

No. 6463 | Walker | The Tree of Peace | Women's Chorus (SSAA *divisi*) & Piano

GWYNETH WALKER

The Tree of Peace

*for Women's Chorus (SSAA divisi) and Piano*

# The Tree of Peace

for Women's Chorus (SSAA divisi) and Piano

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

Gwyneth Walker

**With strength** ♩ = 88

Piano

6 *rit.* *a tempo, flowing*

10 **A** (♩ = 88) *p*

S 1 O, my sis - ter and my

S 2 O, my sis - ter and my

A 1 O, my sis - ter and my

A 2 O, my sis - ter and my

*p unobtrusive*

(Ped.)

13 *mp*  
broth - er, all who walk up - on this earth,  
*mp*  
broth - er, all who walk up - on this earth,  
*mp*  
broth - er, all who walk up - on this earth,  
*mp*  
broth - er, all who walk up - on this earth,  
*p*  
Ped. Ped. Ped.

16 *mf* *p*  
fold to your hearts each oth - er.  
*mf* *p*  
fold to your hearts each oth - er.  
*mf* *p*  
fold to your hearts each oth - er.  
*mf* *p*  
fold to your hearts each oth - er.  
*p*  
Ped. Ped. Ped.

19 *mf cantabile*

S 1  
Where mer-cy dwells, the peace of the Lord is there. \_\_\_\_\_

S 2  
Where mer-cy dwells, the peace of the Lord is there. \_\_\_\_\_

(p)

Ped. \_\_\_\_\_ Ped. \_\_\_\_\_ Ped. \_\_\_\_\_ Ped. \_\_\_\_\_ Ped. \_\_\_\_\_

22 *p* **B**

S 1 \_\_\_\_\_

S 2 \_\_\_\_\_

A 1 *mf cantabile*  
To live right-ly is to love one an-oth - er \_\_\_\_\_

A 2 *mf cantabile*  
To live right-ly is to love one an-oth - er \_\_\_\_\_

*mf*

Ped. \_\_\_\_\_ Ped. \_\_\_\_\_ Ped. \_\_\_\_\_ Ped. \_\_\_\_\_

25

*(mf)* each deed a

*mf* each - kind - ness a gift,

Ped. Ped. Ped.

28

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

*p* O, my sis - ter and my

*p* O, my sis - ter and my

*p* O, my sis - ter and my

Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped.

31

*f*

broth - er, fold to your hearts each oth - er.

*f*

broth - er, fold to your hearts each oth - er.

*f*

broth - er, fold to your hearts each oth - er.

*f*

broth - er, fold to your hearts each oth - er.

*f*

*f*

Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped.

34

*p*

*p*

*p*

*p* (*p*)

Lis - ten, lis - ten to one - an - oth - er,

*p*

*p*

Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped.

D

Slower ♩ = 72  
(p)

36 rit.

Walk with rev-'rence in the steps of those who have  
(p)

Walk with rev-'rence in the steps of those who have

*p*  
Lis-ten, \_\_\_\_\_ lis-ten to one an-oth-er. \_\_\_\_\_ in the steps of those who have

lis-ten. \_\_\_\_\_ Walk with rev-'rence in the steps of those who have

*rit.* Slower ♩ = 72

*p*

Ped. \_\_\_\_\_ Ped. \_\_\_\_\_

38

*mf*

gone be-fore, where for-give-ness and wis-dom have stood. So shall the wide earth be-come our

*mf*

gone be-fore, where for-give-ness and wis-dom have stood. So shall the wide earth be-come our

*mf*

gone be-fore, where for-give-ness and wis-dom have stood. So shall the wide earth be-come our

*mf*

gone be-fore, where for-give-ness and wis-dom have stood. So shall the wide earth be-come our

