

**GWYNETH WALKER**

*Peace, My Heart*



*for Solo Voice and Piano*

# *Peace, My Heart*

*duration: 3'20"*

*PEACE, MY HEART* is an uplifting memorial song. The text, by Indian poet Rabindranath Tagore, speaks of the final voyage as fulfillment. "Let it not be a death, but completeness." The path of life moves towards this "beautiful end."

A recurrent image in the poem is of birds in flight, rising to heaven. Thus, the musical setting includes short "wing-like" accompaniment patterns to frame the voice.

The phrase, "Peace, My Heart," is initially presented gently, to offer comfort to the dying and to those left behind. Then the expression grows in intensity (marked "impassioned"), since the pain and beauty of the parting are deeply felt. As the voice fades away, the soul takes flight.

"I bow to you, and hold up my lamp to light you on your way."

\* \* \* \* \*

Peace, my heart,  
let the time for the parting be sweet.  
Let it not be a death  
but completeness.  
Let love melt into memory  
and pain into songs.  
Let the flight through the sky end  
in the folding of the wings over the nest.  
Let the last touch of your hands be gentle  
like the flower of the night.  
Stand still, O Beautiful End,  
for a moment,  
and say your last words in silence.  
I bow to you  
and hold up my lamp  
to light you on your way.

- Rabindranath Tagore from "The Gardener"

# Peace, My Heart

for Solo Voice and Piano

Rabindranath Tagore (1861-1941)  
 from "The Gardener" (1913)  
 adapted by Gwyneth Walker

Gwyneth Walker

With slight motion ♩ = 120  
 as the soul rising to heaven

as a bird in flight

*p*

Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped.

6

*rit.*

**A** Slowly ♩ = 108  
*p gently*

*rit.*  
 as birds in flight

Peace, my heart, let the

**A** Slowly ♩ = 108

Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped.

11

time for the part-ing be sweet. — Let it not be a death but com-plete-ness.

Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped.

**B** Faster ♩ = 120

*with motion*

15

Peace, peace, peace, my heart. Let love melt in - to

**B** Faster ♩ = 120

*with motion*

*with pedal*

Ped.

20

mem - or - y and pain in - to songs. Let the flight through the sky

(Ped.)

Ped.

Ped.

24

end in the fold - ing of the wings o - ver the nest. Let the last touch of your

Ped.

Ped.

Ped.

28

*rit.*

*p*, Slower

*a tempo* (♩ = 120)

hands be gen - tle like the flower of the night. Peace, peace,

*rit.*

Slower

*a tempo* (♩ = 120)

(Ped.)

Ped.

*with pedal*

33

*rit.*

peace, my heart.

*rit.*

Ped.

**D** Slower, more freely ♩ = 108

37 (*rit.*)

*mf* *p* *mf*

Stand still, O Beau-ti - ful End, for a mo - ment, and

(*rit.*)

**D** Slower, more freely ♩ = 108

*mf*

Ped.

41

*p*

say your last words in si - lence, I bow to you and

*p* very gently

*pp*

*p*

Ped.

46

*accel.*

hold up my lamp to light you on your way. Ah,

*accel.*

*cresc.*

*accel.*

*cresc.*

Ped.

6 **E** *Faster, with motion* ♩ = 120

51 *mf*

Peace, my heart, let the time for our part-ing be sweet.

Detailed description: Vocal line in treble clef, key of D major. Measure 51: quarter note D4, quarter note E4, quarter note F#4, quarter note G4. Measure 52: quarter note A4, quarter note B4, quarter note C5, quarter note D5. Measure 53: quarter note E5, quarter note D5, quarter note C5, quarter note B4. Measure 54: quarter note A4, quarter note G4, quarter note F#4, quarter note E4. Measure 55: quarter note D4, quarter note C4, quarter note B3, quarter note A3. A slur with a '3' above it covers measures 53-55.

