# Gwyneth Walker

# Lovesongs

for Narrator and Piano

- 1. Youthful Love
- 2. Special Love
- 3. The Food of Love

## Lovesongs

duration: 7'40"

\_\_\_\_\_\_

A multitude of amorous expressions are explored in *LOVESONGS*. These range from love while traveling, to love at home and love at the dinner table!

Youthful Love is based on the poem, "Recuerdo," by Edna St. Vincent Millay. The young lovers are riding on the Staten Island Ferry. "We were very tired – we were very merry. We had gone back and forth all night on the ferry." The boat rocks. The couple gaze in each other's eyes. They stay up all night. Very tired...very merry... and very young!

A *Special Love* has formed between the narrator and a beloved pet (portrayed by the pianist). The dear creature does not "obtrude" and does not need to be entertained. So well behaved! [The text is by H. D. Thoreau.]

Epicurean delights are the topic for *The Food of Love*. The text is the well-known poem by Colonel Henry Heveningham, "If Music be the Food of Love." Cream puffs, Valentine's hearts and music fill the stage. It would seem that the narrator cannot decide which pleasure is the greatest. [These are indeed overwhelming choices!] Therefore, tossing caution (and props) to the winds, the solution is to celebrate everything!

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 Braintree, 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 as well as the 2008 "Athenaeum Award for Achievement in the Arts and Humanities" from the St. Johnsbury (VT) Athenaeum.

Walker's catalog includes over 200 commissioned works for orchestra, chamber ensembles, chorus and solo voice. The music of Gwyneth Walker is published by E. C. Schirmer of Boston (choral and vocal music) and Lauren Keiser Music (orchestral and instrumental music).

Further information concerning Gwyneth Walker and her works is available at www.gwynethwalker.com

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

## Lovesongs

for Narrator and Piano

#### 1. Youthful Love

Based on the poem *Recuerdo* by Edna St. Vincent Millay (1892-1950)

Gwyneth Walker

During the introduction, NARRATOR comes on stage portraying a traveler on a boat, gently rocking to and fro.

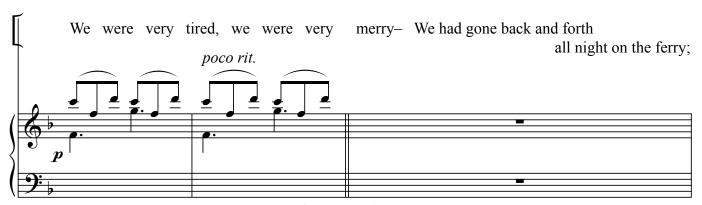


© Copyright 2011 by Gwyneth Walker 273 Brainstorm Rd., Braintree VT 05060 All Rights Reserved.

