Gwyneth Walker

Earth and Sky

a triple concerto for Violin, Viola, Cello
and Orchestra (or Piano)
and Readers

Open Land – grandeur and peace
Rivers – rushing water, still water
Unexpected Moments – the quirks of nature
One People, One Land – reverence for the earth
Earth and Sky: a description

Earth and Sky, a triple concerto for Violin, Viola, Cello and Chamber Orchestra, has been commissioned by the string trio ensemble, Musical Harmonia (Joan Griffing, Violin; Diane Phoenix-Neal, Viola; Beth Vanderborgh, Cello). These musicians have performed together for many years. Truly, they display a “Oneness” and a “Harmony” in their playing.

Shared values of Reverence for the Earth and Respect for All People are central to Musica Harmonia. Therefore, this new concerto speaks with a similar message.

Earth and Sky incorporates readings of the words of great Native Americans, such as Chief Seattle (1786-1866, Suquamish Tribe) and Chief Joseph (1840-1904, Nez Perce Tribe). [The composer, a New Englander, has also included some words of New England naturalist, Henry David Thoreau, whose sentiments are closely aligned with the Native American writings.] These writings speak of love of land, and a desire for peace. Each of the readings is followed by musical commentary by the orchestra and soloists.

The concerto comprises four movements: Open Land – grandeur and peace; Rivers – rushing water, still water; Unexpected Moments – quirks of nature; One Land, One People – reverence for the earth

Total duration is 20 minutes (which includes the readings). Visual projections of photographs or paintings of landscape may be included during the performance.

Brief program notes:

Open Land speaks of the breadth and beauty of the landscape. The movement begins with a low tremolo in the accompaniment, and ends with high chords and patterns. Harmonies are often sparse and open, favoring 4ths and 5ths over 3rds. A gentle theme marked love of the land is introduced by the string soloists. This theme is eventually adopted by the orchestra. Against the theme is heard a counter-motive of scampering clusters rising and falling, inspired by the reading: Take only memories, leave nothing but footprints.

Rivers is music of kindness, following the reading: You must give to the rivers the kindness that you would give to any brother. Accompaniment chords are rolled gently, as a caress. A shimmering ostinato pattern provides the background for the theme marked as water.
flowing. Arpeggios establish fluid motion. In contrast, a middle section reflects still water. All waters converge for the ending.

The natural world can be as rough as it is beautiful. Unexpected moments startle the observer with off-beat entrances and gritty sounds. Hopping creatures bounce joyfully across the landscape, and then vanish. Friction and discord are part of everyday life.

One People, One Land presents a message of unity. The opening theme (with rhythm to reflect the speaking of the phrase We are One People) is played in unison by the soloists. The music then modulates to the key of C Major, where the Open Land theme of the first movement returns. These two themes (People…Land) alternate and intertwine. The ending, with rhythmic theme and ascending scales, is lively and celebratory.
Earth and Sky

music inspired by the Western American landscape, and
Native American writings of Peace and Reverence for the Earth

a Triple Concerto for Violin, Viola and Violoncello soli
and chamber orchestra
composed by Gwyneth Walker

duration @ 20 minutes

Incorporating the writings of:
Chief Seattle (1786-1866), chief of the Suquamish Tribe (WA State)
Chief Joseph (1840-1904), chief of the Nez Perce Tribe (Oregon)
with sympathetic responses of
Henry David Thoreau (1817-1862), New England Naturalist

Open Land – grandeur and peace
Rivers – rushing water, still water
Unexpected Moments – the quirks of nature
One Land, One People – reverence for the earth
1. Open Land – grandeur and peace

Chief Seattle:

Will you teach your children what we have taught our children? That the earth is our mother? What befalls the earth befalls all the sons of the earth. This we know: the earth does not belong to man, man belongs to the earth. Take only memories, leave nothing but footprints.

Chief Joseph:

The Earth was created by the assistance of the sun, and it should be left as it was. The country was made without lines of demarcation, and it is no man’s business to divide it.

H. D. Thoreau:

Enjoy the land…but own it not.