*f*





47 E *accel. to m. 54*

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

Ah, \_\_\_\_\_

Lis - ten, \_\_\_\_\_ lis - ten to one \_ an - oth - er, lis - ten. \_\_\_\_\_

lis - ten. \_\_\_\_\_ Lis - ten, \_\_\_\_\_ lis - ten to one \_ an - oth - er,

*accel. to m. 54*

Ped. \_\_\_\_\_ Ped. \_\_\_\_\_ Ped. \_\_\_\_\_ Ped. \_\_\_\_\_

49 *(accel.)* *p* *mp* *mp*

Ah, \_\_\_\_\_

ah, \_\_\_\_\_

Lis - ten, \_\_\_\_\_ lis - ten to one \_ an - oth - er, lis - ten. \_\_\_\_\_

lis - ten. \_\_\_\_\_ Lis - ten, \_\_\_\_\_ lis - ten to one \_ an - oth - er,

*(accel.)* *mp*

Ped. \_\_\_\_\_ Ped. \_\_\_\_\_ Ped. \_\_\_\_\_ Ped. \_\_\_\_\_

51 (accel.) *mp* *mf*

ah, ah,

*mp* *mf*

ah, lis - ten,

*mf*

Lis - ten, lis - ten to one \_ an - oth - er. Lis - ten, lis - ten to one \_ an - oth - er.

*mf*

lis - ten. Lis - ten, lis - ten to one \_ an - oth - er.

(accel.)

*mf* 5 5 5 5

*mf* 5 5 5 3

Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped.

53 (accel.) **Quickly** *f*

lis - ten. Lis - ten to one \_ an - oth - er, lis - ten to one \_ an - oth - er,

*f*

ah. Lis - ten to one \_ an - oth - er, lis - ten to one \_ an - oth - er,

*f*

Lis - ten, lis - ten to one \_ an - oth - er. Lis - ten to one \_ an - oth - er, lis - ten to one \_ an - oth - er,

*f*

Lis - ten, lis - ten to one \_ an - oth - er. Lis - ten to one \_ an - oth - er, lis - ten to one \_ an - oth - er,

(accel.) **Quickly** *f*

5 3 5 5

*f* 5 5 5 5

Ped. Ped.

55 *rit.* **f** **F With strength** ♩ = 88

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. \_

*rit.* **f** **With strength** ♩ = 88

58 *mf*

The vi - o - lence of war o - ver the earth shall cease. Love shall tread out the fire of

The vi - o - lence of war o - ver the earth shall cease. Love shall tread out the fire of

The vi - o - lence of war o - ver the earth shall cease. Love shall tread out the fire of

The vi - o - lence of war o - ver the earth shall cease. Love shall tread out the fire of

*mf*



65 shack - les fall. \_ The vi - o - lence of war o - ver the earth shall cease.

O, my sis - ter and my broth - er, fold \_  
*a few voices*

shack - les fall. \_ The vi - o - lence of war o - ver the earth shall cease.

O, my sis - ter and my broth - er, fold  
*a few voices*

shack - les fall. \_ The vi - o - lence of war o - ver the earth shall cease.

O, my sis - ter and my broth - er, fold \_  
*a few voices*

shack - les fall. \_ The vi - o - lence of war o - ver the earth shall cease.

O, my sis - ter and my broth - er, fold \_  
*a few voices*

69

Love shall tread out the fire of an-ger, and in its  
*mf* *p*

— to your hearts each oth-er. — Where mer - cy dwells, the Lord is

Love shall tread out the fire of an-ger, and in its  
*mf* *p*

— to your hearts each oth-er. — Where mer - cy dwells, the Lord is

Love shall tread out the fire of an-ger, and in its  
*mf* *p*

— to your hearts each oth-er. — Where mer - cy dwells, the Lord is

Love shall tread out the fire of an-ger, and in its  
*mf* *p*

— to your hearts each oth-er. — Where mer - cy dwells, the Lord is

*rit.*

**H** **Flowing** ♩ = 108

*f*

73 ash - es plant a tree of peace, plant a tree of peace. \_\_\_\_\_  
 there. Plant a tree of peace, a tree of peace. \_\_\_\_\_

*f*

ash - es plant a tree of peace, plant a tree of peace. \_\_\_\_\_  
 there. Plant a tree of peace, a tree of peace. \_\_\_\_\_

*f*

ash - es plant a tree of peace, plant a tree of peace. \_\_\_\_\_  
 there. Plant a tree of peace, a tree of peace. \_\_\_\_\_

*f*

ash - es plant a tree of peace, plant a tree of peace. \_\_\_\_\_  
 there. Plant a tree of peace, a tree of peace. \_\_\_\_\_

*f*

ash - es plant a tree of peace, plant a tree of peace. \_\_\_\_\_  
 there. Plant a tree of peace, a tree of peace. \_\_\_\_\_

*f*

ash - es plant a tree of peace, plant a tree of peace. \_\_\_\_\_  
 there. Plant a tree of peace, a tree of peace. \_\_\_\_\_

*f*

ash - es plant a tree of peace, plant a tree of peace. \_\_\_\_\_  
 there. Plant a tree of peace, a tree of peace. \_\_\_\_\_

*f*

ash - es plant a tree of peace, plant a tree of peace. \_\_\_\_\_  
 there. Plant a tree of peace, a tree of peace. \_\_\_\_\_

*f*

**Flowing** ♩ = 108

*rit.*

*p*

*f*

Ped. Ped.

