

Full Score

GWYNETH WALKER

# Three Shaker Songs

*for String Orchestra*

“Simple Gifts”

“The Willow Tree”

“Followers of the Lamb”

# Three Shaker Songs

*duration: 9 minutes*

This suite of string arrangements provides an opportunity to revisit beloved Shaker songs. The intent is to explore, enjoy and expand upon the original tunes. The unique, often colorful character of each song guides the path for exploration.

For example, the well-known melody of “Simple Gifts” has a jagged contour heard in the falling 5ths of *'tis the gift to come down*. Similarly, the pizzicato patterns in the introduction provide leaping intervals. This is a rough-hewn song, typical of Shaker simplicity.

“The Willow Tree” takes its title from the lyrics *I will bow and be humble, yea, bow like the willow tree*. The music opens with the *bow down* motif of falling pitches played by the Violins. The close harmonies create a gentle dissonance.

The theme is presented in the Viola, in the warm, expressive lower range. A solo Viola opens and closes this movement, perhaps suggesting a solitary worshipper bowing down before the Lord.

The meter of 6/8 is well-chosen for “Followers of the Lamb,” for this is an especially joyful, bouncy song, with lyrics of:

*Oh, sisters ain't you happy!  
Oh, brethren ain't you happy!  
Ye Followers of the Lamb!*

The refrain of: *Sing on, dance on, Followers of Emanuel. Sing on, dance on, Ye Followers of the Lamb!* sways measure by measure. The listener can almost see and hear the Shakers dancing in a circle in the evenings!

The lyrics for the closing verses are very colorful. *Good hands should not be idle...in sweeping or in singing* and, *I'm glad I am a Shaker!* Truly!



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 before returning to live in her childhood hometown of New Canaan, Connecticut.

# Three Shaker Songs

for String Orchestra

Gwyneth Walker

## 1. Simple Gifts

*Playfully* (♩ = 132) *pizz.* *poco rit.*

Violin 1

Violin 2

Viola

Violoncello

Contrabass

*a tempo, with energy and enthusiasm* [A]

5 arco *f* *div.* *unis.* *unis.*

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Cb.

\*''Tis the gift to be simple, 'tis the

\*Shaker lyrics are for thematic identification only, not to be sung.

10

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Cb.

gift to be free, 'tis the gift to come down where we ought to be; and

15

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Cb.

when we find our-selves in the place just right, 'twill be in the val-ley of love

20

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Cb.

and de-light."

25 **B**

Vln. 1 *mf smoothly*

Vln. 2 *mf smoothly*

Vla. *p*

Vlc. *pizz.*  
*p*

Cb. *pizz.*  
*p*

30

Vln. 1 *p* *f* *div.* *unis.*

Vln. 2 *p* *f*

Vla. *mf arco* *p* *f*

Vlc. *mf arco* *p* *f*

Cb. *mf* *p* *f*

35

Vln. 1 *p* *f* *div.*

Vln. 2 *p* *f* *div.*

Vla. *p*

Vlc. *p*

Cb. *p*

39 C

Vln. 1

Vln. 2 *unis.* *div.* *pp* *p* *lightly separate*

Vla. *lightly separate* *p pizz.*

Vlc. *p pizz.*

Cb. *p*

44 *unis.*

Vln. 1 *pp* *p* *cresc. poco a poco*

Vln. 2 *cresc. poco a poco*

Vla. *cresc. poco a poco*

Vlc. *arco* *cresc. poco a poco*

Cb. *arco* *cresc. poco a poco*

49 *div.* D

Vln. 1 *(cresc.)* *div.* *f* *p in the background*

Vln. 2 *(cresc.)* *f* *p in the background*

Vla. *(cresc.)* *"'Tis the gift to be simple, 'tis the gift to be free."*

Vlc. *(cresc.)* *f*

Cb. *(cresc.)* *f*

53

Vln. 1  
Vln. 2  
Vla.  
Vlc.  
Cb.