2. Rivers – rushing waters, still water

Chief Seattle:

All things are connected, like the blood that runs in your family. The waters’ murmur is the voice of my father’s father. The rivers are our brothers. They quench our thirst. They carry our canoes, and feed our children. You must give to the rivers the kindness that you would give to any brother.

Chief Joseph:

My father sent for me. I saw that he was dying. I took his hand in mine. He said: “My son, my body is returning to my mother earth, and my spirit is going very soon to see the Great Spirit Chief. When I am gone, think of your country. This country holds your father’s body.” I pressed my father’s hand and told him I would protect his grave with my life. My father smiled and passed away to the spirit-land.

I buried him in that beautiful valley of winding waters. I love that land more than all the rest of the world.
H.D. Thoreau:

*I want to go soon and live away by the pond, where I shall hear only the wind whispering among the reeds. It will be enough if I shall leave myself behind. I seek acquaintance with nature – to know her moods and her manners. I wish to know an entire heaven and an entire earth.*

3. **Unexpected moments** – the quirks of nature

Chief Seattle:

*Every part of the earth is sacred to my people. Every shining pine needle, every sandy shore, every mist in the dark woods, every clear and humming insect is holy in the memory and experience of my people. The perfumed flowers are our sisters, the deer, the horse, the great eagle, these are family.*

H.D. Thoreau:

*You must love the crust of the earth on which you dwell – the crust, the soil, the barren rock, the harshness and meanness of Nature – that you will love this earth in its completeness. Else you will live in vain.*

4. **One People, One Land** – reverence for the earth

Chief Seattle:

*We are all children of the Great Spirit, we all belong to Mother Earth. So that they will respect the earth, tell your children that the earth is rich with the lives of our kin. The earth is our Mother. Whatever befalls the earth befalls the sons of the earth.*

Chief Joseph:

*Whenever the white man treats the Indian as they treat each other, then we will have no more wars. We shall all be alike – brothers of one father and one mother, with one sky above us and one country around us, and one government for all. Then the Great Spirit Chief who rules above will smile upon this land, and send rain to wash away the scars of battle from the face of the earth.*

Chief Seattle, Chief Joseph and Thoreau:

*We are One People. We share One Land.*
Earth and Sky
for Violin, Viola, Violoncello and Chamber Orchestra with Readers

1. Open Land

*Introduction ("openness")*  
*With slight energy*  

\[ \text{With slight energy} \] \( \text{\( J = 132 \)} \)

Solo Violin

Solo Viola

Solo Violoncello

Flute (Piccolo)

Oboe

B♭ Clarinet

Bassoon

Horns in F

Trumpets in C

Trombone

Percussion  
[One Player]  

(Low Tom-Tom, Glockenspiel, High and Low Bongos, Triangle, Wind Chimes, Hi-Hat Cymbal, Suspended Cymbal, Temple Blocks (5), Maracas, Shaker (Chocalo), Ratchet)

*Introduction ("openness")*  
*With slight energy*  

\[ \text{With slight energy} \] \( \text{\( J = 132 \)} \)

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CHIEF SEATTLE: (begin after drum roll stops)
Will you teach your children what we have taught our children?
That the earth is our mother? What befalls the earth befalls all
the sons of the earth. This we know: the earth does not belong
to man, man belongs to the earth. Take only the memories,
leave nothing but footprints.

Tap with hands ad libitum any assortment
of drums in descending pitch to suggest
“footprints on the earth”

CHIEF JOSEPH:
The earth was created
by the assistance of the sun,
and it should be left as it was.
The country was made
without lines of demarcation.

The country was made
without lines of demarcation.

HENRY DAVID THOREAU:
Enjoy the land. . . but own it not.
Moderate tempo $q = 120$

“love of the land”

Walker | Earth and Sky | 1. Open Land
Walker | Earth and Sky | 1. Open Land
Walker | Earth and Sky | 1. Open Land
Walker | Earth and Sky | 1. Open Land
Walker | Earth and Sky | 1. Open Land
Walker | Earth and Sky | 1. Open Land
Walker | Earth and Sky | 1. Open Land
Walker | Earth and Sky | 1. Open Land
Walker | Earth and Sky | 1. Open Land
Walker | Earth and Sky | 1. Open Land
Faster $\text{\textit{\textit{\textit{j}}}} = 132$

with energy and joy from the land

1. Open Land

Walker | Earth and Sky | 1. Open Land
Walker | Earth and Sky | 1. Open Land
Walker | Earth and Sky | 1. Open Land
Walker | Earth and Sky | 1. Open Land
2. Rivers – rushing water, still water

