Gwyneth Walker

TOGETHER IN SONG

a celebration of community singing for chorus, brass quintet, percussion and piano

"Hear the Trumpet Sound"
"Prayer"
"The Gospel Plow"
**Together in Song** is a three-song set of contemporary adaptations of American spirituals. The intent is to enjoy and enlarge upon these familiar songs in musical settings for chorus, brass quintet, percussion and keyboard.

A brass introduction leads into the first song, “Hear the Trumpets Sound,” based on “My Lord, What a Morning!” This song was selected, in part, because of the lyrics “You will hear the trumpets sound to wake the nations underground.” These lines give special impetus to the use of trumpets in this music. In addition, the energy expressed (“wake the nations...”) is the essence of this song. The tempo is lively, and the mood is generally boisterous and celebratory.

“Prayer” is based upon “Let Us Break Bread Together.” This is a quiet, gentle song. The brass playing is sustained, often presenting the rhythms “Lord have mercy on us” (five quarter-notes followed by a dotted-half). Near the end, the music grows in intensity and dynamics for the verse (new words) “May our song rise together, and bring us peace.”

Percussion is a featured part of “The Gospel Plow.” This includes percussion instruments played by members of the chorus. This arrangement of the gospel song “Hold On!” endeavors to build upon the strength and vitality of the original. As the hands “hold on,” in the lyrics, so do hands (and feet!) present rhythmic elements.

A special focus is placed on the stanza “The only chain that we can stand is that chain that goes from hand to hand.” And indeed, these are the words which close the song. For the essence and joy of community singing is the bond which is formed among the members of the chorus – together in song.

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**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, she 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 Brantree, Vermont. Gwyneth Walker is a proud resident of Vermont. She is the recipient of the Year 2000 “Lifetime Achievement Award” from the Vermont Arts Council.

Walker’s catalog includes over 160 commissioned works for orchestra, band, chorus and chamber ensembles. The music of Gwyneth Walker is published by E. C. Schirmer of Boston (choral and vocal music) and MMB Music of St. Louis (orchestral and instrumental music).
Together in Song

1. Hear the Trumpet Sound

Boldly, at a moderate tempo \( \sim 92 \)

Trumpets (C) \( \frac{3}{4} \) lightly tongued
Horn in F
Trombone
Tuba
Percussion
Piano

With energy \( \sim 126 \)

Tpts. 1 2
Hm.
Tbn. Tuba
Perc.
S.
A.
T.
B.
Pno.
My Lord, what a morn-ing
My Lord, what a morn-ing
My Lord, what a morn-ing
My Lord, what a morn-ing

My Lord, what a morn-ing
My Lord, what a morn-ing
My Lord, what a morn-ing
My Lord, what a morn-ing

My Lord, what a morn-ing
My Lord, what a morn-ing
My Lord, what a morn-ing
My Lord, what a morn-ing

My Lord, what a morn-ing
My Lord, what a morn-ing
My Lord, what a morn-ing
My Lord, what a morn-ing

Oh you can hear the trum-pet
Oh you can hear the trum-pet
Oh you can hear the trum-pet
Oh you can hear the trum-pet
My Lord, what a morning,

hand when the stars begin to fall

My Lord, Lord what a morning,
My Lord, what a morning,
My Lord, Lord what a morning,
My Lord, Lord what a morning,
My Lord, what a morning.

My Lord, Lord what a morning,
My Lord, Lord what a morning,
My Lord, Lord what a morning,
My Lord, what a morning.

morn-ing
morn-ing when the stars begin to fall
morn-ing when the stars begin to fall
morn-ing when the stars begin to fall
At the Judgment, at the Judgment, at the Judgment Day, oh you will hear the sinners.

Oh you will hear the sinners.

Oh you will hear the sinners.

Oh you will hear the sinners.

When the Temple Blocks

At the Judgment, at the Judgment, at the Judgment Day, oh you will hear the sinners.

G. WALKER: TOGETHER IN SONG
my Lord, my Lord,

my Lord, my Lord,

my Lord, my Lord,

my Lord, my Lord,
Oh you will hear the faithful shout!

My Lord, what a morning.

Shout, O Lord, when the judgment day is come.

My Lord, what a morning.
2. Prayer

Duration: 3' 40"

G. WALKER: TOGETHER IN SONG
Let us break bread together on our knees; when I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun.

Let us break bread together on our knees; when I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun.
Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy.

Let our tears flow together on our

knees, with my face to the rising sun, O Lord, have mercy on me.

Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy.

Let our tears flow together on our
G. WALKER: TOGETHER IN SONG
G. WALKER: TOGETHER IN SONG

Lord, have mercy, Lord, have mercy, May our song rise to

mercy. May our song rise to
Together on our knees, when I fall

May our song rise together on our knees; when I fall

On our knees, May our song rise together on our knees; on our knees; When I fall on my

When I fall on my

Knees, on my

To my knees, with my face to the sun, O Lord, have mercy on me

To my knees, with my face to the sun, O Lord, have mercy on me

Knees, with my face to the rising sun, O Lord, have mercy on me

Knees, with my face to the rising sun, O Lord, have mercy on me
G. WALKER: TOGETHER IN SONG
mercy. May our song rise to-gether,

mercy. May our song rise to-gether,

mercy. May our song rise to-gether,

mercy. May our song rise to-gether,

May our song rise to-gether,

May our song rise to-gether,

May our song rise to-gether,

May our song rise to-gether,

May our song rise to-gether,

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May our song rise to-gether,

May our song rise to-gether,
3. The Gospel Plow

In order to free up hands of chorus members (for playing percussion and, at letter [A] for hand-claps) it is suggested that the chorus either memorize this song, or share octavos (2 singers per score).
Paul and Silas began to shout, the jail door opened and they walked on out.

Hey! Hey! Hey! Hey! Hey! Hey!

Keep your hand on that plow, hold on. Hold on, hold on, ho-ho-ho-ho!

Hey! Hey! Hey! Hey! Hey! Hey!

Hey! Hey! Hey! Hey! Hey! Hey!

Hey! Hey! Hey! Hey! Hey! Hey!
Keep your hand on that plow.
The very moment I thought I was lost,
the dungeon shook and the chains fell off.

The very moment I thought I was lost,
the dungeon shook and the chains fell off.

The very moment I thought I was lost,
the dungeon shook and the chains fell off.

The very moment I thought I was lost,
the dungeon shook and the chains fell off.
Keep your links of chain.

Keep your hand on that plow.

Mary wore three links of chain,

On every link was freedom's name.
The only chain that we can stand, the only chain that we can stand, the only chain that we can stand, the only chain that we can stand.

The only chain that goes from hand to hand. Hold on! Hold on! Hold on! Hold on!
Keep your eyes on that prize.

Tamb.

Pno.

Clvs.

Pno.

Hn.

S.

Tuba

Clvs.

Pno.

Hn.

T.

B.

Cowb.

A.

T.

B.

Chorus joins hands, in rhythm, from one end to the other, ending with all hands raised.

(Suggested choreography for last 4 mm.)

U

Keep your eyes on that prize.

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