

GWYNETH WALKER

Tell the Earth to Shake

*for SATB Chorus (divisi)
and Chamber Orchestra or Piano*

Commissioned by the Clearview Regional High School Vocal Ensemble, Mullica Hill, New Jersey
Jack Hill, Music Director
Completed August 11, 2004 in Braintree, Vermont; Duration: 4'15"
Premiere performance: February 2, 2005
at the National Convention of the American Choral Directors Association,
Los Angeles, California

Program Notes

The poem *Earthquake*, by the Trappist Monk Thomas Merton (1915–1968), presents the powerful voice of God: “Tell the earth to shake... for a new world is born, and all my people shall be one.” This is an insistent poem, with repetitions of stanzas and only slight variations. Through forceful restatement, the poem grows into the closing lines:

There shall be no more hate
 And no more oppression
 The old wrongs are done
 My people shall be one.

The musical setting adopts the form of the poem. As the lyrics are structured into verse “pairings” (“tell the earth to shake...” “the old wrongs are over...”), so the men’s voices are paired with and answered by the women’s voices. The alternation continues several times, with the tonal center shifting up a step with each section.

The modulations, intended to increase the strength and intensity of the song, are effected through sections of “*pacem*” (peace). This word has been inserted by the composer to form bridges between the verses. For, as the earth will shake “with marching feet of messengers of peace...” so peace becomes the means of bringing the people together as one.

—Gwyneth Walker

Earthquake

Go tell the earth to shake And tell the thunder To wake the sky And tear the clouds apart Tell my people to come out And wonder Where the old world is gone For a new world is born And all my people Shall be one.	For the old wrongs are over The old days are gone A new world is rising Where my people shall be one. So tell the earth to shake With marching feet Of messengers of peace Proclaim my law of love To every nation Every race. And say The old wrongs are over The old ways are done There shall be no more hate And no more war My people shall be one.	So tell the earth to shake With marching feet Of messengers of peace Proclaim my law of love To every nation Every race. For the old world is ended The old sky is torn apart A new day is born They hate no more They do not go to war My people shall be one.	So tell the earth to shake With marching feet Of messengers of peace Proclaim my law of love To every nation Every race. There shall be no more hate And no more oppression The old wrongs are done My people shall be one. —Thomas Merton
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Tell the Earth to Shake

for SATB Chorus (divisi) and Chamber Orchestra or Piano

Earthquake

Gwyneth Walker

Thomas Merton (1915–1968)

G. W., alt.

spoken forcefully by a series of soloists from the chorus, one speaker per measure

Chorus

* Go tell the earth to shake And tell the thunder to wake the sky and tear the clouds apart Tell my people to come out and wonder where the old world is gone For a new world is born And all my people shall be one.

Piano

f *p*

8^{va}
with Ped.

A **Marching tempo**
♩ = 88

T

B

Marching tempo
♩ = 88

f with energy

Ped. *similar pedaling throughout*

f So *f* So

* The capitalization of the opening ten lines of the poem has been altered to accommodate the spacing of the spoken lyrics.

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6 **B**

tell the earth to shake With march-ing feet Of mes-sen-gers of peace

tell the earth to shake With march-ing feet Of mes-sen-gers of peace

10

Pro - claim my law of love To ev-ery na-tion, Ev - ery race.

Pro - claim my law of love To ev-ery na-tion, Ev - ery race.

14 **C**

f For the old wrongs are o - ver, The old days are gone

f For the old wrongs are o - ver, The old days are gone

T

B

18

S A

A new world is ris - ing Where my peo - ple shall be

22 **D**

S A T B

one. Pa - cem. Pa - cem. Pa - cem, pa - cem, pa - cem, pa - cem.

p poco accel.

Slightly faster ♩ = 96

26 **E** *f*

So, shake, feet, So, shake, feet, So tell the earth to shake With march-ing feet Of mes-sen-gers of peace

Slightly faster ♩ = 96

29 *p*

ah. ah. Pro - claim my law of love To ev-ery na-tion, Ev -ery race.

33 *f* **F** *(f)*

And say The old wrongs are o - ver _____ The old ways are done _____

f *(f)*

And say The old wrongs are o - ver _____ The old ways are done _____

f *p*

o - ver,

f *p*

o - ver,

37 *(f)*

_____ There shall be no more hate And no more war _____ My

(f)

_____ There shall be no more hate And no more war _____ My

f *p*

done, _____

f *p*

done, _____

41 G

peo - ple shall be one. *p*

peo - ple shall be one. *p*

p Pa - cem, pa - cem, pa - cem, pa - cem,

p Pa - cem, pa - cem, pa - cem, pa - cem,

p

p

3 3 3 3

46

accel.
p cresc.

Pa - - - cem, pa - - - cem.

p cresc. Pa - - - cem, pa - - - cem.

cresc. pa - - - cem, pa - - - cem.

cresc. pa - - - cem, pa - - - cem.

accel.
cresc.

accel.
cresc.