CHIEF SEATTLE: *(read before music starts)*

All things are connected, like the blood that runs in your family. The water’s murmur is the voice of my father’s father. The rivers are our brothers. They quench our thirst. They carry our canoes, and feed our children. You must give to the rivers the kindness that you would give to any brother. *(begin music)*

*Bassoons, Horns, Trumpets and Trombone are tacet in this movement.*

*Walker | Earth and Sky | 2. Rivers*
CHIEF JOSEPH:
My father sent for me. I saw that he was dying. I took his hand in mine. He said: "My son, my body is returning to my mother earth, and my spirit is going very soon to see the Great Spirit Chief. When I am gone, think of your country. This country holds your father’s body.” (cont.)
I pressed my father’s hand and told him I would protect his grave with my life. My father smiled and passed away to the spirit-land. I buried him in that beautiful valley of winding waters. I love that land more than all the rest of the world. (proceed to m. 20)

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Walker | Earth and Sky | 2. Rivers
Wind Chimes
accel. poco a poco

Vln. Solo
Vla. Solo
Vlc. Solo
Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Perc.

accel. poco a poco
rolled pizz.

pizz.
rolled
Walker | Earth and Sky | 2. Rivers
Walker | Earth and Sky | 2. Rivers
Optional section* (repeat this section during the reading, appx. 5 times or until the reading ends)

H. D. THOREAU: (optional reading)

I want to go soon and live away by the pond, where I shall hear only the wind whispering among the reeds. It will be enough if I shall leave myself behind. I seek acquaintance with nature – to know her moods and her manners. I wish to know an entire heaven and an entire earth.

*If the optional section is to be omitted, proceed directly from the end of m. 81 to m. 86.

Walker | Earth and Sky | 2. Rivers
Walker | Earth and Sky | 2. Rivers
Walker | Earth and Sky | 2. Rivers
3. Unexpected Moments – The quirks of nature

ad lib. “oddities of sounds”
each instrument is held up (for audience to see) while playing,
as if delighting in the diverse sounds.

Maracas, Shaker (Chocalo), Ratchet, Low Tom with hands

CHIEF SEATTLE:
Every part of the earth is sacred to my people. Every shining pine needle, every sandy shore, every mist in the dark woods, every clear and humming insect is holy in the memory and experience of my people. The perfumed flowers are our sisters, the deer, the horse, the great eagle, these are family.

Descending Pitched Drums, ad lib.
played with hands
Low Tom with hands

Walker | Earth and Sky | 3. Unexpected Moments
Walker | Earth and Sky | 3. Unexpected Moments

\[ \text{\textit{f} } \quad \text{\textit{d} = ca. 76, in a "rough-hewn" manner} \]

Vln. Solo

Vla. Solo

Vlc. Solo

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Bsn.

Hns. 1

Tpts. 1

Tbn.

Perc.

\[ \text{\textit{a2, Muted} } \quad \text{\textit{div.}} \]

\[ \text{\textit{a2, Cup mute} } \quad \text{\textit{div.}} \]

\[ \text{\textit{Cup mute}} \]

\[ \text{\textit{Muffled Cymbal}} \quad \text{(or Closed Hi-Hat Cym)} \]

\[ \text{\textit{senza sord.} } \quad \text{\textit{pizz.}} \quad \text{\textit{div.}} \]

\[ \text{\textit{senza sord.} } \quad \text{\textit{pizz.}} \]

\[ \text{\textit{senza sord.} } \quad \text{\textit{pizz.}} \]

\[ \text{\textit{senza sord.} } \quad \text{\textit{pizz.}} \]

\[ \text{\textit{Cup mute}} \]
in a "rough-hewn" manner

Walker | Earth and Sky | 3. Unexpected Moments
in a “rough-hewn” manner

Wood Block

Muffled Cym.
in a "rough-hewn" manner

Muffled Cym.

Vlns. (pizz.)