77

*rit.* **Slower** (*f*)

Ah, \_\_\_\_\_ ah. \_\_\_\_\_ Love shall tread out the fire of

Ah, \_\_\_\_\_ ah. \_\_\_\_\_ Love shall tread out the fire of

Ah. \_\_\_\_\_ Love shall tread out the fire of

Ah. \_\_\_\_\_ Love shall tread out the fire of

*rit.* **Slower** (*f*)

*Ped.* *Ped.* *Ped.* *Ped.*

82

**I** a tempo ♩ = 108

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

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

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

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

a tempo ♩ = 108

*cantabile*

*mf*



88 *rit.*

93 **J** **Tempo primo** ♩ = 88

*mf* Lis-ten, — lis-ten to one — an-oth-er. — *mp* Ah, —

*mf* Lis-ten, — lis-ten to one — an-oth-er. — *mp* Ah, —

*mf* Lis-ten, — lis-ten to one — an-oth-er. — *mp* Ah, —

*mf* Lis-ten, — lis-ten to one — an-oth-er. — *mp* Ah, —

*mf* Lis-ten, — lis-ten to one — an-oth-er. — *mp* Ah, —

*mf* Lis-ten, — lis-ten to one — an-oth-er. — *mp* Ah, —

**Tempo primo** ♩ = 88

(*8va*)

(*mf*)

(*loco*)

*mp*

\* A few voices hold pitch on "ah," most voices sing the pattern.

96 (ah) — \* *p* ah. —  
 Lis - ten, — lis - ten to one — an - oth - er,  
 (ah) — \* *p* ah. —  
 Lis - ten, — lis - ten to one — an - oth - er,  
 (ah) — \* *p* ah. —  
 Lis - ten, — lis - ten to one — an - oth - er,  
 (ah) — \* *p* ah. —  
 Lis - ten, — lis - ten to one — an - oth - er,

98 (ah) *rit. to end*  
 lis - ten to one — an - oth - er, lis - ten to one — an - oth - er.  
 (ah)  
 lis - ten to one — an - oth - er, lis - ten to one — an - oth - er.  
 (ah)  
 lis - ten to one — an - oth - er, lis - ten to one — an - oth - er.  
 (ah)  
 lis - ten to one — an - oth - er, lis - ten to one — an - oth - er.

*rit. to end* *mf* *8<sup>va</sup>* *p*

*ped.*

\* A few more voices hold pitch on "ah," a few less voices sing the pattern.

*(rit.)*  
 100 (ah) —  
 Peace, peace.

(ah) —  
 Peace.

(ah) —  
 Peace.

(ah) —  
 Peace.

*(rit.)*  
*p*  
 8<sup>vb</sup>

(Ped.)

September 10, 2002  
 Braintree, Vermont  
 5'30"

## Program Notes

The text for *The Tree of Peace* is adapted from the Quaker poem, “O Brother Man,” by John Greenleaf Whittier (1807–1892). This 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 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 piano accompaniment; these chords are marked “with strength.” This is meant to portray the conviction of “The Tree of Peace.”

The tender aspects of the words are characterized by the arpeggio patterns in the piano; 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.

—Gwyneth Walker

---

## Gwyneth Walker

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 to pursue a career as a full-time composer.

Walker’s catalog includes over 160 commissioned works for orchestra, band, chorus and chamber ensembles. Her music is published by E. C. Schirmer Music Company of Boston (choral and vocal music) and MMB Music of St. Louis (orchestral and instrumental music).

Walker is a proud resident of Braintree, Vermont, where she lives on a dairy farm. She is the recipient of the Year 2000 “Lifetime Achievement Award” from the Vermont Arts Council.