

GWYNETH WALKER
And Death Shall Have
No Dominion

for SATB Chorus and Piano

Commissioned by the Phillips Academy Chorus, Christopher Walter, Music Director
Premiered on October 31, 2010 – Andover, Massachusetts

And Death Shall Have No Dominion

for SATB Chorus and Piano

Dylan Thomas (1914–1953)

Gwyneth Walker

** And death shall have no dominion.
Dead men naked they shall be one
with the man in the wind and the west moon;
When their bones are picked clean, and the clean bones gone,
They shall have stars at elbow and foot;
Though they go mad they shall be sane,
Though they sink through the sea they shall rise again;
Though lovers be lost love shall not;
And death shall have no dominion.*

Grandly and triumphantly ♩ = 100

Piano

f

Ped. _____

accel. poco a poco

5

p

Ped. _____

(accel.)

Quickly ♩ = ca. 120

8

p

(Ped.) _____

* It is suggested that the first stanza of the poem be read aloud by members of the chorus before singing the song.

Words by Dylan Thomas used by permission of Harold Ober Associates.

A *a tempo* (♩ = 100)

11 *rit.* *f grandly and triumphantly*

S And death shall have no do -

A *f grandly and triumphantly*

T And death shall have no do -

B

A *a tempo* (♩ = 100)
(r.h. is a quiet background)

rit. loco *p*

(Ped.) _____ with Ped.

14

min - ion. Dead men na - ked they

min - ion. Dead men na - ked they

min - ion. Dead men na - ked they

no do - min - ion,

f

shall be one With the man in the wind and the west moon;

shall be one With the man in the wind and the west moon;

shall be one With the man in the wind and the west moon;

they shall be one, the

f *p*

poco rit. *Slightly slower*
pp murmuring*

no do-min-ion, no do-min-ion, no do-min-ion, no do-min-ion

pp murmuring*

no do-min-ion, no do-min-ion, no do-min-ion

pp murmuring*

no do-min-ion

west moon; no do-min-ion, no do-min-ion

poco rit. *Slightly slower*
pp

Ped.

*Perhaps just a few voices.

24

accel.
p

B *a tempo* (♩ = 100)

When their bones are picked clean and the

When their bones are picked clean and the

When their bones are picked clean and the

When their bones are picked clean and the

accel.

B *a tempo* (♩ = 100)

p

(Ped.) _____ with Ped.

27

mf

mf

p (vowel to match "stars")

p (vowel to match "stars")

clean bones gone, _____ They shall have stars at elbow and

clean bones gone, _____ They shall have stars at elbow and

clean bones gone, _____ ah,

clean bones gone, _____ ah,

mf

p

Ped. _____

Ped. _____

30 *f div.*

foot; Though they go mad they shall be sane,

f

foot; Though they go mad they shall be sane, *f*

8

Though they *f*

Though they

f

(Ped.) with Ped.

33 *rit.* *p unis.* *f* *Slowly*

rise a - gain; Though lov - ers be lost

p *f*

they shall rise a - gain; Though lov - ers be lost

p *f*

8 sink through the sea they shall rise a - gain; Though lov - ers be lost

p div. *f*

sink through the sea they shall rise a - gain; Though lov - ers be lost

rit. *f* *Slowly*

p *f* *(f)*

Ped.

37 *accel.* *a tempo* (♩ = 100)

p , *f*

love shall not; and death shall have no do - min - ion.

p , *f*

love shall not; and death shall have no do - min - ion.

p , *f*

love shall not; and death shall have no do - min - ion.

p , *unis.* *f*

love shall not; and death shall have no do - min - ion.

accel. *a tempo* (♩ = 100)

p *f*

Ped. *Ped.*

41 C *f*

no do -

f

And death shall have no do - min - ion.

C *f*

Ped. *Ped.* *Ped.* *Ped.*

45

min - ion. (f)
 They ly - ing long shall not die
 (f)
 They ly - ing long shall not die

f
 the sea

f
 Un - der the wind-ings of the sea

48

wind - i - ly; D div.
 Twist - ing on rack where sin-ews give way, _____
 wind - i - ly; D
 Twist - ing on rack where sin-ews give way, _____

51 *rit. unis.* *a tempo* (♩ = 100)

yet they shall not break; Faith in their hands shall
 yet they shall not break; Faith in their hands shall
 Strapped to a wheel, yet they shall not break; Faith in their hands shall
 Strapped to a wheel, yet they shall not break; Faith in their hands shall

rit. *for rehearsal only* *a tempo* (♩ = 100)

54 *rit.*

snap in two, Split all ends up they
 snap in two, Split all ends up they
 snap in two, And the un-i-corn e-vils run them through; Split all ends up they
 snap in two, And the un-i-corn e-vils run them through; Split all ends up they

rit. *for rehearsal only* *a tempo* (♩ = 100)

58 *(rit.)* *accel.* *a tempo* (♩ = 100) *(f)*

shall not crack; And death shall have no do - min - ion. And

shall not crack; And death shall have no do - min - ion. And

shall not crack; And death shall have no do - min - ion.

shall not crack; And death shall have no do - min - ion.

