

GWYNETH WALKER

Shepherd's Song at Christmas

for Soprano Solo, SSA Chorus (divisi) and Piano

Commissioned by Tapestry Women's Choir in celebration of their 10th season: 1998-2008.
Premiered by Tapestry Women's Choir, December 1, 2008, Colfax, WA – Dale Forrey, Music Director

Shepherd's Song at Christmas

for Soprano Solo, SSA chorus (divisi) and Piano

Langston Hughes (1902-1967)

Gwyneth Walker

Flowing ♩ = 120

Piano

p very gently, as stars in the distance

Ped.

(Ped.)

Sop. Solo

7

A

Solo mf

1. Look out there at the
2. Watch out for my

(Ped.)

10

Sop. Solo

star! flocks, I, a - mong the least, will a - do not let them stray. I am

(Ped.)

13

Sop. Solo

rise and take a jour - ney to the East. go - ing on a jour - ney far, far a - way.

pp unobtrusively

S1

Hmm

pp unobtrusively

S2

Hmm

pp unobtrusively

A

Hmm

(Ped.)

B

16

Sop. Solo

S1

S2

A

mf

1. But what shall I bring _____ as a
 2. But what shall I bring _____ as a

B

(Ped.) _____ Ped. _____ Ped. _____

19

S1

S2

A

1. King? _____
 2. Child? _____

1. King? _____
 2. Child? _____

pres - ent _____ for the King! What shall I
 pres - ent _____ for the Child? What shall I

Ped. _____ Ped. _____ Ped. _____

22

S1 *p* Look there at the star!

S2 *p* Look there at the

A bring to the man - ger?
bring to the man - ger?

Ped. Ped. Ped.

25

Sop. Solo

S1 *f espr.* Look there at the star! I will bring a song, a
I will bring a lamb,

S2 *f espr.* star! Look there... I will bring a song, a
I will bring a lamb,

A *(p)* Ah Ah *f espr.* I will bring a song, a
I will bring a lamb,

Ped. Ped.

29

S1
S2

song that I will sing, a song for the King in the
gen - tle, meek and mild, a lamb for the Child in the

A

song that I will sing, a song for the King in the
gen - tle, meek and mild, a lamb for the Child in the

33

S1
S2

man - ger.
man - ger.

A

man - ger.
man - ger.

37

S1

(Soloist tacet) ***mf***

3. Look there at the

40 *(mf)*

Sop. Solo I'm just a shep - herd child,*

S1 star! *unis. (p)*

S2 Look there at the star! just a shep - herd

(Ped.)

43

Sop. Solo ver - y poor I am

S1 child*...

S2 ver - y poor I

(Ped.)

46

Sop. Solo But I know there is a King in Beth - le -

S1 am..

S2 a

(Ped.)

*The word "child" has been substituted for the word "boy" in the original poem.

49 E

Sop. Solo
hem. _____

S1
King in Beth - le - hem... _____

S2
King in Beth - le - hem... _____

A
mf
What shall I bring _____

E

(Ped.) _____ Ped. _____

52 (Soloist tacet)

S1
(p)
Ah _____ Him? _____

S2
(p)
Ah _____ Him? _____

A
as a pres - ent _____ just for Him?

E

Ped. _____ Ped. _____ Ped. _____

55 *mf*

S1
S2

What shall I bring to the man - ger? _____

A

(mf)

What shall I bring to the man - ger? _____

59 **F** (*Soloist join Sop. 1*)
f espr.

S1
S2

I will bring my heart and give my heart to Him.

A

f espr.

I will bring my heart _____ and give my heart to Him. _____

F

63

S1
S2

I will bring my heart to the man - ger. _____

A

I will bring my heart to the man - ger. _____

67 **G** *Solo f*

Sop. Solo
my heart... _____

S1
I will bring my heart and give my heart to

S2
I will bring my heart and give my heart to

A
I will bring my heart and give my heart to

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

70

Sop. Solo
my heart... _____

S1
Him. I will bring my heart to the

S2
Him. I will bring my heart to the

A
Him. I will bring my heart to the

(Ped.) *Ped.* *Ped.* *Ped.*

73

Sop. Solo *mf*
my heart...

S1 *mf*
man - ger. Look there at the star!

S2 *mf*
man - ger. Look there at the

A
man - ger.

77

Sop. Solo *p*
Look there at the

S1 *mp* *p*
Look there at the star! Look there at the

S2 *mp*
star! Look there at the star!

A *p*
Look there

rit. to the end

80 *(rit.)*

Sop. Solo
star! _____

S1
star! _____

S2
p Look there at the star! _____

A
at the star! _____

(rit.)

pp

(Ped.)

3'45"
June 10, 2007
Braintree, Vermont