**E** *Faster, with motion* ♩ = 120

*mf*

Ped. \_\_\_\_\_ Ped. \_\_\_\_\_

Detailed description: Piano accompaniment in treble and bass clefs. Treble clef: measure 51 has a whole chord of D major. Bass clef: measure 51 has a whole chord of D major. Measure 52: treble has a whole chord of D major, bass has a whole chord of D major. Measure 53: treble has a whole chord of D major, bass has a whole chord of D major. Measure 54: treble has a whole chord of D major, bass has a whole chord of D major. Measure 55: treble has a whole chord of D major, bass has a whole chord of D major. Pedal markings are shown below the bass line.

56 *as birds in flight*

*f*

Ped. \_\_\_\_\_ Ped. \_\_\_\_\_ Ped. \_\_\_\_\_

Detailed description: Piano accompaniment in treble and bass clefs. Treble clef: measure 56 has a whole chord of D major. Bass clef: measure 56 has a whole chord of D major. Measure 57: treble has a whole chord of D major, bass has a whole chord of D major. Measure 58: treble has a whole chord of D major, bass has a whole chord of D major. Pedal markings are shown below the bass line.

59 *rit.*

(Ped.) \_\_\_\_\_

Detailed description: Piano accompaniment in treble and bass clefs. Treble clef: measure 59 has a whole chord of D major. Bass clef: measure 59 has a whole chord of D major. Measure 60: treble has a whole chord of D major, bass has a whole chord of D major. Measure 61: treble has a whole chord of D major, bass has a whole chord of D major. Pedal marking is shown below the bass line.

62 **F** *Slower, more freely* ♩ = 108

*p*

Stand still, O Beau-ti - ful End, for a mo-ment, and say your last words in

Detailed description: Vocal line in treble clef, key of D major. Measure 62: quarter note D4, quarter note E4, quarter note F#4, quarter note G4. Measure 63: quarter note A4, quarter note B4, quarter note C5, quarter note D5. Measure 64: quarter note E5, quarter note D5, quarter note C5, quarter note B4. Measure 65: quarter note A4, quarter note G4, quarter note F#4, quarter note E4. A slur with a '3' above it covers measures 62-64.

**F** *Slower, more freely* ♩ = 108

*pp*

Ped. \_\_\_\_\_ Ped. \_\_\_\_\_

Detailed description: Piano accompaniment in treble and bass clefs. Treble clef: measure 62 has a whole chord of D major. Bass clef: measure 62 has a whole chord of D major. Measure 63: treble has a whole chord of D major, bass has a whole chord of D major. Measure 64: treble has a whole chord of D major, bass has a whole chord of D major. Measure 65: treble has a whole chord of D major, bass has a whole chord of D major. Pedal markings are shown below the bass line.

66

si - lence. \_\_\_\_\_ I bow to you and

Detailed description: Vocal line in treble clef, key of D major. Measure 66: quarter note D4, quarter note E4, quarter note F#4, quarter note G4. Measure 67: quarter note A4, quarter note B4, quarter note C5, quarter note D5. Measure 68: quarter note E5, quarter note D5, quarter note C5, quarter note B4. Measure 69: quarter note A4, quarter note G4, quarter note F#4, quarter note E4. A slur with an '8va' above it covers measures 67-69.

*p* very gently *pp* *p*

(Ped.) \_\_\_\_\_

Detailed description: Piano accompaniment in treble and bass clefs. Treble clef: measure 66 has a whole chord of D major. Bass clef: measure 66 has a whole chord of D major. Measure 67: treble has a whole chord of D major, bass has a whole chord of D major. Measure 68: treble has a whole chord of D major, bass has a whole chord of D major. Measure 69: treble has a whole chord of D major, bass has a whole chord of D major. Pedal marking is shown below the bass line.

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 has now returned to her childhood hometown of New Canaan, Connecticut.

Gwyneth Walker has been 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 (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](http://www.gwynethwalker.com).