*f*

Detailed description: This system contains measures 53 through 56. The first violin (Vln. 1) plays a rhythmic pattern of eighth-note chords. The second violin (Vln. 2) plays a similar pattern. The viola (Vla.) has a melodic line with slurs. The cello (Vlc.) and double bass (Cb.) play a simple harmonic accompaniment. A dynamic marking of *f* (forte) is present in measure 56.

57

Vln. 1  
Vln. 2  
Vla.  
Vlc.  
Cb.

*f*

*unis.*

*pizz.*

Detailed description: This system contains measures 57 through 61. In measure 57, the first violin (Vln. 1) has a dynamic marking of *f* and a hairpin indicating a crescendo. In measure 61, the first violin (Vln. 1) and second violin (Vln. 2) are marked *unis.* (unison). The cello (Vlc.) and double bass (Cb.) are marked *pizz.* (pizzicato) in measure 61.

62

Vln. 1  
Vln. 2  
Vla.  
Vlc.  
Cb.

*arco*

*div.*

Detailed description: This system contains measures 62 through 65. The first violin (Vln. 1) and second violin (Vln. 2) have dynamic markings of *div.* (diviso) in measure 62. The cello (Vlc.) and double bass (Cb.) are marked *arco* (arco) in measure 62. The score includes various articulation marks such as accents (^) and breath marks (v) throughout the system.

66 **E** *lightly or separate*  
*unis.*  
*p*

70

75 **F**



79

Musical score for measures 79-82. The score is for five instruments: Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, Violoncello, and Contrabass. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The tempo is marked *mf* (mezzo-forte). The music features a rhythmic pattern of eighth and sixteenth notes with accents. In measure 82, there are accents on the first and third notes of the strings.

83

*rit.* *Slowly, grandly* *div.* *a tempo*

Musical score for measures 83-87. The score is for five instruments: Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, Violoncello, and Contrabass. The key signature has one flat. The tempo changes from *rit.* (ritardando) to *Slowly, grandly* (ad libitum), then to *div.* (diviso), and finally to *a tempo*. The dynamics are marked *f* (forte). The music includes a *div.* section where the strings play a rhythmic pattern. In measure 87, the strings play a *unis.* (unison) passage.

88

**G** *div.* *unis.* *div.* *unis.*

Musical score for measures 88-91. The score is for five instruments: Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, Violoncello, and Contrabass. The key signature has one flat. A chord symbol **G** is indicated above measure 88. The tempo is marked *div.* (diviso). The music features a rhythmic pattern of eighth and sixteenth notes with accents. In measure 91, there are accents on the first and third notes of the strings.

92

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Cb.

*unis.*

*div.*

*v*

96

*rit.*

Slowly, triumphantly (♩ = 92)

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Cb.

*div.*

*div.*

*div.*

*div.*

*(f)*

*(f)*

"'Tis the gift to be simple, 'tis the gift to be free."

3:15 | December 18, 2024  
New Canaan, Connecticut

\*Take a brief pause, so that the musical phrase matches the natural pacing of the song lyrics.

## 2. The Willow Tree – A Shaker Song

“I will be bow and be humble, yea, bow like the willow tree”

Moderate tempo (♩ = 108)

[“Bow down” motif]

Vln. 1 *p* very gently

Vln. 2 *p* very gently

9 A

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla. *Solo* \*I will bow and be sim - ple, I will bow and be free, I will  
*mf espr.*

Vlc. rolled pizz.  
*p* pizz.

Cb. *p*

15

Vln. 1 *Solo* *Tutti*  
*p* (*p*)

Vln. 2 *p*

Vla. bow and be hum - ble, yea, bow like the wil - low tree,"

Vlc.

Cb.

\*Shaker lyrics are for thematic identification only, not to be sung.

20 *accel.* [B] With more motion (♩ = 120)

Vln. 1 *mf*

Vln. 2 *mf*

Vla. *Tutti* rolled pizz. arco (*mf*) rolled pizz.

