

Gwyneth Walker

All Nature Sings

for Wind Quintet



All Nature Sings

Composed in celebration of the Centennial of the Helen and Alice Bristow Bird Sanctuary and Wildwood Preserve, New Canaan, Connecticut – 1924-2024

duration circa 11 minutes (without readings)



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All Nature Sings is a suite of five movements for woodwind quintet inspired by the Bristow Bird Sanctuary and Wildwood Preserve, located near the composer's CT home. This beloved refuge has been visited and enjoyed by the composer since her childhood. Much of the woodland beauty and peace have remained the same over the years.

Each movement of the suite speaks to a different aspect of the sanctuary life. "In Flight" are the birds, flying and singing overhead, or hopping playfully on the ground. Often they sing individually. But here they join together in chorus!

The pond in the sanctuary is hidden away near the edge of the property. Surrounded by trees, the surface of the water is extremely peaceful, offering an ideal home for a pair of mallard ducks. First one duck (the Oboe) and then two ducks (Oboe and Flute) glide across the pond. Motion is gentle and graceful.

And then...one's tranquility is interrupted by the sounds of scurrying. There is "Something Underfoot!" Creatures large and small rustle in the underbrush. Some move quickly, some move deliberately. What joy and energy they have in exploring their home!

In "This Stillness" of nature, the traveler escapes to be alone. And yet, in the moments of solitude, one may encounter an infinite (divine) companion. "We walked together as one." [The French Horn portrays the solitary traveler, with the Bassoon as the *companion*. In the meantime, the upper woodwinds form a canopy of trees overhead, as the spirit protecting and encompassing the traveler.]

The lyrics to the hymn "This is my Father's World" inspire the last movement "Celebration – the Music of the Spheres." Of special relevance are the words *And to my listening ears all nature sings, and round me rings the music of the spheres*. When one visits the Bird Sanctuary, and takes a moment to listen, one hears a grand symphony of sound, the celebration of the natural world.



The Poems

*The composer has selected favorite poems which might be read aloud before the playing of each movement of music.
The woodwind players or audience may contribute their own choices.*

I. "In Flight"

"Hope" is the thing with feathers

Emily Dickinson

"Hope" is the thing with feathers -
That perches in the soul -
And sings the tune without the words -
And never stops - at all -

And sweetest - in the Gale - is heard -
And sore must be the storm -
That could abash the little Bird
That kept so many warm -

I've heard it in the chillest land -
And on the strangest Sea -
Yet - never - in Extremity,
It asked a crumb - of me.

"Hope" is the thing with feathers -
That perches in the soul.



The Windhover

Gerard Manley Hopkins

I caught this morning morning's minion, kingdom of daylight's dauphin, dapple-dawn-drawn Falcon, in his riding
Of the rolling level underneath him steady air,
and striding
High there, how he rung upon the rein of a
dimpling wing
In his ecstasy! then off, off forth on swing,
As a skate's heel sweeps smooth on a bow-bend:
the hurl and gliding
Rebuffed the big wind. My heart in hiding
Stirred for a bird, – the achieve of, the mastery
of the thing!

II. "Quiet Paths, a Pond"

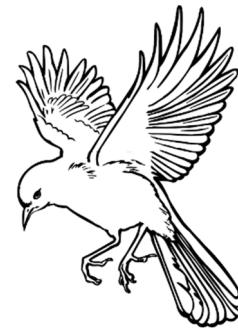
Acquaintance with Nature

Henry David Thoreau

I want to go soon and live away by the pond,
where I shall hear only the wind whispering
among the reeds.

It will be enough if I shall leave myself behind.

I seek acquaintance with Nature,
to know her moods and her manners.
I wish to know an entire heaven
and an entire earth!



III. "Something Underfoot! (scurrying)"

All Things Bright and Beautiful

Cecil F. Alexander (G. Walker alt.)

All things bright and beautiful,
All creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful:
The Lord has made them all.

Each flower that opens,
Each bird that sings,
With their glowing colors,
And their tiny wings.

All things bright and beautiful,
The Lord has made them all.

The freezing wind in winter,
The baking summer sun,
The golden leaves in autumn,
God made them all – bright and beautiful...
wise and wonderful...
great and small.

IV. “Interlude – This Stillness”

This Stillness

Henry David Thoreau

This stillness, solitude, wildness of Nature
Is like an herb,
or food to my intellect.
This is what I go out to seek.
It is as if I always met in those places
Some grand, serene, immortal,
Infinitely encouraging, though invisible,
companion.
We walked together as one.



