

## **Journey on the Open Road**

Music by Gwyneth Walker (b. 1947)

Text adapted from “Song of the Open Road” by Walt Whitman (1819–1892)

### **1. Afoot and light-hearted (the journey begins)**

**Chorus:** Afoot and light-hearted, I travel the open road,  
healthy, free, the world before me,  
the long path before me, leading wherever I choose.

I do not ask good-fortune. I myself am good fortune;  
I postpone no more, question no more, need nothing—  
strong and content, I travel the open road.

The road beckons...

### **2. You Road I Enter Upon**

**Soprano:** You road I enter upon and look around!  
I believe you are not all that is here;  
I believe that much unseen is also here.

**Tenor:** You air that serves me with breath to speak!  
You objects that call from diffusion my meanings and give them shape!

**Baritone:** You light that wraps me and all things in delicate equable showers!  
You pathways worn in the irregular hollows by the roadside!

**Soloists:** I think you are filled with unseen life—you are so dear to me.

### **3. From This Hour — Freedom!**

**Chorus:** From this hour, freedom!  
From this hour I ordain myself free of limits and imaginary lines,  
Going where I will, my own master, total and absolute,  
pausing, searching, receiving, contemplating,  
gently, but with undeniable will,

divesting myself of the holds that would hold me.

#### 4. To Grow in the Open Air

**Tenor:** I inhale great drafts of space;  
The east and west are mine, and the north and the south are mine.

**Baritone:** Now I see the secret of the making of life,  
It is to grow in the open air, and to eat and sleep with the earth.

**Chorus:** O highway I travel, I am not afraid to leave you,  
yet I love you; you express me better than I can express myself;  
you shall be more to me than any poem.

#### 5. Here is the Voice of the Soul

**Soprano (with chorus):** Here is the voice of the Soul;  
The voice of the Soul comes from within.  
It is happiness. It pervades the open air.  
It flows into us, and we are rightly filled.

**Chorus:** The soul travels;  
Forever alive, forever forward,  
along the grand roads of the universe.

#### 6. Come Travel with Me

**Soloists:** Arise! Whoever you are, come travel with me!  
Traveling with me, you find what never tires.  
The earth never tires;  
The earth is rude, silent, incomprehensible at first.  
Be not discouraged—  
There are divine things more beautiful than words can tell.

Arise! We must not anchor here;  
We will sail pathless and wild seas;  
We will go where winds blow, and waves dash; and the Yankee clipper  
speeds by under full sail.

**Soloists and Chorus:** Arise! Let us go! With power, liberty, the earth, and the elements!

## **7. The Road is Before Us (Arise! Let Us Go!)**

Arise! Let us go! The road is before us!

My friend and companion! I give you my hand!  
I give you my love, more precious than gold,  
I give you my spirit, more precious than money,  
I give you myself, as a heart unfettered;  
I give you my life, as a Soul Eternal.  
Shall we follow this journey for as long as we live!  
Shall our lives be a journey on the open road!

I travel the open road!