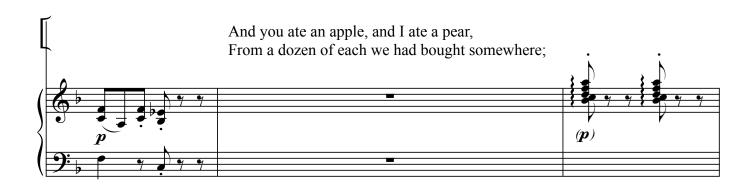


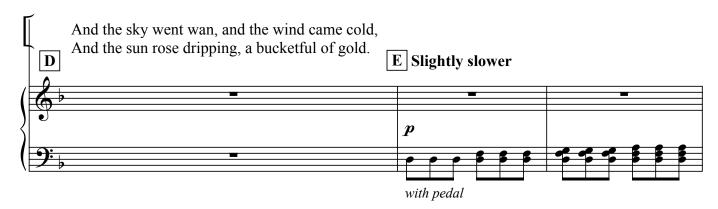
Walker / Lovesongs



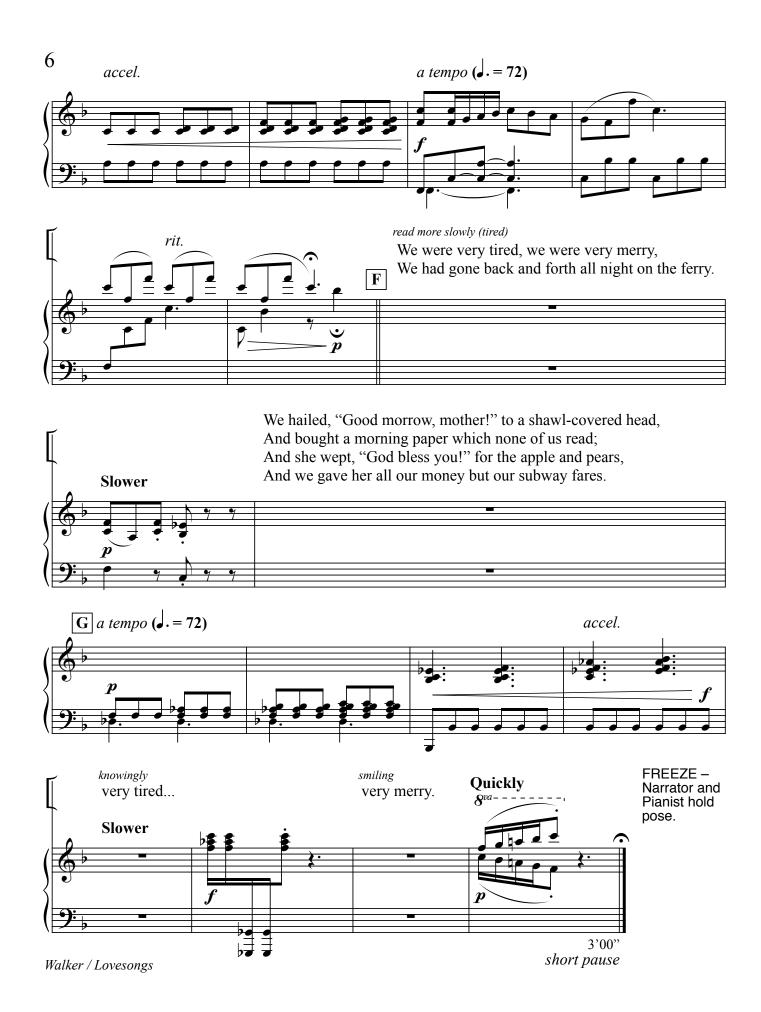


music stops reading continues





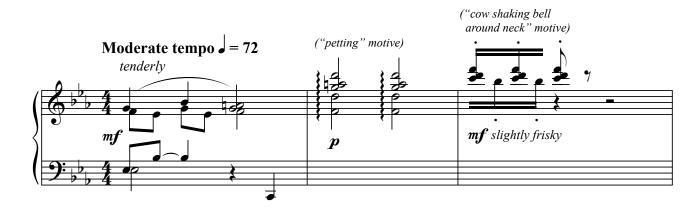
Walker / Lovesongs

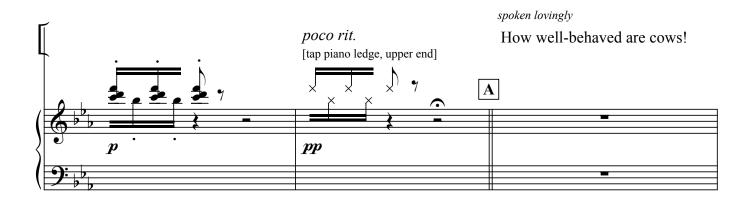


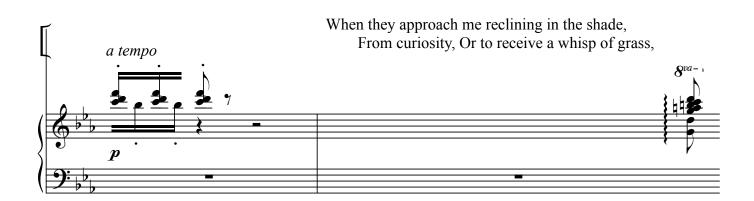
### 2. Special Love

#### Henry David Thoreau (1817-1862)

After a short pause, NARRATOR walks to side of stage and appears to be greeting and petting a beloved animal friend.\*