V. “Celebration – The Music of the Spheres”

The Music of the Spheres

(adapted by Gwyneth Walker from the hymn text
“This is My Father’s World” by Maltbie D. Babcock)

This is my beloved world,
And to my listening ears
All nature sings, and round me rings
The music of the spheres.

In my beloved world,
I rest me in the thought
Of rocks and trees, of skies and seas –
The gifts that Nature wrought.

In our beloved world,
Where birds their carols raise,
The morning light, the lily white,
Declare our Maker’s praise...
Declare our Maker’s praise.

And to my listening ears
All nature sings, and round me rings
The music of the spheres.

The Composer

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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All Nature Sings

for Wind Quintet

Gwyneth Walker

1. “In Flight”

Lively tempo ($\text{d} = 120$)
(as a bird in flight)

Flute (Piccolo)

Oboe

B♭ Clarinet

Horn in F

Bassoon

7 (as birds hopping)

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Hn.

Bsn.

2

14

A

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Hn.

Bsn.

21

B
lightly tongued (as a bird)

p

mf

p

mf

p

mf

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Hn.

Bsn.

27

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Hn.

Bsn.

33

Fl. (mf) *lightly tongued*

Ob. mf

Cl. (mf)

Hn. (mf)

Bsn.

39 C

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Hn.

Bsn. (mf)

45

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Hn. (mf)

Bsn.

51

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Hn.

Bsn.

(mf)

D

playfully, lightly

56

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Hn.

Bsn.

f

playfully, lightly

playfully, lightly

playfully, lightly

playfully, lightly

playfully, lightly

f

E

62

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Hn.

Bsn.

68

This section consists of five staves for Flute (Fl.), Oboe (Ob.), Clarinet (Cl.), Horn (Hn.), and Bassoon (Bsn.). Measure 68 starts with a rest for Flute and Oboe, followed by eighth-note patterns for Clarinet, Horn, and Bassoon. Measures 69-71 show sustained notes with grace notes above them. Measure 72 begins with eighth-note patterns for all instruments, followed by sustained notes with grace notes.

74

F

This section continues with the same five instruments. Measures 74-76 feature eighth-note patterns with grace notes. Measures 77-79 show sustained notes with grace notes above them. Measure 80 begins with eighth-note patterns for Flute, Oboe, and Clarinet, followed by sustained notes with grace notes.

80

G Interlude

This section is labeled "G Interlude". It features sustained notes with grace notes above them for Flute, Oboe, and Clarinet. The Bassoon has a dynamic of **p**. The Horn has a dynamic of **p** and is marked with "(p)". The section ends with sustained notes with grace notes above them for Flute, Oboe, and Clarinet, with a dynamic of **p**.

87

Fl. (p)

Ob. (p)

Cl.

Hn. delicately (p)

Bsn.

93

Fl. cresc.

Ob. cresc.

Cl. cresc.

Hn. cresc.

Bsn. cresc.

H especially joyful

99

Fl. (cresc.) f especially joyful

Ob. (cresc.) f especially joyful

Cl. (cresc.) f especially joyful

Hn. (cresc.) f especially joyful

Bsn. (cresc.) f

105

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Hn.

Bsn.

I

lightly tongued

110

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Hn.

Bsn.

115

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Hn.

Bsn.

(sneak breath as needed) **J**

(sneak breath as needed)

(sneak breath as needed)

119

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Hn.

Bsn.

122

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Hn.

Bsn.

2:00

2. “Quiet Paths, a Pond”

Slow, gently flowing ($\text{d} = 56$)

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Hn. *very smoothly, as the surface of a pond*

Bsn.

Measure 1: Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, and Bassoon are silent. Horn begins with eighth-note chords.

Measure 2: Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, and Bassoon remain silent. Horn continues eighth-note chords.

Measure 3: Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, and Bassoon remain silent. Horn continues eighth-note chords.

Measure 4: Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, and Bassoon remain silent. Horn continues eighth-note chords.

Measure 5: Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, and Bassoon remain silent. Horn continues eighth-note chords.

Measure 6: Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, and Bassoon remain silent. Horn continues eighth-note chords.

Measure 7: Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, and Bassoon remain silent. Horn continues eighth-note chords.

Measure 8: Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, and Bassoon remain silent. Horn continues eighth-note chords.

9 [A]

Fl.

Ob. *very smoothly, as the surface of a pond**

Cl.