Vlc. arco *mf*

Cb. *mf*

25 *div.*

Vln. 1 *div.*

Vln. 2

Vla. pizz. arco

Vlc. arco pizz. pizz.

Cb. arco pizz.

30 [C] ["Bow down" motif] *unis.*

Vln. 1 *f*

Vln. 2 *f*

Vla. *f*

Vlc. arco *f* *sost.*

Cb. arco *f* *sost.*

36 D

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Cb.

*p*

*p*

*p*

*p*

*pizz.*

*p*

41

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Cb.

*p*

rolled pizz.

46 E

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Cb.

*p in the background*

*p in the background*

*mf*

arco

*mf*

arco

*mf*

51

Vln. 1 *mf*

Vln. 2 *mf*

Vla.

Vlc.

Cb. pizz.

56

Vln. 1 *div.*

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc. *sost.*

Cb. arco *sost.*

61

**F** *With intensity*  
[“Bow down” motif]

Vln. 1 *unis.* *f*

Vln. 2 *div.* *unis.* *f*

Vla. *f*

Vlc. *f*

Cb. *f*

66

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Cb.

71 *rit.* **G** Slower (♩ = 108)

"I will bow and be hum-ble, yea, bow like the wil-low tree."

*p*

*p*

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Cb.

77 *rit.*

*pp* background

*pp* background

Solo "Bow and be hum-ble, yea, bow like the wil-low tree."

*mf*

*pp*

*pizz.*

*p*

*pizz.*

*p*

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Cb.

\*Take a brief pause, so that the musical phrase matches the natural pacing of the song lyrics.

### 3. Followers of the Lamb

With a joyful bounce (♩. = 112)

\* *f*  
 \* arco  
 \* arco  
 simile  
 simile  
 simile

8 \*\*\*"Oh [A] sis - ters ain't you hap - py! Oh sis - ters ain't you hap - py!  
*f*

15 Oh sis - ters ain't you hap - py, hap - py, hap - py, Ye fol - low - ers of the  
 \* *f*

\* Grace notes precede the beat  
 \*\*Shaker lyrics are for thematic identification only, not to be sung.  
 Walker | Three Shaker Songs | 3. Followers of the Lamb



22 *Lamb!*" B

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Cb. "Oh breth - ren ain't you hap - py! Oh

29

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Cb. breth - ren ain't you hap - py! Oh breth - ren ain't you hap - py,

35 *boldly*

Vln. 1 *boldly*

Vln. 2 *boldly*

Vla.

Vlc.

Cb. hap - py, hap - py, Ye Fol - low - ers of the Lamb!"

**C** Refrain [Viola, Cello, and Bass sway very gently (almost imperceptibly), Left and Right, as marked. Violins do not sway yet.]

41 **L** "Sing on, **R** dance on, **L** Fol-low - ers of **R** E - man - u - el. **L** Sing on, **R** dance on, Ye

(f) pizz. arco

(f) pizz. arco

(f) pizz. arco

(f) arco

(f) arco

(f) arco

47 **L** Fol-low - ers of **R** the Lamb. **L** Sing on, **R** dance on, **L** Fol-low - ers of **R** E - man - u - el.

pizz. arco

(f) arco

(f) arco

(f) arco

(f) arco

**L** **R** Stop swaying

53 Sing on, dance on, Ye Fol-low-ers of

*lightly (Solo or a few players)*

Fol-low-ers of

Fol-low-ers of the Lamb!"

pizz.

pizz.

59 **D** Jovial, light-hearted

*p*

*mf*  
rolled pizz.

*mf*

*mf*

65 **E**

*playfully gliss.* *mf*

71 F

Musical score for measures 71-76. The score is for five instruments: Violin 1 (Vln. 1), Violin 2 (Vln. 2), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vlc.), and Contrabass (Cb.). Measures 71-76 are shown. Vln. 1 is mostly silent, with a *mf* dynamic marking at measure 76. Vln. 2 plays a melodic line with eighth notes and a slur. Vla. is silent. Vlc. and Cb. play a steady eighth-note accompaniment. The section ends with a boxed letter 'F' above measure 76.