(rit.) *accel.* *a tempo* (♩ = 100)

Ped.

62 **E** *cantabile*

death shall have no do - min - ion. No more may gulls cry

death shall have no do - min - ion. No more may gulls cry

(f) cantabile

And death shall have no do - min - ion.

(f) cantabile

And death shall have no do - min - ion.

E

Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. sim.

65

rit.

at their ears

at their ears

Or waves break loud on the sea - shores;

Or waves break loud on the sea - shores;

rit.

68

F *Slower, quasi recitative*

p where

where blew a flow'r may a

p div. Where blew a flow'r may a flow'r no more lift its head, where blew a flow'r may a

p div. Where blew a flow'r may a flow'r no more lift its head, where blew a flow'r may a

p where

where blew a flow'r may a

F *Slower, quasi recitative*

p

for rehearsal only

for rehearsal only

Ped. Ped. Ped.

71

flow'r no more lift its head to the blows of the rain;

flow'r no more lift its head to the blows,

flow'r no more lift its head of the rain;

flow'r no more lift its head

mf unis.

mf unis. (mf)

mf unis. (mf)

mf

mf

mf

p

(Ped.) Ped. Ped.

74 **G** start slowly and accel.

Though they be mad and dead as nails, Heads of the char-ac-ters

Though they be mad and dead as nails, Heads of the char-ac-ters

Heads of the char-ac-ters

Heads of the char-ac-ters

p

cresc.

p

cresc.

p

cresc.

(Ped.)

77 *(accel.)* **Quickly** *mf* *div.* **H rit.** *f* **Slowly** *(f)*

ham-mer through dai - sies; Break in the sun till the sun breaks down, And_

ham-mer through dai - sies; Break in the sun till the sun_ breaks_ down,

ham-mer through dai - sies; Break in the sun till the sun_ breaks_ down,

Break in the sun till the sun breaks down,

(accel.) **Quickly** *mf* **H rit.** *f* **Slowly**

80 *accel.*

death shall have, *(f)* *unis.*

and_ death shall have, and_ death shall have no do -

and_ death shall have no do -

and_ death shall have no do -

and death shall have no do -

(f) *accel.*

83

a tempo (♩ = 100)

poco accel.

I Slightly faster ♩ = 108
with motion

min - ion, _____

min - ion, _____

min - ion, _____

a tempo (♩ = 100)

poco accel.

I Slightly faster ♩ = 108
with motion

cantabile

Ped. Ped. Ped.

86 *unis.*

no do-min - ion. Ah!

no do-min - ion. Ah!

no do-min - ion. Ah!

no do-min - ion. Ah!

rit.

Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped.

89 **Slower** *f* *div.* *rit.* *ff* *unis.* **Slowly** *f grandly*

Break in the sun till the sun breaks down, And death shall have no do -

f *ff* *f grandly* *unis.*

Break in the sun till the sun breaks down, And death shall have no do -

f *ff* *f grandly*

Break in the sun till the sun breaks down, And death shall have no do -

f *ff* *f grandly* *unis.*

Break in the sun till the sun breaks down, And death shall have no do -

Slower *rit.* **Slowly**

(f) *f*

Ped.

92 **J** *a tempo* ($\text{♩} = 108$) *accel.*

min - ion,

min - ion,

min - ion,

div. min - ion,

min - ion,

J *a tempo* ($\text{♩} = 108$) *accel.*

p cresc.

Ped. *Ped.* *Ped.* *Ped.*

96 **Quickly** *rit.* *ff* *div.*

no do - min - ion.
no do - min - ion.
no do - min - ion.
no do - min - ion.
no do - min - ion.

Quickly *rit.* *ff*

8^{vb}

August 1, 2010
Braintree, Vermont
4'30"

Program Notes

This musical setting of the well-known Dylan Thomas poem focuses on the strength and certainty of the message — though death may claim the mortal life, the spirit of humanity endures. Thus, the piano introduction and the first entrance by the chorus are marked “grandly and triumphantly.” The musical language is often loud and forceful. Harmonies are bold — either spare (open fourths and fifths) or blunt (added seconds). The softening sonorities of thirds are rarely heard, especially in the opening verse. However, richer and gentler chords are chosen to express the life-affirming sentences:

Though they sink through the sea, they shall rise again...

Break in the sun till the sun breaks down...

The poetic text primarily portrays the darkness and decay of death. And yet, with these few gloriously transcendent lines, the enduring spirit is celebrated. Thus, the final “no dominion” is victorious.

—Gwyneth Walker

Gwyneth Walker (b. 1947)

For biographical information about the composer, please visit her Web site.

<<http://www.gwynethwalker.com>>

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