Hn.

Bsn.

Measure 9: Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, and Bassoon remain silent. Horn begins eighth-note chords.

Measure 10: Oboe begins eighth-note chords. Clarinet begins eighth-note chords.

Measure 11: Oboe continues eighth-note chords. Clarinet continues eighth-note chords.

Measure 12: Oboe continues eighth-note chords. Clarinet continues eighth-note chords.

Measure 13: Oboe continues eighth-note chords. Clarinet continues eighth-note chords.

Measure 14: Oboe continues eighth-note chords. Clarinet continues eighth-note chords.

Measure 15: Oboe continues eighth-note chords. Clarinet continues eighth-note chords.

16

Fl.

Ob. *delicately*

Cl.

Hn.

Bsn.

Measure 16: Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, and Bassoon remain silent. Horn begins eighth-note chords.

Measure 17: Oboe begins eighth-note chords. Clarinet begins eighth-note chords.

Measure 18: Oboe continues eighth-note chords. Clarinet continues eighth-note chords.

Measure 19: Oboe continues eighth-note chords. Clarinet continues eighth-note chords.

Measure 20: Oboe continues eighth-note chords. Clarinet continues eighth-note chords.

Measure 21: Oboe continues eighth-note chords. Clarinet continues eighth-note chords.

Measure 22: Oboe continues eighth-note chords. Clarinet continues eighth-note chords.

*Picturing a pair of mallard ducks swimming across the pond.

10

23

Flute

B

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Hn.

Bsn.

30

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Hn.

Bsn.

37

C

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Hn.

Bsn.

44

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Hn.

Bsn.

(p)

mf

mf

This section consists of five staves for Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, Horn, and Bassoon. Measure 44 starts with a rest for Flute, followed by eighth-note patterns for Oboe, Clarinet, and Bassoon. Measure 45 begins with a dynamic *p* for Flute, followed by eighth-note patterns. Measures 46-47 show eighth-note patterns for Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, and Bassoon. Measure 48 starts with a dynamic *mf* for Flute, followed by eighth-note patterns. Measure 49 shows eighth-note patterns for Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, and Bassoon. Measure 50 ends with eighth-note patterns for Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, and Bassoon.

51

D

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Hn.

Bsn.

mf

This section consists of five staves for Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, Horn, and Bassoon. Measures 51-54 feature eighth-note patterns for Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, and Bassoon. Measure 55 begins with a dynamic *mf* for Flute, followed by eighth-note patterns. Measures 56-57 show eighth-note patterns for Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, and Bassoon.

58

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Hn.

Bsn.

This section consists of five staves for Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, Horn, and Bassoon. Measures 58-61 feature eighth-note patterns for Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, and Bassoon. Measures 62-64 show eighth-note patterns for Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, and Bassoon.

65 (sneak a breath if necessary)

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Hn.

Bsn.

p

p

p (p)

p (p)

72 **E Relaxed tempo**
(allowing freedom for Clarinet solo)

Fl.

Ob.

Cl. gentle solo **mf**

Hn.

Bsn.

79 **F**

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Hn.

Bsn.

86

G

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Hn.

Bsn.

93

H
(gently pulsating)

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Hn.

Bsn.

99

molto rit.

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Hn.

Bsn.

14

105 I Original tempo ($\text{d} = 56$)

smoothly gliding

Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Hn.
Bsn.

p
very smoothly

p

p

III

J

Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Hn.
Bsn.

very smoothly

p

117

Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Hn.
Bsn.

quiet background

p

123

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Hn.

Bsn.

129 [K]

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Hn.

Bsn.

135 *rit. to end*

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Hn.

Bsn.

to Picc.

pp

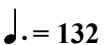
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pp