77

Musical score for measures 77-82. The score is for five instruments: Violin 1 (Vln. 1), Violin 2 (Vln. 2), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vlc.), and Contrabass (Cb.). Measures 77-82 are shown. Vln. 1 and Vln. 2 play melodic lines with eighth notes and slurs. Vla. plays a steady eighth-note accompaniment. Vlc. and Cb. play a steady eighth-note accompaniment.

83 G

Musical score for measures 83-88. The score is for five instruments: Violin 1 (Vln. 1), Violin 2 (Vln. 2), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vlc.), and Contrabass (Cb.). Measures 83-88 are shown. Vln. 1 plays a melodic line with eighth notes and a slur. Vln. 2 plays a steady eighth-note accompaniment. Vla. plays a steady eighth-note accompaniment. Vlc. and Cb. play a steady eighth-note accompaniment. The section ends with a boxed letter 'G' above measure 83.

90 H sul pont.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Cb.

"Good hands should not be i - dle. Good

pizz.

96

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Cb.

hands should not be i - dle. Good hands should not be i - dle,

arco

102 ord. "In

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Cb.

i - dle, i - dle, Ye Fol-low-ers of the Lamb!"

ord.

pizz.

I

108 sweep - ing or in sing - ing!

In sweep - ing or in sing - ing!

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Cb.

*a "sweeping" gesture*  
*gliss. ad lib.*

*p* ————— *f*

*gliss. ad lib.*

*p* ————— *f*

arco

*gliss. ad lib.*

*p* ————— *f*

114

In sweep - ing or in sing - ing, sing - ing, sing - ing, Ye

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Cb.

*gliss. ad lib.*

*p* ————— *f*

*gliss. ad lib.*

*f*

*gliss. ad lib.*

*f*

*p* ————— *f*

*(f)*

*(f)*

*(f)*

J Refrain [Viola, Cello, and Bass sway as before]

120 Fol - low - ers of the Lamb!"

L R  
"Sing on, dance on,

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Cb.

pizz.

pizz.

pizz.

126

L Fol-low-ers of E - man - u - el. R Sing on, dance on, Ye L Fol-low-ers of the Lamb. R

Vln. 1

Vln. 2 pizz. arco pizz.

Vla.

Vlc.

Cb.

Everyone sways more *vigorously* [Violins join in]

132

L Sing on, dance on, L Follow-ers of E - man - u - el. R Sing on, dance on, Ye L Stop swaying

Vln. 1

Vln. 2 arco (f) arco

Vla. (f) arco

Vlc. arco

Cb. arco (f)

*p*

139

Vln. 1 *div.*  
*pp* very delicately

Vln. 2 *Fol-low-ers of*  
*p* *div.*  
*pp* very delicately

Vla.

Vlc.

Cb.

145 K

Vln. 1 *cresc. poco a poco* (to m. 158) *mp* (*cresc.*)

Vln. 2 *cresc. poco a poco* (to m. 158) *mp* (*cresc.*)

Vla. *p* *cresc. poco a poco* (to m. 158) *Vigorous tremolo* (inspired by the word "Shaker") *mp* (*cresc.*)

Vlc. *"I'm glad I am a Sha - ker, so glad I am a*

Cb. *p* *cresc. poco a poco* (to m. 158) *arco* *pizz.* *mp* (*cresc.*)



151

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Cb.

*mf (cresc.)*

*mf (cresc.)*

*mf (cresc.)*

*mf (cresc.)*

*mf (cresc.)*

Sha - ker;

arco

"I'm glad I am a Sha - ker, Ye Fol - lowers"

157

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Cb.

*f*

*f*

*f*

*f*

*f*

*gliss.*

*gliss.*

*gliss.*

*gliss.*

*gliss.*

of the Lamb!"