Vln. Solo

Vla. Solo

Vlc. Solo

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Bsn.

Hns.

Tpts.

Tbn.

Perc.

Vlns. (pizz.)

Vla.

Vlc.

Cb.

W. Blk.

div.

gliss. ad lib.

Walker | Earth and Sky | 3. Unexpected Moments
Walker | Earth and Sky | 3. Unexpected Moments
Walker | Earth and Sky | 3. Unexpected Moments
Joyfully, animated

rolled pizz.

div. (Open)

(Tpt.)
Walker | Earth and Sky | 3. Unexpected Moments
Walker | Earth and Sky | 3. Unexpected Moments
Walker | Earth and Sky | 3. Unexpected Moments
H. D. THOREAU:
You must love the crust of the earth on which you dwell –
the crust, the soil, the barren rock, the harshness and meanness of Nature –
that you will love this earth in its completeness. Else you will live in vain.
a tempo (\( \text{e}=76 \))

**Vln. Solo**

\( \text{arco} \)

\( f \)

**Vla. Solo**

\( \text{arco} \)

\( f \)

**Vlc. Solo**

\( f \)

**Picc.**

\( f \)

**Ob.**

\( f \)

**Cl.**

\( f \)

**Bsn.**

\( f \)

**Hns.**

\( \text{a2. Muted} \)

\( f \)

**Tpts.**

\( \text{div. Cup mute} \)

\( f \)

**Tbn.**

\( \text{Cup mute} \)

\( f \)

**Perc.**

\( \text{Muffled Cym.} \)

\( f \)

**Vlns.**

\( \text{Tutti, div.} \)

\( f \)

\( \text{pizz., unis.} \)

**Vla.**

\( \text{Tutti, unis.} \)

\( f \)

\( \text{pizz.} \)

**Vlc.**

\( \text{arco, unis.} \)

\( f \)

\( \text{pizz.} \)

**Cb.**

\( \text{arco} \)

\( f \)

**Walker | Earth and Sky | 3. Unexpected Moments**
Walker | Earth and Sky | 3. Unexpected Moments
Walker | Earth and Sky | 3. Unexpected Moments
Walker | Earth and Sky | 3. Unexpected Moments
4. One People, One Land – reverence for the earth

CHIEF SEATTLE: (read before music begins)
We are all children of the Great Spirit, we all belong to Mother Earth. So that they will respect the earth, tell your children that the earth is rich with the lives of our kin. The earth is our Mother. Whatever befalls the earth befalls the sons of the earth.

CHIEF JOSEPH:
Whenever the white man treats the indian as they treat each other, then we will have no more wars. We shall be alike – brothers of one father and one mother, with one sky above us and one country around us, and one government for all. Then the Great Spirit Chief who rules above will smile upon this land, and send rain to wash away the scars of battle from the face of the earth. (begin music)

READ BY ALL*
We are One People.
We share One Land.

*Chief Seattle, Chief Joseph and H. D. Thoreau

Walker | Earth and Sky | 4. One People, One Land
Walker | Earth and Sky | 4. One People, One Land
Walker | Earth and Sky | 4. One People, One Land
One People, One Land

“Open land” theme

cont. as a quiet background

cont. as a quiet background

cont. as a quiet background

cont. as a quiet background

cont. as a quiet background

cont. as a quiet background

cont. as a quiet background

cont. as a quiet background

cont. as a quiet background

cont. as a quiet background

cont. as a quiet background

Walker | Earth and Sky | 4. One People, One Land
Walker | Earth and Sky | 4. One People, One Land
Walker | Earth and Sky | 4. One People, One Land
Walker | Earth and Sky | 4. One People, One Land
Walker | Earth and Sky | 4. One People, One Land
1 Freely, as a cadenza

2 cut-off [from conductor]

3 col Viola

4 with intensity

5 Moderate tempo \( \dot{J} = 108 \)

6 molto rit.

Walker | Earth and Sky | 4. One People, One Land
M Lively, celebratory \( \text{j} = 132 \)

103 “We are One People” rhythm

M Lively, celebratory \( \text{j} = 132 \)

“We are One People” rhythm

snap pizz.

unis. \( \sum \)

unis. \( \sum \)

pizz., unis.

pizz.