

*Gwyneth Walker*

# *The Race*

*a fable for Narrator and Brass Quintet*

*based on the story "The Hare and the Tortoise"*

*Composed especially for my friend Moises Evora  
and his fellow musicians in the Canary Islands –  
for their school and community concerts*

*Duration: 12 minutes*

*The Race is a contemporary adaptation of the familiar story, "The Hare and the Tortoise." In this new version, the central characters (Rabbit and Tortoise) remain the same. But, additional characters (the neighbors, the Owl) are added. Sights and sounds from the neighborhood are incorporated. [A baseball game. The birds singing. Neighbors waving "hello."] And, the race itself takes place with the characters donning running shoes and caps. A referee starts the race, with the sound of a Starter's Pistol.*

*There is a moral to this well-known story: slow down and appreciate your surroundings (!). And, the entire adventure ends in a grand celebration party for all!*

*This work may be performed in standard concert clothing (although running shoes or caps may be added). Or, the Narrator and brass players may experiment with costuming. The Tuba (Tortoise) may wear a backpack resembling a shell. Trumpet 1 (Rabbit) may try wearing rabbit ears (!) or paws. And, the Narrator may select some attire suggesting a Referee. Puppets and scenery may even be added.*

*The Race was created especially for school and community concerts. It is hoped that audiences of all ages will find pleasure in this simple tale, retold as a contemporary road race. Sports fans (which include the composer) might be particularly amused!*

\* \* \* \* \*

*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, Walker resigned from academic employment in 1982 in order to pursue a career as a full-time composer. She now lives on a dairy farm in Braintree, Vermont.*

*Walker's catalog includes over 130 commissioned works for orchestra, band, chorus and chamber ensembles. The music of Gwyneth Walker is published by E.C. Schirmer of Boston (choral & vocal music) and MMB Music of St. Louis (orchestral & instrumental music). Gwyneth Walker is a proud resident of Vermont. She is the recipient of the Year 2000 "Lifetime Achievement Award" from the Vermont Arts Council.*

# THE RACE

for Narrator and Brass Quintet

Gwyneth Walker

**NARRATOR:** This is a story about a race. A road race between two animals.

**Fanfare**  
Quickly, with energy ♩ = 144

1  
Trumpet 1  
2  
F Horn  
Trombone  
Tuba

**NAR:** Once upon a time, there was a speedy animal.

7 **A** cup mute  
Tpt. 1 *p*

**NAR:** He was a sprinter.

8 **A1**  
Tpt. 1 *p*

**NAR:** He ran so quickly that the wind whistled as he went by!

9 **B** [players make sound of wind rushing thru instruments]

**NAR:** He was a Rabbit. A Speedy Rabbit.

10 **C** Quickly ♩ = 160

1  
Tpt. 1  
2  
Hn.  
Tbn.  
Tuba

**NAR:** In fact, he was always in such a rush, that he never slowed down to notice the beautiful lighthouse at the end of his road, casting its circle of light out to the ships at sea.

14 **D** Moderate tempo

Tpt. 2  
Hn.  
Tbn.

**NAR:** He never heard the birds singing in the trees overhead.

18 **D1** Moderate tempo

Tpt. 2  
Hn.

**NAR:** He did not stop to watch the children playing baseball in the park.

19 **D2** Moderate tempo

Tpt. 2  
Hn.  
Tbn.

\* Rap knuckles on back of chair to resemble a baseball hitting a bat.

**NAR:** And, he never waved “hello” to his neighbors sitting on their porch.

23 **D3** Moderate tempo

(as if waving “hello”) rit.

Tpt. 2  
Hn.  
Tbn.

