Gwyneth Walker
And Death Shall Have No Dominion

for SATB Chorus and Piano
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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 $\dot{=}$ 100

Piano

accel. poco a poco

Quickly $\dot{=}$ ca. 120

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

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And death shall have no dominion.

Dead men naked - they shall have no dominion.

Dead men naked - they shall have no dominion.

\( \text{a tempo} (q = 100) \)

\( f \) grandly and triumphantly

\( \text{rit.} \)

\( \text{f} \) grandly and triumphantly

\( \text{rit. loco} \)

\( \text{p} \)

\( \text{A} \) with \( \text{Pedo} \)
**Perhaps just a few voices.**

Slightly slower

*Slightly slower*

*poco rit.*

no dominion, no dominion, no dominion, no dominion*

*Slightly slower*

*poco rit.*

no dominion, no dominion, no dominion, no dominion

*Slightly slower*

Red.
When their bones are picked clean and the

When their bones are picked clean and the

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When their bones are picked clean and the
Slowly

foot; Though they go mad  they shall be sane,

foot; Though they go mad  they shall be sane,

Though they

though lovers be lost they shall rise again; Though lovers be lost sink through the sea  they shall rise again; Though lovers be lost
love shall not; and death shall have no dominion.

And death shall have no dominion.
minion. They lying long shall not die

Under the windings of the sea

windily; Twist ing on rack where sin-ews give way,
yet they shall not break; Faith in their hands shall
strapped to a wheel, yet they shall not break; Faith in their hands shall

snap in two, Split all ends up they
snap in two, Split all ends up they
snap in two, And the uni-corn evils run them through; Split all ends up they
snap in two, And the uni-corn evils run them through; Split all ends up they
(rit.) accel.  a tempo ($d = 100$) (f)

shall not crack; And death shall have no dominion. And

shall not crack; And death shall have no dominion. And

shall not crack; And death shall have no dominion. And

(rit.) accel.  a tempo ($d = 100$) (f)

shall not crack; And death shall have no dominion. And

shall not crack; And death shall have no dominion. And

E cantabile
dearth shall have no dominion. No more may gulls cry_

dearth shall have no dominion. No more may gulls cry_

dearth shall have no dominion. No more may gulls cry_

(f) cantabile

And death shall have no dominion. And

(f) cantabile

And death shall have no dominion. And

E
dearth cantabile shall have no dominion. No more may gulls cry_

Dearth cantabile shall have no dominion. No more may gulls cry_

Dearth cantabile shall have no dominion. No more may gulls cry_

(f) cantabile

And death shall have no dominion. And

(f) cantabile

And death shall have no dominion. And

E

Dearth | Deah | Deah | Deah | sim.
65  at their ears

68  Or waves break loud on the sea-shores;

68  Or waves break loud on the sea-shores;

68  at their ears

68  where

68  where

68  where

68  where

68  where

68  where

68  where

68  where

68  where

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

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

flow'r no more lift its head____

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

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

Heads of the char-ac-ters
cresc.

Heads of the char-ac-ters
cresc.

start slowly and accel.

(p)

(cresc.)

(start slowly and accel.)
(accel.)

Quickly

H rit.

Slowly

(f)

hammer through daisies; Break in the sun till the sun breaks down, And

hammer through daisies; Break in the sun till the sun breaks down,

hammer through daisies; Break in the sun till the sun breaks down,

Break in the sun till the sun breaks down,

(accel.)

Quickly

H rit.

Slowly

(f)

80

accel.

dead shall have, (f)

and dead shall have, and dead shall have no do-

and dead shall have, and dead shall have no do-

and dead shall have, and dead shall have no do-

accel.
83  a tempo (\( \frac{\text{q}}{\text{d}} = 100 \))  poco accel.  I Slightly faster \( \frac{\text{q}}{\text{d}} = 108 \)  with motion

86  unis.  Ah!

rit.  Ah!

no do-min- ion.

no do-min- ion.

no do-min- ion.

no do-min- ion.
Slower
89
f
\[ \text{Break in the sun till the sun breaks down, And death shall have no do-} \]
\[ \text{Break in the sun till the sun breaks down, And death shall have no do-} \]
\[ \text{Break in the sun till the sun breaks down, And death shall have no do-} \]
\[ \text{Break in the sun till the sun breaks down, And death shall have no do-} \]

Slowly
92
\[ \text{\( \text{a tempo (} \dot{=} 108) \)} \]
\[ \text{\( \text{accel.} \)} \]

Min - ion,

Min - ion,

Min - ion,

Min - ion,

Min - ion,

Min - ion,

Min - ion,

\[ \text{\( \text{a tempo (} \dot{=} 108) \)} \]
\[ \text{\( \text{accel.} \)} \]
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>