

GWYNETH WALKER

Let Us Break Bread
Together

for Orchestra

with optional readings from the song
Let Us Break Bread Together
and the poem *The New Colossus*

Let Us Break Bread Together

duration: 3-4 minutes

As we celebrate the 250th anniversary of the United States (1776-2026), we remind ourselves that our land strives to be a compassionate land. We welcome the stranger. *Give me your tired, your poor...* We break bread together.

Let us Break Bread Together

African-American spiritual

may be read aloud by one, or several, readers in alternation

before the start of the playing

Let us break bread together, on our knees.

Let us break bread together, on our knees.

When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,

O Lord, have mercy on me.

Let us love one another, on our knees.

Let us love one another, on our knees.

When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,

O Lord, have mercy on me.

Let us rise up together, all as one.

Let us rise up together, all as one.

When I rise from my knees, with my face to the rising sun,

O Lord, have mercy, Lord, have mercy,

O Lord, have mercy on me –

And bring us peace.

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.

Let Us Break Bread Together

for Symphony Orchestra

African-American Spiritual

arr. by Gwyneth Walker

Gently flowing ♩ = 112

Piccolo

Flutes 1 2

Oboes 1 2

B♭ Clarinets 1 2

Bassoons 1 2

Horns in F 1 2 3 4

Trumpets in C* 1 2 3

Trombones 1 2

Bass Trombone

Tuba

Glockenspiel/ Temple Blocks

Percussion (Low Tom-Tom, Bongos, Triangle, Suspended Cymbal)

Glockenspiel
slowly, gently

p

Gently flowing ♩ = 112

Violin 1

Violin 2

Viola

Violoncello

Contrabass

rolled pizz. *p*

rolled pizz. *p*

rolled pizz. *p*

rolled pizz. *p*

pizz. *p*

arco

**Lord, have mer - cy

(*p*) sost.

(*p*) sost.

(*p*) sost.

(*p*) sost.

(*p*) sost.

(*p*) sost.

* Parts for B♭ Trumpet are available.

**Lyrics for thematic identification only – not to be sung.

6 A

Picc.

Fls. 1 2

Obs. 1 2

Cls. 1 2

Bsns. 1 2

Hns. 1 2 3 4

18

This musical score page contains measures 18 through 22. The instrumentation includes Piccolo, Flutes (1 and 2), Oboes (1 and 2), Clarinets (1 and 2), Bassoons (1 and 2), Horns (1, 2, 3, and 4), Trumpets (1, 2, and 3), Trombones (1 and 2), Baritone/Tuba, Glockenspiel/Triangles, Percussion, Violins (1 and 2), Viola, Violoncello, and Contrabass.

The key signature has two sharps (F# and C#). Measure 18 features woodwinds (Flutes, Oboes, Clarinets) playing a melodic phrase starting on G4, moving up stepwise to A4, B4, and C5, all marked *mf*. Measures 19 and 20 are rests for these instruments. In measure 21, the Horns enter with a sustained chord of D4-F#4-A4-C5, also marked *mf*. The strings play a rhythmic accompaniment of eighth notes: F#3-G#3-A3-B3 in the first four measures, followed by E3-D#3-C#3-B2 in measures 19-20, and finally A2-G2-F#2-E2 in measures 21-22, all marked *mf*.

In measure 22, there is a change in dynamics and texture. The woodwinds and strings continue their patterns, but the Horns' chord becomes *sost.* (sostenuto). Additionally, the Percussion part introduces a "Low Tom" drum sound, marked *mf*, which continues through measure 22.

Lyrics for the vocal parts (not fully visible in this snippet) include: "knees with my face to the ris - ing sun, O, Lord have mer - cy on me."

25 C

Picc.

Fls. 1 *p* *mf*

Fls. 2

Obs. 1 *p*

Obs. 2

Cls. 1 *p*

Cls. 2

Bsns. 1
mf cant. *mf cant.*

Bsns. 2

Hns. 1
mf

Hns. 2

Hns. 3
mf

Hns. 4

Tpts. 1

Tpts. 2

Tpts. 3

Tbns. 1

Tbns. 2

B. Tbn.

Tuba

Glock./ T. Blks.