3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3

H Slightly faster ♩ = 104

48 *f* So, shake, _____ feet, _____

f So, shake, _____ feet, _____

f So tell the earth to shake With march-ing feet Of mes-sen-gers of peace _____ *div.*

f So tell the earth to shake With march-ing feet Of mes-sen-gers of peace _____

Slightly faster ♩ = 104

f

51 *f* _____ *p*

ah. _____

f _____ *p*

ah. _____

(f) unis. _____ *unis.*

Pro - claim my law of love To ev-ery na-tion Ev -ery race. _____

(f)

Pro - claim my law of love To ev-ery na-tion Ev -ery race. _____

(f)

55 *f* **I** *div.* *rit.* *Slower*

For the old world is end-ed The old sky is torn a-part A new day is born

f *div.*

For the old world is end-ed The old sky is torn a-part A new day is born

rit. *Slower*

60 *mf* *mp* *rit.* *p* *unis.* **J** *Start slowly, then accel. to K*

They hate no more They do not go to war My peo-ple shall be one.

mf unis. *mp* *p* *pp*

They hate no more They do not go to war My peo-ple shall be one.

p *pp*

They do not go to war My peo-ple shall be one.

p *pp*

My peo-ple shall be one.

rit. *Start slowly, then accel. to K*

p

64 (accel.) **p**

Pa - cem, pa - cem,

Pa - cem, pa - cem,

p Pa - cem, pa - cem, pa - cem, pa - cem,

p Pa - cem, pa - cem, pa - cem, pa - cem,

(accel.)

69 (accel.) **K** **Faster** ♩ = 112

div. pa - cem, pa - cem. So, shake,

pa - cem, pa - cem. So, shake,

pa - cem, pa - cem, pa - cem. So tell the earth to shake

pa - cem, pa - cem. So tell the earth to shake

(accel.) **Faster** ♩ = 112

72

feet, — ah. —

feet, — ah. —

8 With march-ing feet Of mes-sen-gers of peace Pro -

With march-ing feet Of mes-sen-gers of peace Pro -

(f)

(f)

75

claim my law of love To ev-ery na-tion Ev - ery race. Ah, —

claim my law of love To ev-ery na-tion Ev - ery race. Ah, —

claim my law of love To ev-ery na-tion Ev - ery race. —

claim my law of love To ev-ery na-tion Ev - ery race. —

p

p

unis.

L

79

f There shall be no more hate _____ And no more op -

There shall be no more hate _____ And no more op -

f There shall be no more hate _____ And no more op -

There shall be no more hate _____ And no more op -

f To ev-ery na-tion Ev-ery race, _____

To ev-ery na-tion Ev-ery race, _____

f To ev-ery na-tion Ev-ery race, _____

To ev-ery na-tion Ev-ery race, _____

82

pres - sion, _____ *accel.* There shall be no more hate _____

pres - sion, _____ There shall be no more hate _____

pres - sion, _____ There shall be no more hate _____

pres - sion, _____ There shall be no more hate _____

To ev-ery na-tion Ev-ery race, _____ To ev-ery na-tion Ev-ery

To ev-ery na-tion Ev-ery race, _____ To ev-ery na-tion Ev-ery

To ev-ery na-tion Ev-ery race, _____ To ev-ery na-tion Ev-ery

To ev-ery na-tion Ev-ery race, _____ To ev-ery na-tion Ev-ery

accel.

85 (accel.)

Quickly ♩ = 126

And no more op - pres - sion, _____ There shall be no more
 And no more op - pres - sion, _____ There shall be no, there shall be
 race, _____ To ev - ery na - tion Ev - ery race, _____
 race, _____ To ev - ery na - tion Ev - ery race, _____

(accel.)

Quickly ♩ = 126

88

hate And no more op - pres - sion, There shall be no more hate And no more op - pres - sion,
 no more hate, There shall be no, there shall be no more op - pres - sion,
 To ev - ery na - tion, To ev - ery na - tion, To ev - ery na - tion,
 To ev - ery na - tion, To ev - ery na - tion, To ev - ery na - tion,
 To ev - ery na - tion, To ev - ery na - tion, To ev - ery na - tion,

M

rit.

Slowly ♩ = 96

91

(f) unis.

, mf

div.

The old wrongs are done My peo - ple shall be

The old wrongs are done My peo - ple shall be

The old wrongs are done My peo - ple shall be

The old wrongs are done My peo - ple shall be

rit.

Slowly ♩ = 96

95

a tempo ♩ = 112

p cresc.

rit.

f

one, one.

one, one.

one, one.

one, one.

a tempo ♩ = 112

p cresc.

rit.

f

Ped.

Composer's Notes

The composer recommends performing this work as part of a set of three songs with orchestral accompaniment:

Tell the Earth to Shake

(Piano/Choral Score = Catalog No. 6423,

Full Score = Catalog No. 6937,

Parts = Catalog No. 6938),

The Tree of Peace

(Piano/Choral Score = Catalog No. 6439,

Full Score = Catalog No. 6940,

Parts = Catalog No. 6941) and

There Is a Way to Glory

(Piano/Choral Score = Catalog No. 6974,

Full Score = Catalog No. 6975,

Parts = Catalog No. 6976).

Publisher's Notes

The instrumentation of the version with chamber orchestra accompaniment is 2 flutes, 1 oboe, 1 clarinet, 1 bassoon, 2 horns, 2 trumpets, 1 trombone, 1 percussionist and strings. The full score (Catalog No. 6937) and parts (Catalog No. 6938) are available from the publisher.

Gwyneth Walker

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, she resigned from academic employment in 1982 to pursue a career as a full-time composer.

Walker's catalog includes over 170 commissioned works for orchestra, band, chorus and chamber ensembles. Her music is published by E. C. Schirmer Music Company of Boston (choral & vocal music) and MMB Music of St. Louis (orchestral & instrumental music).

Walker is a proud resident of Braintree, Vermont, where she lives on a dairy farm. She is the recipient of the Year 2000 "Lifetime Achievement Award" from the Vermont Arts Council.