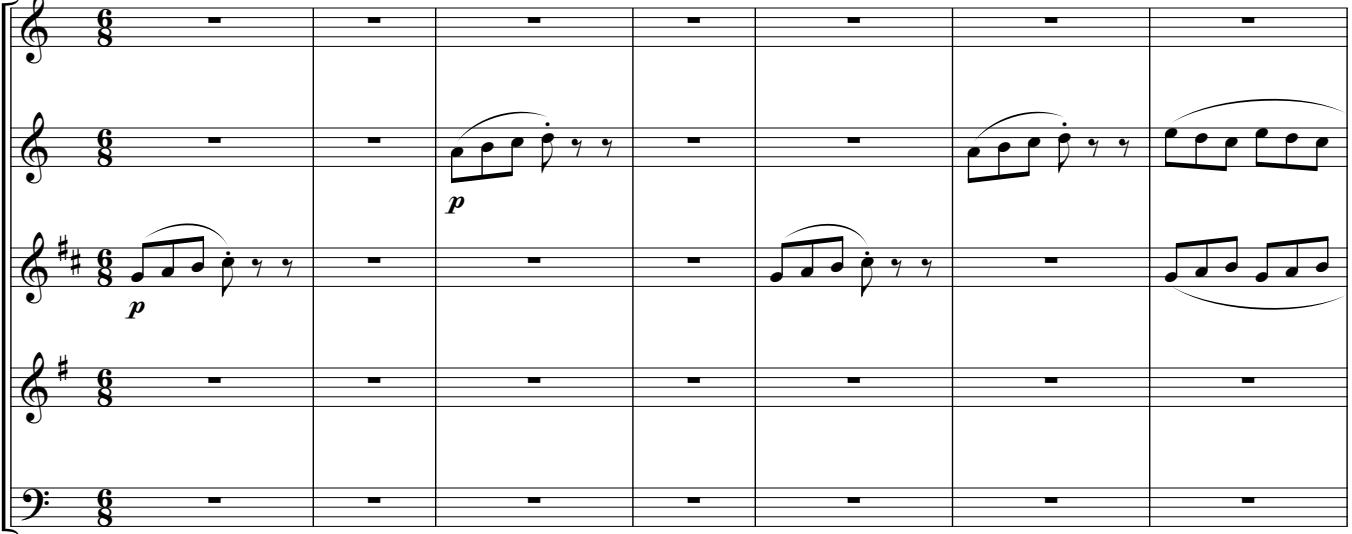
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pp

3. “Something Underfoot (scurrying)”

 = 132
lightly, to portray small creatures scurrying in the woods

Picc. Ob. Cl. Hn. Bsn.



8

Picc. Ob. Cl. Hn. Bsn.

A

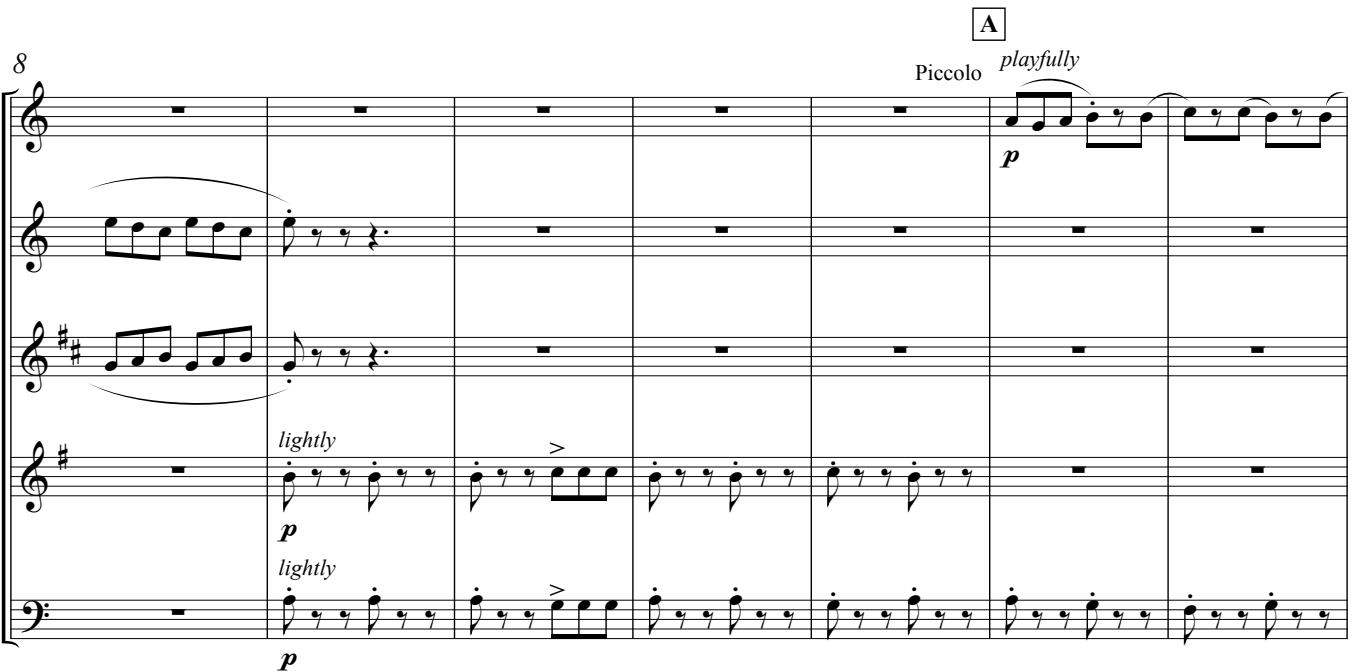
Piccolo *playfully*

p

lightly

p *lightly*

p



15

Picc. Ob. Cl. Hn. Bsn.