Perc.
p (*p*)

Vln. 1 *pizz.* *p* (*pizz.*) *mf cant.*

Vln. 2 *pizz.* *p* (*pizz.*) *mf cant.*

Vla. *pizz.* *p* (*pizz.*) *mf cant.*

Vlc.

Cb.

31 D

Picc. (1.)

Fls. 1 2

Obs. 1 2 *mf*

Cls. 1 2

Bsns. 1 2 *legato* +1.

Hns. 1 2 *legato* 3 4 *legato*

Tpts. 1 2 3

Tbns. 1 2

B. Tbn.

Tuba

Glock./ T. Blks. *Glock.* *p*

Perc. (Bongo)

D

Vln. 1 *arco* *div.*

Vln. 2 *arco*

Vla. *arco* *mf*

Vlc. *pizz.* *p* *arco* *mf*

Cb. *pizz.* *p* *arco* *mf*

love one - an - oth - er on our knees.

When I fall to my knees wirh my

37

Fls. 1 2

Obs. 1 2

Cls. 1 2

Bsns. 1 2

Hns. 1 2 3 4

Glock./ T. Blks.

Perc.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Cb.

mf

legato

mf

legato

mf

legato

mf

Low Tom (sticks)

p *mf*

unis. O Lord, have mer-cy on me.

mf

mf

face to the ris - ing sun, *div.* *unis.*



Optional section: repeat as needed to provide a quiet background for the adjacent reading which may be read by one or several readers.

43

Perc.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Cb.

6 drums of descending pitch with hands

pp barely audible

p

p

p

p

p

pizz.

p

Give me your tired, your poor,
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.
Send these, the homeless tempest-tost to me.
I lift my lamp beside the golden door!

— from *The New Colossus* by Emma Lazarus, 1883

Lord have mer - cy, Lord have mer - cy, mer - cy. Let us

E Triumphantly

51

Picc.

Fls. 1 2

Obs. 1 2

Cls. 1 2

Bsns. 1 2

Hns. 1 2 3 4

Tpts. 1 2 3

Tbns. 1 2

B. Tbn.

Tuba

Perc.

Suspended Cymbal

p *f* *mf* *unobtrusive* *p*

E Triumphantly

rise up to - geth - er all as one. Let us rise up to -

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Cb.

56 F

Picc.

Fls. 1
2

Obs. 1
2

Cls. 1
2

Bsns. 1
2

Hns. 1
2
3
4

Tpts. 1
2
3

Tbns. 1
2

B. Tbn.

Tuba

Glock./
T. Blks.

Perc. (Susp. Cym.)

f *mf*

geth - er all as one.

F

p light trem., at the tip

p light trem., at the tip

p light trem., at the tip

p When I rise from my knees with my face to the ris - ing div.

p

p

p

68

Picc.

Fls. 1 2

Obs. 1 2

Cls. 1 2

Bsns. 1 2

Hns. 1 2 3 4

Tpts. 1 2 3

Tbns. 1 2

B. Tbn.

Tuba

Glock./ T. Blks.

Perc. (T. Blks.) (Tom) Triangle

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Cb.

mer - cy, O Lord, have mer - cy, have

div. unis.

rit. dim. p f p

G

74 *Slowly, peacefully* *rit.*

Picc. 1. *p*

Fls. 1. *p*

Obs. 1. *p*

Cls. 1. *p*

Bsns. 1. *p*

Hns. 1. *p*

3. *p*

4. *p*

Tpts. 1. *p*

2. *p*

3. *p*

Tbns. 1. *p*

2. *p*

B. Tbn. *p*

Tuba *p*

Glock./ T. Blks. *p*

Perc. *p*

mer - cy- and bring us peace.

Vln. 1 *p* *pizz.*

Vln. 2 *p* *pizz.*

Vla. *p* *pizz.*

Vlc. *div.* *p* *pizz.*

Cb. *p* *pizz.*