GWYNETH WALKER

Advent Hymns

for String Quartet



Of the Father's Love A Rose in Winter The Youngest Angel

Advent Hymns

Total duration: 9 minutes

In creating this arrangement of *Divinum Mysterium* ("Of the Father's Love Begotten"), the composer has maintained the rhythmic flexibility of the plainsong through the use of mixed meters. Therefore, the theme appears in 4/4, 7/8, 11/8 and 3/4 patterns.

The first verse is presented in solo theme vs. tutti accompaniment texture. This sparseness represents the simplicity of the plainsong.

After a newly-composed middle section, the theme returns in florid and full style, with the upper strings harmonizing the melody, and the Cello providing an arpeggiated underpinning. The ending is triumphant.

...from the quiet mystery to the grandeur of the Father's Love.



A Winter Rose is based on the 15-century German hymn, Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming (Es ist ein Ros'). Delicacy and simplicity of texture are foremost in this music. Harmonies are sparse. The melody floats over changing meters. This is a pure, unbounded rose.

A newly-added element to this arrangement is the introductory section of descending patterns. These may suggest the light of God coming to earth at The Child's birth.

Within the song itself, the extended 4/2 measures present the syncopated theme in Viola over a scale of even quarters in Cello. These lines work against each other, and then resolve quietly at the end.

In the closing section, the lower strings recap the theme, while above, Violin 1 plays *filigree* 8th-note patterns marked *with the delicacy of a Rose in Winter.*

Flower, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air.



As the story tells us, among the choir of angels was one, young angel - a "Chorister-in-Training." When she heard her elders *sweetly singing o'er the plains*, she joined in with her voice of youthful exuberance. This is her song.

Gloria! Gloria! In excelsis Deo!

GWYNETH WALKER Of the Father's Love

for String Quartet

Of the Father's Love

duration: 3:10

Premiered on November 30, 2023 in Grace Chapel at Lenoir-Rhyne University, Hickory, NC

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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 before returning to live in her childhood hometown of New Canaan, Connecticut.

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

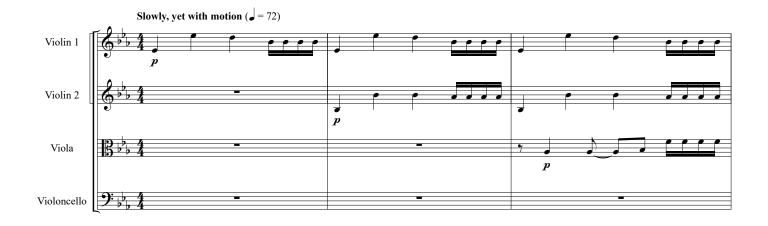
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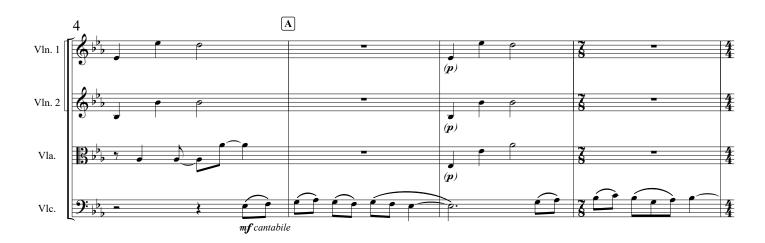
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Of the Father's Love for String Quartet

Based on the 13th century plainsong Divinum Mysterium Gwyneth Walker





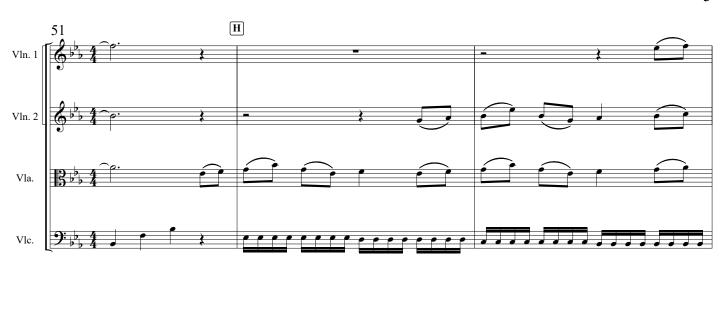














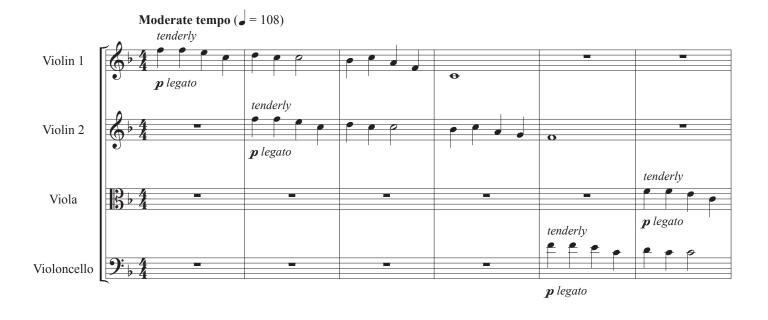


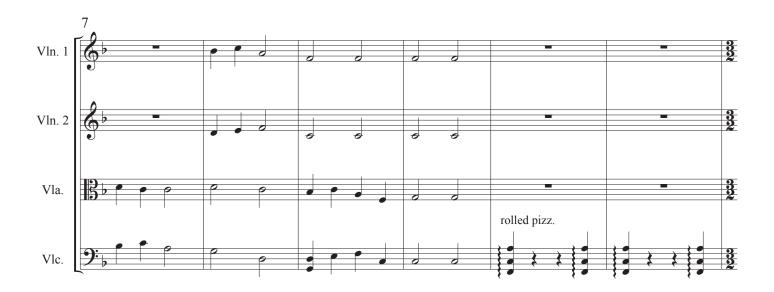
A Winter Rose

for String Quartet

Based on the 15th century German hymn *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*

Gwyneth Walker









Walker | A Winter Rose





3:00 August 21, 2024 New Canaan Connecticut

The Youngest Angel*

for String Quartet

Gwyneth Walker



^{*}This music may be played as a postlude – sending the congregation/audience home with joy!