B

22

Picc. Ob. Cl. Hn. Bsn.

29

Picc. Ob. Cl. Hn. Bsn.

C

lightly tongued

35

Picc.

Ob.

Cl.

Hn.

Bsn.

lightly tongued

D

42

Picc.

Ob.

Cl.

Hn.

Bsn.

48

E

Picc.

Ob.

Cl.

Hn.

Bsn.

mf

abrupt pause

54

F

Picc.

Ob.

Cl.

Hn.

Bsn.

60

Picc.

Ob.

Cl.

Hn.

Bsn.

66

G

Picc.

Ob.

Cl.

Hn.

Bsn.

*Bassoon is a large, “great” creature.

73

[H]

Picc.

Ob.

Cl.

Hn.

Bsn.

79

[I]

Picc.

Ob.

Cl.

Hn.

Bsn.

85 *rit.* *a tempo*

Picc.

Ob.

Cl.

Hn.

Bsn.

91 (♩.=♩)

J

Picc.

Ob.

Cl.

Hn.

Bsn.

97 *tr*

p

tr

cresc. poco a poco (to K)

cresc. poco a poco (to K)

cresc. poco a poco (to K)

Picc.

Ob.

Cl.

Hn.

Bsn.

103

cresc. poco a poco (to K)

(cresc.)

cresc. poco a poco (to K)

(cresc.)

(cresc.)

Picc.

Ob.

Cl.

Hn.

Bsn.

108

Picc. (cresc.)

Ob. (cresc.)

Cl. (cresc.)

Hn. (cresc.)

Bsn. (cresc.)

K (♩ = ♩.) rit.

f

f

f

f

f

All players sway to the RIGHT

sway to the LEFT

sway to the RIGHT →
players hold instruments up for audience to see

a tempo
(creatures scurry in the woods... and run away)

double tongue or flutter to Flute

113

Picc. *sfp* — *f*, *p*

Ob. *sfp* — *f*, double tongue or flutter *p*

Cl. *sfp* — *f*, *p*, double tongue or flutter

Hn. *sfp* — *f*

Bsn. *sfp* — *f*

2:00

4. “Interlude – This Stillness”

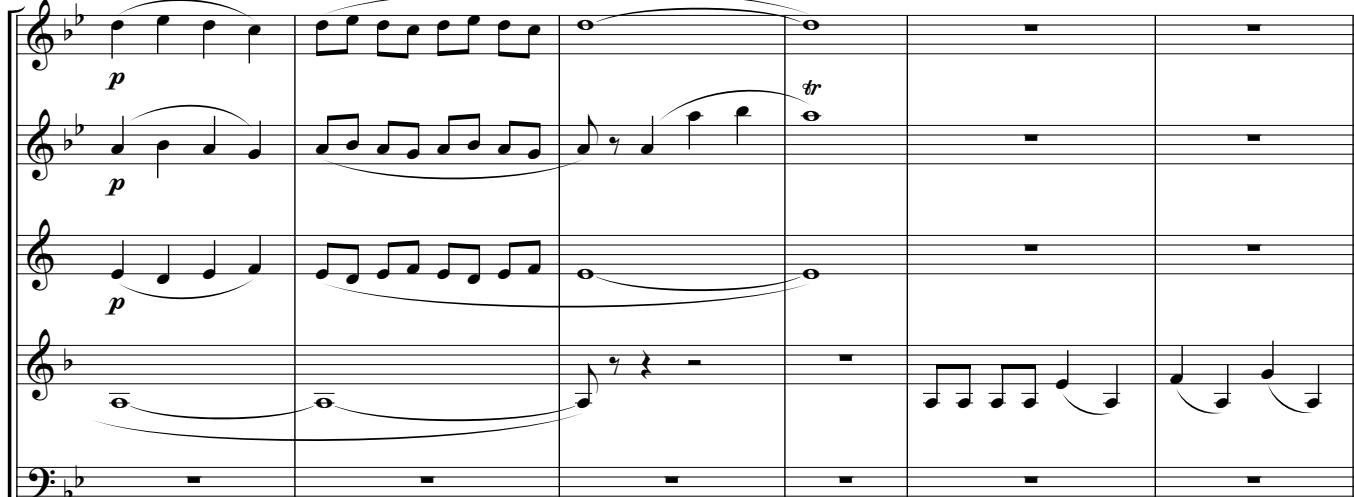
Slowly ($\text{♩} = 92$)
in a solitary mood

Hn. 