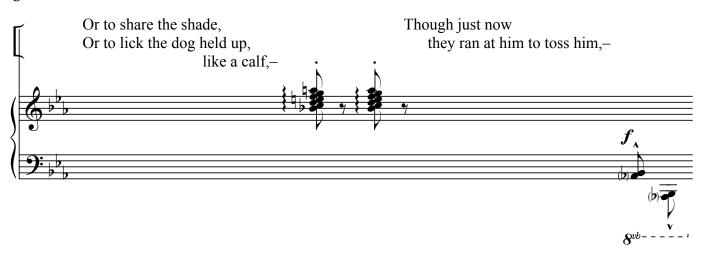


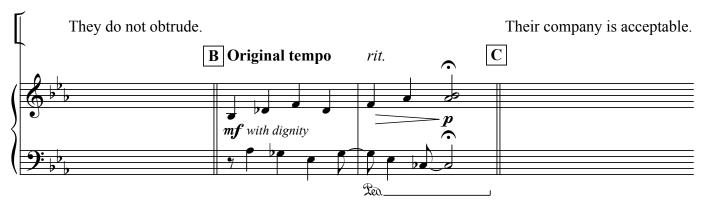


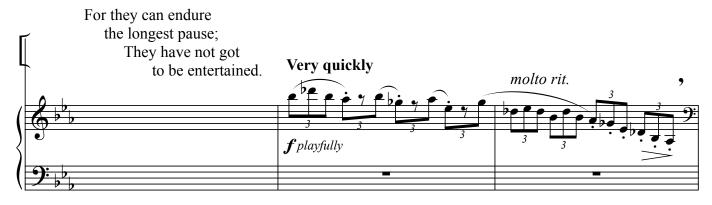


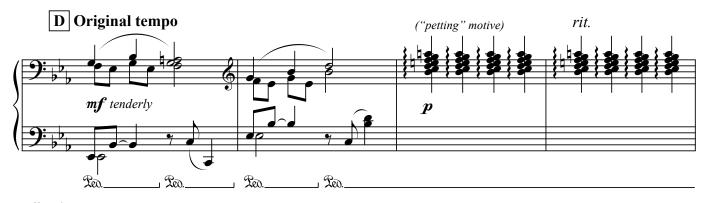
Walker / Lovesongs

<sup>\*</sup>A good-natured pianist might accept the role of "beloved cow" in this scene.

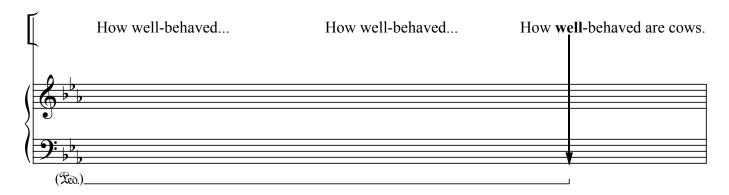


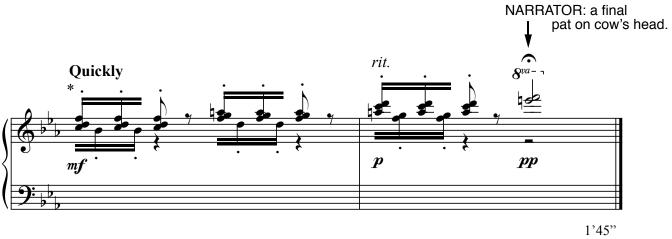






Walker / Lovesongs





short pause

NARRATOR gathers props for the next scene. These items have been left on the piano, hidden under a cloth napkin. They are a large cream puff (can be fake), a large Valentine's heart (or, better yet, a heart-shaped box of chocolates), and a musical score (unless the singer is singing from score). NARRATOR enthusiastically puts napkin at neck, and then begins to admire the props.

The music starts to play.

<sup>\*</sup>Pianist may shake head slightly while playing each "cowbell" motive, to simulate a calf shaking her bell.

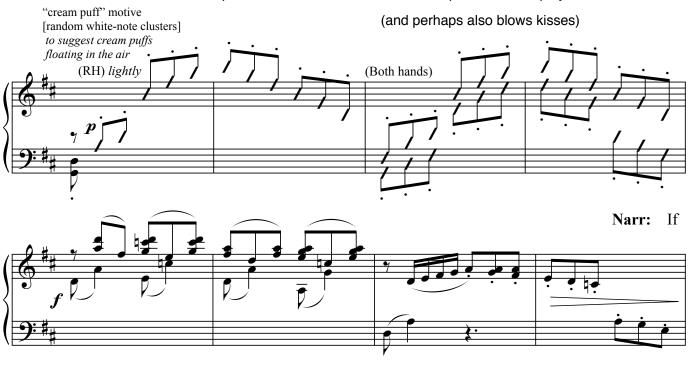
#### 3. The Food of Love

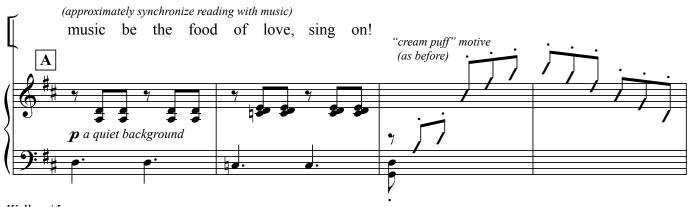
#### Colonel Henry Heveningham (1651-1700)

The music starts once the NARRATOR has picked up the props and is admiring them.