**NAR:** He was very speedy, and always rushed to where he was going.

25 **E** Quickly ♩ = 160

1 Tpt. 1 *cup mute* *p* *mf* *mf*

2 Tpt. 2 *cup mute* *p* *mf* *p*

Hn. *mute* *p* *mf* (*mf*)

Tbn. *cup mute* *p* *mf* *p*

Tuba (*mute*) *p* *mf* *mf*

30 *cresc.* *f* *f* *f* *cresc.* *f* *f* *f* *cresc.* *f* *f* *f* *cresc.* *f* *f* *f*

**NAR:** And then, there was the Tortoise.

35 **F** Slowly  
open

Tuba *f*

**NAR:** [A Tortoise is a VERY LARGE turtle!]

36 **F1** Very Slowly

Tuba *f*

**NAR:** He was not speedy. In fact, he never ran at all. He plodded along at a leisurely pace, always stopping to admire the lighthouse at the end of his street, casting its circle of light out to the ships at sea.

38 **G** Slowly  
open

Tpt. 2 *p* *open*

Hn. *mf cantabile* *open* *p*

Tbn. *open* *p*

**NAR:** He always slowed down to listen to the birds singing in the trees overhead.

42 **H** *Slowly*

Tpt. 2  
*p as birds singing*

Hn.  
*p as birds singing*

**NAR:** And, he always stopped to watch the children playing baseball in the park.

43 **I** *Slowly*

Tpt. 2  
*f*

Hn.  
*f*

Tbn.  
*f*

\* Rap knuckles on back of chair to resemble a baseball hitting a bat.

**NAR:** Of course, he always waived "hello" to his neighbors, sitting on their porch.

47 **J** *Slowly*  
*(as if waving "hello")*

Tpt. 2  
*p* *(as if waving "hello")* *f*

Hn.  
*p* *(as if waving "hello")* *f*

Tbn.  
*p* *(as if waving "hello")* *f*

**NAR:** He was a slow Tortoise, but he always got to where he was going...eventually!

49 **K** *at a slow lumbering tempo*

1  
Tpt. *mf* *open*

2  
Tpt. *mf*

Hn.  
*mf*

Tbn.  
*mf*

Tuba  
*f*

55

rit. . . . . Less slowly rit.

*Grandly*

Tpt. 1

Tpt. 2

Hn.

Tbn.

Tuba

**NAR:** One day, the Rabbit

61 **L** cup mute

Tpt. 1

*p*

**NAR:** (who was a boastful creature) said to the other animals: "I am the fastest animal of all. I am very speedy. Therefore, I challenge any of you to a race. See if you can catch me!" The other animals drew back in fear. They did not want to race the Speedy Rabbit. They knew that they could not catch him. But, the Tortoise

62 **L1** Slowly

Tuba

*f*

**NAR:** (brave Tortoise!) stepped forward and said: "Speedy Rabbit, I am not afraid of you. I will race you. I accept your challenge."

63 **M** at a slow lumbering tempo

open

Tpt. 1

Tpt. 2

Hn.

Tbn.

Tuba

*f*

*mf*

*mf*

*mf*

*mf*

**NAR:** The Rabbit laughed and replied: "YOU?!? You will race me?!? Why, you are the slowest animal on the block. I can beat you on only one foot if I wanted!"

67 **N** Quickly

cup mute [repeat a few times]

Tpt. 1

*p*

**NAR:** The Tortoise replied slowly: “That may be true. But you should save your boasting until after the race.”

68 **O** Quickly, with energy ♩ = 144

1 Tpt. 1 *f* open

2 Tpt. 2 *f*

Hn. *f*

Tbn. *f*

Tuba *f*

cup mute *p*

74 rit. . . . [hold chord into beginning of next reading]

1 Tpt. 1 *f*

2 Tpt. 2 *f*

Hn. *f*

Tbn. *f*

Tuba *f*

rit. . . . [hold chord into beginning of next reading]

**NAR:** So, the Rabbit and the Tortoise changed into their running clothes. They put on their running shoes, and their running caps.

80 **P** [Players may put on caps]

**NAR:** And, they lined up at the Starting Line. The Owl acted as Referee, and he said: “Runners take your marks..... ready.....set.....GO!” [*Narrator claps hands loudly, to start the race.*]

81 **P1** [Players tap feet quickly, as if running...loudly at first then dim. to a quiet background behind reading.]