(sneak a breath when needed)

7 Flute 

Fl. Ob. Cl. Hn. Bsn.



rit.  **B** *a tempo* ($\text{♩} = 92$)

13 Fl. Ob. Cl. Hn. Bsn.



18

Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Hn.
Bsn.

C *a tempo* ($\text{♩} = 92$)
very peacefully

23 *rit.*

Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Hn.
Bsn.

28 *rit.*

Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Hn.
Bsn.

*lightly tongued**

p

*lightly tongued**

*Horn and Bassoon portray the line: "we walked together as one."
Walker | All Nature Sings | 4. This Stillness

5. “Celebration – The Music of the Spheres”

*The fermatas in m. 1-4 (trilled notes) should last approximately 4 seconds.

13

B

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Hn.

Bsn.

18

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Hn.

Bsn.

23

C

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Hn.

Bsn.

lightly, with a joyful bounce

28

Fl.

Ob.

Cl. *p*

Hn.

Bsn.

This section shows measures 28 through 32. The Flute, Oboe, and Bassoon are silent. The Clarinet and Horn play eighth-note patterns. The Clarinet has a dynamic *p*. Measures 28-31 show eighth-note pairs. Measure 32 shows eighth-note pairs followed by quarter notes.

33 [D]

Fl.

Ob. *mp*

Cl. *mp*

Hn. *mp*

Bsn.

This section shows measures 33 through 36. The Flute is silent. The Oboe, Clarinet, and Horn play eighth-note patterns with dynamics *mp*. The Bassoon is silent.

37

Fl. *mf*

Ob. *mf*

Cl. *mf*

Hn. *mf*

Bsn. *mf*

This section shows measures 37 through 40. The Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, and Bassoon play eighth-note patterns with dynamics *mf*. The Horn plays eighth-note pairs with a dynamic *mf*.

41 [E]

Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Hn.
Bsn.

f

This section consists of five staves for Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, Horn, and Bassoon. The Flute and Oboe play eighth-note patterns with sustained notes. The Clarinet, Horn, and Bassoon provide harmonic support with sustained notes and eighth-note chords. Measure 41 concludes with a dynamic *f*.

46 [F]

Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Hn.
Bsn.

This section continues with the same instrumentation. The Flute and Oboe maintain their eighth-note patterns. The Clarinet, Horn, and Bassoon continue their harmonic function. The section ends with a melodic flourish from the Flute and Oboe.

51

Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Hn.
Bsn.

p

This section begins with sustained notes from the Flute, Oboe, and Clarinet. The Bassoon provides rhythmic support with eighth-note patterns. The section ends with a dynamic *p*.

55 [G] to Piccolo

Fl.

Ob.

Cl. *p* delicately, with growing energy

Hn. *p* delicately, with growing energy

Bsn. *p* delicately, with growing energy

59

Fl.

Ob.

Cl. *poco cresc.*

Hn. *poco cresc.*

Bsn. *poco cresc.* *mp*

63 [H]

Picc. Piccolo *a celebratory touch* *mp*

Ob. *mp*

Cl. *mp*

Hn. *mp*

Bsn.

67

Picc. *mf*

Ob. *mf*

Cl. *mf*

Hn. *mf*

Bsn. *mf*

f

f

f

f

71 [I] Grandly, triumphantly

Picc. (f)

Ob. (f)

Cl. (f)

Hn.

Bsn.

tr

tr

tr

76 [J]

Picc.

Ob.

Cl.

Hn.

Bsn.

tr

tr

tr

80

Picc.

Ob.

Cl.

Hn.

Bsn.

p sub.

85 [K] With growing energy

Picc.

Ob.

Cl.

Hn.

Bsn.

p

p sub.

mp

mp

mp

mp

p sub.

mp

mp

mp

rit.

mf

89

Picc.

Ob.

Cl.

Hn.

Bsn.

mf

f

f

f

ff