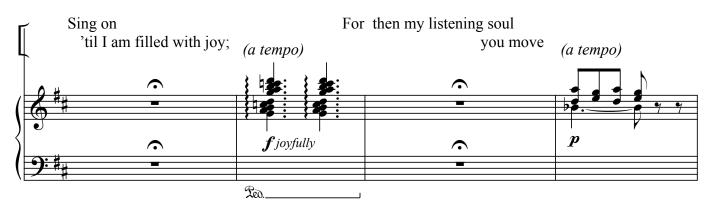


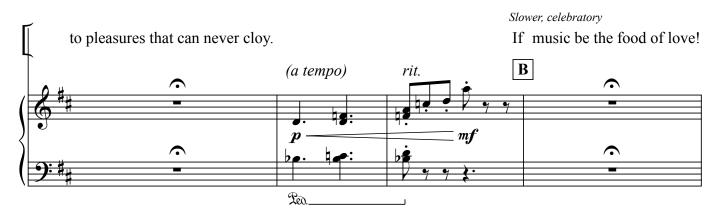
NARRATOR lifts or throws cream puffs in the air whenever the "cream puff" motive is played

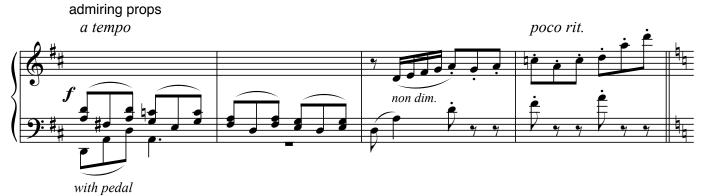


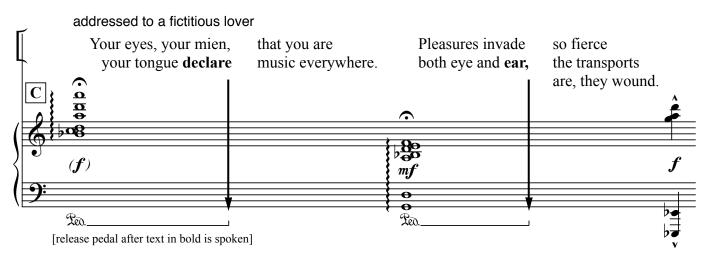


Walker / Lovesongs





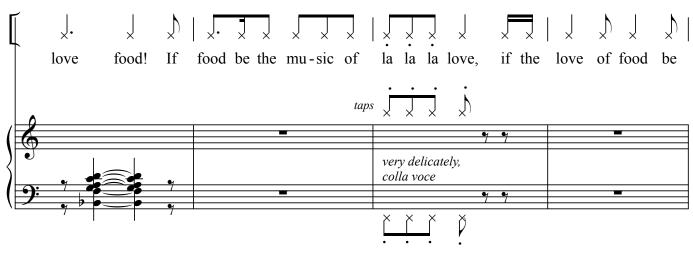


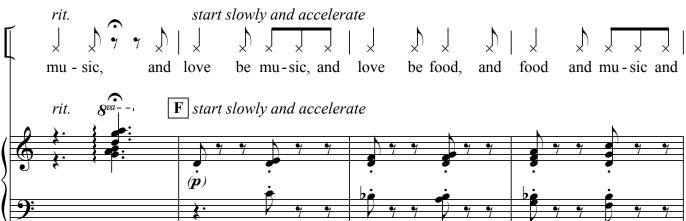


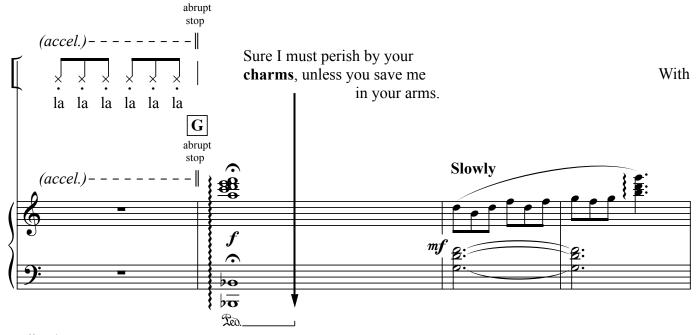
Walker / Lovesongs



\*as if trying to find the right (most satisfying) combination of words to express one's delight with music, food and love! Walker / Lovesongs







Walker / Lovesongs

