less sing the pattern.
Walker / *The Tree of Peace*

ritard. to end

99

1 Fls. *(p)*

2 Fls. *(p)*

Ob. *(p)*

Cl. *(p)*

Bsn. *(p)*

Hns. 1

2

Tpts. 1

2

Tbn.

Perc. *white note glissando, entire length of keyboard* Timp. *pp*

S1 Peace, peace.

S2 Peace.

A1 Peace.

A2 Peace.

ritard. to end

1 Vlns.

2 Vlns.

Vla. *(p)*

Vlc. *pizz* *(p)*

Cb. *pizz* *(p)*