**NAR:** The Rabbit got off to a quick start. He sped down the road, leaving the Tortoise far behind. Then, noticing his great lead, and being a boastful Rabbit, he said: “I am so far ahead, that the slow Tortoise will never catch up. I think that I shall stop here and take a little nap. That will show the Tortoise how much faster I am than him!”

82 **P2** [footsteps stop]

**NAR:** He raced, and he raced. *[Narrator becomes short of breath with exhaustion.]* When he came to the neighbors sitting on their porch, he stopped to ask: "Have you seen the Tortoise? Has he passed this way?" The neighbors (who were surprised to hear from the Rabbit after all of these years) answered: "Oh yes, the Tortoise came by some time ago. He is just now crossing the Finish Line. Hooray Tortoise! (they shouted to each other) Hooray Tortoise! Let's have a party to celebrate!"

108 **U** with energy in celebration ♩ = 160

1  
Tpt. 1

2  
Tpt. 2

Hn.

Tbn.

Tuba

**NAR:** The Rabbit sank down on his paws in shock. "Woe is me! Woe is me! I have lost the race to the Tortoise. And, what is worse, I have missed out all of the wonderful people and places along the way, all of these years! Woe is me!"

113 **V** Slowly, mournfully rit. . . . .

1  
Tpt. 1

2  
Tpt. 2

Hn.

Tbn.

Tuba

**NAR:** The neighbors comforted the Rabbit by saying: “Don’t worry, Rabbit. You can change your ways right now. Slow down! And, we will be your friends.” So, the neighbors threw a BIG party, and invited everyone. They celebrated the Tortoise winning the race, and they welcomed the Not-so-Speedy Rabbit as their new friend.

117 **W** Quickly, with energy  $\text{♩} = 160$  rit. **X** a tempo, very joyfully

123

129 **Y**

135 Z

1 Tpt. *p* cup mute (p)

2 Tpt. *p* cup mute

Hn. *p* *p*

Tbn. *mf* (*mf*)

Tuba *f* *p*

141 Z1

1 Tpt. *f* open *p* *f*

2 Tpt. *f* *p* *f*

Hn. *f* *p* *f*

Tbn. *p* *f*

Tuba *f* *p* *f*

NAR: (in rhythm) THE END!

rit . . . . .

147

1 Tpt. *f* *f* \*

2 Tpt. *f* *f* \*

Hn. *p (echo)* *f* \*

Tbn. *p (echo)* *f* \*

Tuba *f* \*

\* [players raise fists in air, as if celebrating winning a race.]

*(Optional part for Narrator, to be used instead of the full score, if desired)*

## THE RACE

This is a story about a race. A road race between two animals. {FANFARE}

Once upon a time, there was a speedy animal. {A}

He was a sprinter. {A1}

He ran so quickly that the wind whistled as he went by! {B} *(Brass players make the sound of wind rushing through their instruments.)*

He was a Rabbit. A Speedy Rabbit. {C}

In fact, he was always in such a rush, that he never slowed down to notice the beautiful lighthouse at the end of his road, casting its circle of light out to the ships at sea. {D}

He never heard the birds singing in the trees overhead. {D1}

He did not stop to watch the children playing baseball in the park. {D2}

And, he never waved “hello” to his neighbors sitting on their porch. {D3}

He was very speedy, and always rushed to where he was going. {E}

And then, there was the Tortoise. {F}

[A Tortoise is a VERY LARGE turtle!] {F1}

He was not speedy. In fact, he never ran at all. He plodded along at a leisurely pace, always stopping to admire the lighthouse at the end of his street, casting its circle of light out to the ships at sea. {G}

He always slowed down to listen to the birds singing in the trees overhead. {H}

And, he always stopped to watch the children playing baseball in the park. {I}

Of course, he always waived “hello” to his neighbors, sitting on their porch. {J}

