

# The Ends of the Earth (are in Your Hand)

for SATB Chorus and Piano

Based on the "The Lone, Wild Bird"  
Henry Richard McFayden (1877–1964)  
G. Walker, alt.

Gwyneth Walker

Moderate tempo ♩ = 112

**Solo** **A**  
*p* with plaintive longing for the presence of the Great Spirit

Alto Solo

The lone, wild

Moderate tempo ♩ = 112 (to suggest a "Lone, Wild Bird" in the distance) **A**

*pp* barely audible, as a background for the voice

Piano

6

bird in loft - y flight is still with

11

You nor leaves Your sight. And I am

**B**

(8<sup>vb</sup>)  
(8<sup>ed</sup>)

16

Alto Solo

Yours, I rest in You. Great Spir - it

(8vb)  
(Leo.)

21

Alto Solo

come, rest in me too.

(8vb)  
(Leo.)

26

T

*mf espr.*

Each se - cret thought is known to

B

*mf espr.*

Each se - cret thought is known to

*mf*

(8vb)  
(Leo.) simile

30 *p*

S Ah, Ah,

*Tutti p*

A Ah, Ah,

T You, the path I walk my whole life

B You, the path I walk my whole life

35 D

S Ah, Ah,

A Ah, Ah,

T through: my days, my deeds, my

B through: my days, my deeds, my

D

39

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

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

T hopes, my fears, \_\_\_\_\_

B hopes, my fears, \_\_\_\_\_ my deep - est

43

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

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

T my si - lent tears. \_\_\_\_\_

B joys, my si - lent tears. \_\_\_\_\_

48 *mf* **E** *unis.*

S The earth is scarred, and cries in pain. \_\_\_\_\_

A *mf* The earth is scarred, and cries in pain. \_\_\_\_\_

T \_\_\_\_\_

B \_\_\_\_\_

*mf* pain, —

*mf* pain, —

**E**

*with pedal*

53

S \_\_\_\_\_

A \_\_\_\_\_

T pain, — The for - ests burn, and thirst for

B pain, — The for - ests burn, and thirst for *unis.*

57

S rain, — rain, — When chil - dren die, and par - ents

A rain, — rain, — When chil - dren die,

T rain. — When chil - dren die,

B rain. — When chil - dren die,

[strong break] **Slowly**  
*unis. p*

**F** *rit.*

**F** *rit.* **Slowly**

*ped.*

62

S mourn, —

A *p* mourn, — *Solo (as beginning)* *p* Great Spir - it come in my heart re -

T *p* mourn, —

B *p* mourn, —

**(Slowly)**

*pp*

67 *accel.*

**S** *p* Be in our hearts re - born!

*(Solo)*

**A** born *Tutti p* [Solo rejoin]

**T** *p* Be in our hearts re - born!

**B** *unis. p* Be in our hearts re - born!

*with pedal*

*accel.*

71 *(accel.)* **G** a tempo ♩ = 112

**S** *f* For the ends of the earth are in Your hands,

**A** *f* For the ends of the earth are in Your hands,

**T** *f* For the ends of the earth are in Your hands,

**B** *f* For the ends of the earth are in Your hands,

*(accel.)* **G** a tempo ♩ = 112

S  
A  
T  
B

and the dis - tant land.  
and the dis - tant land.  
the sea's dark deep, and the dis - tant land.

S  
A  
T  
B

I noth - ing want but to know Your care. *unis.*  
I noth - ing want but to know Your care.  
I noth - ing want but to know Your care.  
I noth - ing want but to know Your care.



86

S  
A  
T  
B

re - ceive our prayer.  
re - ceive our prayer.  
re - ceive our prayer.  
Great Spir - it, come, re - ceive our prayer.

Ped.

91

*p* ————— *f* I

S  
A  
T  
B

Ah, For the ends of the  
For the ends of the  
ends of  
ends of

(Ped.) I

S  
earth are in Your hand, \_\_\_\_\_ the sea's dark

A  
earth are in Your hand, \_\_\_\_\_ the sea's dark

T  
8 earth are in Your hand, \_\_\_\_\_ sea's dark *unis.*

B  
earth are in Your hand, \_\_\_\_\_ sea's dark *unis.*

*8<sup>ub</sup>----- loco*

S  
deep, and the dis - tant land. \_\_\_\_\_ I

A  
deep, and the dis - tant land. \_\_\_\_\_ I

T  
8 deep, and the dis - tant land. \_\_\_\_\_ I *unis.*

B  
deep, and the dis - tant land. \_\_\_\_\_ I *unis.*

**J**  
104

S  
noth - ing want but to know Your care. *unis.*

A  
noth - ing want but to know Your care.

T  
noth - ing want but to know Your care.

B  
noth - ing want but to know Your care. *unis. p* Great

**J**

109

S

A  
*p* Great Spir - it, live,

T  
*unis. mp* Great Spir - it,

B  
*mp* Spir - it, hear, Great Spir - it,

114

*mp* Great Spir - it, heal, *mf* Great Spir - it, — come, — re -

*mp* Great Spir - it, heal, *mf* Great Spir - it, — come, — re -

8 breathe, *mf* Great Spir - it, come, re -

breathe, *mf* Great Spir - it, come, re -

119

**K** *p*

S ceive our prayer. *p*

A ceive our prayer. *p*

T ceive — our prayer. *p*

B ceive our prayer. *p*

**K**

125

*p*

(Ped.)

**L**

[patterns of birds in flight]

128

*p*

1 the lone, wild bird, lone, wild

2 the lone, wild bird,

**L**

(Ped.)

132

1 bird, lone, wild bird, lone, wild

2 lone, wild bird, the lone, wild bird,

*p*

1 bird in flight, bird in flight,

2 bird in flight,

(Ped.)

1  
S  
2  
1  
A  
2  
T  
B

bird,  
lone, wild bird,  
bird in flight,  
And  
And

*poco rit.*  
5  
5

(*And.*)

139 **M** Slightly slower

S  
A  
T  
B

*unis. (p)*  
Great Spir - it,  
*unis. (p)*  
Great Spir - it,  
I am Yours, I rest in You. Mmm,  
I am Yours, I rest in You. Mmm,

144 *rit.*

S  
come, rest in me, too.

A  
come, rest in me, too.

T  
*, unis.*  
rest in me, too.

B  
*, unis.*  
rest in me, too.

*rit.*  
(the "lone, wild bird")

*p* 3 3 3

*And.*

4:00

November 20, 2020  
New Canaan, Connecticut

### Program Notes

**The Ends of the Earth** is based on the folk hymn “The Lone, Wild Bird.” One of the stanzas of the lyrics spoke to the composer with special relevance to contemporary environmental concerns:

*The ends of the earth are in Your hand.  
The distant seas and the far-off land.  
I nothing want but to know Your care.  
Great Spirit, come, receive our prayer.*

This is a powerful and hopeful message of the Lord’s care for the earth. The fate of our imperiled planet is in God’s hand. And with this focus on our environment, a new verse has been inserted into this folk song:

*The earth is scarred and cries in pain.  
The forests burn, and thirst for rain.  
When children die, and parents mourn,  
Great Spirit be in our hearts reborn.*

In this time of violence, and in this time of harm to our planet, Lord, receive our prayer.