

Freedom

Freedom will not come
Today, this year
Nor ever
Through compromise and fear.

I have as much right
As the other fellow has
To stand
On my two feet
And own land.

I tire so of hearing people say,
Let things take their course.
Tomorrow is another day.
I do not need freedom when I'm
dead.
I cannot live on tomorrow's bread.
Freedom
Is a strong seed
Planted
In a great need.
I live here, too.
I want freedom
Just as you.

Dreams

Hold fast to dreams
for if dreams die
life is a broken-winged bird
that cannot fly.

Hold fast to dreams
for when dreams go
life is a barren field
frozen with snow.

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Program Notes

Freedom Will Not Come Today is a forceful song. The piano introduction grows in dynamic intensity leading to the entrance of the chorus, marked *boldly*. "Freedom will not come today, this year, or ever, through compromise and fear." This is a message of asserting one's right to freedom.

Hold Fast to Dreams, in contrast, has a gentle theme. Dreams can be precious and fragile. Thus, florid passages in the piano accompaniment reflect the dreams as they float above us. "Hold fast...for if dreams die, life is a broken-winged bird that cannot fly." At the end of this song a portion of the first song returns to link the dreams to the aspirations of freedom.

—Gwyneth Walker

Gwyneth Walker (b. 1947)

For biographical information about
the composer, please visit her Web site.
<<http://www.gwynethwalker.com>>

GWYNETH WALKER

Our Dream of Freedom

for SATB Chorus and Piano

- | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------|---------------------|----------|
| → 1. Freedom Will
Not Come Today | No. 7342 | 3. The Dream Keeper | No. 7343 |
| 2. Hold Fast to Dreams | | 4. Dream of Freedom | No. 7344 |

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47 **Slowly**
p

world.
world.
world.
world.

Slowly

8va
rapidly
let ring

Ped.

(pedal stays into next song when performing as a set) 2008
3'15"

Program Notes

The Dream Keeper is a prayer for the protection of dreams. "Bring me all of your dreams, you dreamers." The choral writing is often in hymn style, while the arpeggiated piano accompaniment flows around the chorus, perhaps "wrapping" the dreamers in a "blue cloud-cloth" of safety.

—Gwyneth Walker

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The Dream Keeper

Bring me all of your dreams,
You dreamers,
Bring me all of your
Heart melodies
That I may wrap them
In a blue cloud-cloth
Away from the too-rough fingers
Of the world.

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Dream of Freedom

There is a dream in the land
With its back against the wall.
By muddled names and strange
Sometimes the dream is called.

There are those who claim
This dream for theirs alone —
A sin for which we know
They must atone.

Unless shared in common
Like sunlight and like air,
The dream will die for lack
Of substance anywhere.

The dream knows no frontier or
tongue,
The dream no class or race.
The dream cannot be kept secure
In any one looked place.

This dream today embattled,
With its back against the wall —
To save the dream for one
It must be saved for ALL —
Our dream of freedom!

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Program Notes

The final song, *Dream of Freedom*, is energetic, with rhythmic sounds coming from the chorus. This song represents the fight for freedom “with its back against the wall.” The dream is described as “embattled,” and the singing is marked *empbatically*. Accents fill the musical score. Interspersed are quiet reminders of “Dreamers, dreamers, dream on.” At the conclusion of the song comes the line, “to save the dream for one it must be saved for all.” Thus, the final chord expands to ten pitches, as “notes for all.”

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