He was a slow Tortoise, but he always got to where he was going...eventually! {K}

One day, the Rabbit {L}

(who was a boastful creature) said to the other animals: “I am the fastest animal of all. I am very speedy. Therefore, I challenge any of you to a race. See if you can catch me!” The other animals drew back in fear. They did not want to race the Speedy Rabbit. They knew that they could not catch him. But, the Tortoise {L1}

(brave Tortoise!) stepped forward and said: “Speedy Rabbit, I am not afraid of you. I will race you. I accept your challenge.” {M}

The Rabbit laughed and replied: “YOU?!? You will race me?!? Why, you are the slowest animal on the block. I can beat you on only one foot if I wanted!” {N}

The Tortoise replied slowly: “ That may be true. But you should save your boasting until after the race.” {O}

So, the Rabbit and the Tortoise changed into their running clothes. They put on their running shoes, and their running caps. {P} (*Brass players may put on caps.*)

And, they lined up at the Starting Line. The Owl acted as Referee, and he said “Runners take your marks..... ready..... set.....GO!” (*Narrator claps hands loudly, to start the race.*) {P1} (*Brass players tap feet quickly, as if running...loudly at first, then dim. to a quiet background behind the following reading.*)

The Rabbit got off to a quick start. He sped down the road, leaving the Tortoise far behind. Then, noticing his great lead, and being a boastful Rabbit, he said: “I am so far ahead, that the slow Tortoise will never catch up. I think that I shall stop here and take a little nap. That will show the Tortoise how much faster I am than him!” {P2}

So, the Rabbit found a nice soft little spot of grass, and lay down for a nap... {Q}

Meanwhile, the Tortoise was plodding down the road at his usual pace. Of course, he stopped to admire the beautiful lighthouse, casting its circle of light to the ships at sea. {R}

Of course, he stopped to listen to the birds singing in the trees overhead. {R1}

Of course, he stopped to watch the children playing baseball in the park. [For, he was a Red Sox\* fan, and he knew a good game when he saw one!] {R2}

And, of course, he waved “hello” to his neighbors as they sat on their porch. {R3}

By now, he was nearly at the Finish Line. At just this time, Speedy Rabbit awoke from his nap. {S}

He looked around, but did not see the Tortoise behind him, as he had expected. Nor did he see the Tortoise close by him, as he had thought he might. Instead, to his horror, he thought he spotted the Tortoise off in the distance, just about the cross the Finish Line! The Rabbit raced down the road as fast he could. Of course, he did not stop to admire the beautiful lighthouse, casting its circle of light out to the ships at sea. {T}

Of course, he did not stop to listen to the birds singing in the trees overhead. {T1}

Of course, he did not stop to watch the children playing baseball in the park (even though he was a Yankees\*\* fan, and knew a good game when he saw one!). {T2}

He raced, and he raced. (*Narrator becomes short of breath with exhaustion.*) When he came to the neighbors sitting on their porch, he stopped to ask: “Have you seen the Tortoise? Has he passed this way?” The neighbors (who were surprised to hear from the Rabbit after all of these years) answered: “Oh yes, the Tortoise came by some time ago. He is just now crossing the Finish Line. Hooray Tortoise! (they shouted to each other) Hooray Tortoise! Let’s have a party to celebrate!” {U}

The Rabbit sank down on his paws in shock. “Woe is me! Woe is me! I have lost the race to the Tortoise. And, what is worse, I have missed out all of the wonderful people and places along the way, all of these years! Woe is me!” {V}

The neighbors comforted the Rabbit by saying: “Don’t worry, Rabbit. You can change your ways right now. Slow down! And, we will be your friends.” So, the neighbors threw a BIG party, and invited everyone. They celebrated the Tortoise winning the race, and they welcomed the Not-so-Speedy Rabbit as their new friend. {W}

**THE END!**

\*or substitute the name of a local baseball team

\*\*or select a rival team