GWYNETH WALKER

I've Known Rivers

for Tenor Solo and Piano

- 1. My Soul has Grown Deep
- 2. Troubled Water
- 3. Jump Right In!
- 4. In Time of Silver Rain

I've Known Rivers

duration: 12 minutes

adapted from the Choral version commissioned and premiered by the Holland (MI) Chorale in 2008

I've Known Rivers is a set of four songs based on the poetry of Langston Hughes (1902-67), an African-American poet who lived much of his life in the Harlem neighborhood of New York City. However, Hughes was born in Joplin, Missouri, birthplace also of Samuel Clemens (Mark Twain). And, like Twain, he held a fascination for the Mississippi River and rivers in general. The theme of water is present in many of his writings.

My Soul has Grown Deep reflects upon rivers of historic and geographical importance – the Euphrates, the Nile and the Mississippi. As the rivers have endured over time, so has the human soul. The waters – the blood – runs deep.

In contrast to the universal message of the first song, *Troubled Water* is contemporary and personal. Water becomes an image of the unsettled and uncertain nature of love. The journey of love is a journey of troubled water. There is no resolution.

Undaunted by the elusive nature of love, the poet (Tenor) turns flippant, displaying a persevering and humorous outlook in *Jump Right In!* (to the river). Romantic misadventures will not conquer the spirit. "I could've died for love, but for livin' I was born."

In Time of Silver Rain is a song of healing. "In time of silver rain, the earth puts forth new life again." And with the regeneration of Spring, the poet marvels at the wonder of life.

Widely performed throughout the country, the music of American composer **Gwyneth Walker** is beloved by performers and audiences alike for its energy, beauty, reverence, drama, and humor. 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. For nearly 30 years, she lived on a dairy farm in Braintree, Vermont. She now divides her time between her childhood hometown of New Canaan, Connecticut and the musical communities of Sarasota, Florida and Randolph, Vermont.

Gwyneth Walker has been a proud resident of Vermont for many years. 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. In 2012, she was elected as a Fellow of the Vermont Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Walker's catalog includes over 300 commissioned works for orchestra, chamber ensembles, chorus, and solo voice. A special interest has been dramatic works that combine music with readings, acting, and movement. The music of Gwyneth Walker is published by E. C. Schirmer (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

I've Known Rivers

for Tenor Solo and Piano

Langston Hughes (1902-1967)

Gwyneth Walker

1. My Soul has Grown Deep





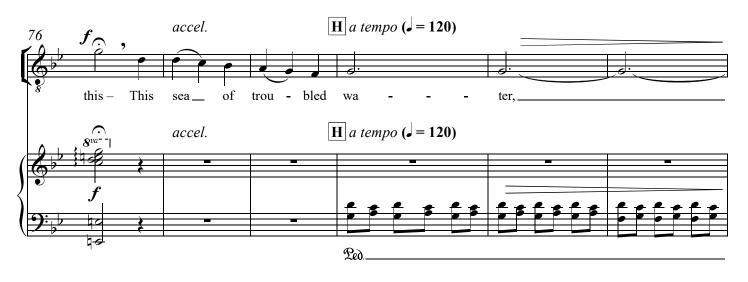


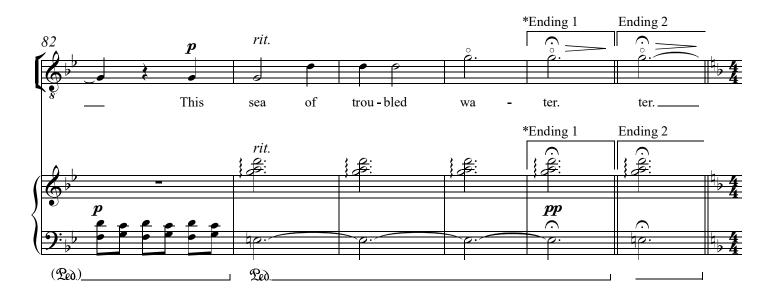


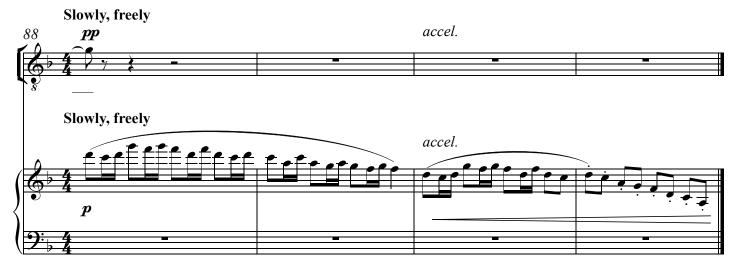
2. Troubled Water











2:45

^{*} Use ENDING 1 if this song is to be performed individually. Use ENDING 2 if continuing on to Jump Right In.

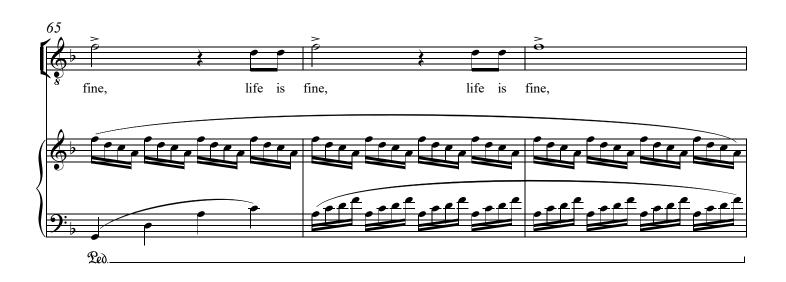
3. Jump Right In!

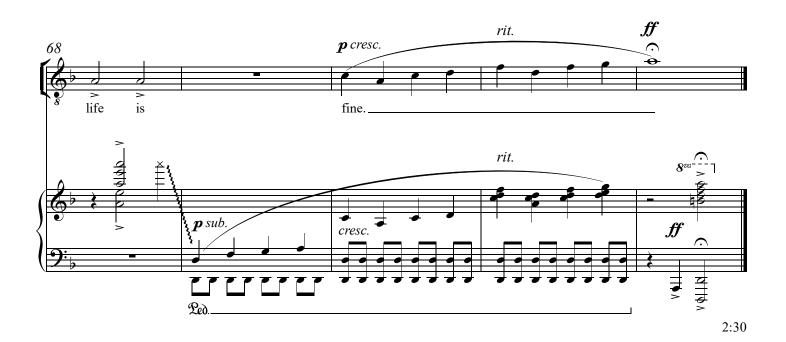












4. In Time of Silver Rain

blurred and shimmering, as silver rain] Led. simile **p** peacefully A time of sil rain, ver A in of sil - ver time rain,









3:30 | Total: 12:00 This version completed January 27, 2018 New Canaan, Connecticut