Gwyneth Walker

Songs of Home

a celebration of *home*, and of building a home – dedicated to *Habitat for Humanity* for SATB Chorus and Orchestra

"A Home Song"

"Take This Hammer (Tools of the Trade)"

"A House of Love and Light"

"I'm Buildin' Me a Home"

Duration: 11:30

Dedicated to *Habitat for Humanity* and the many volunteers who give so generously of their time to providing homes for their neighbors in need

Songs of Home is a set of four choral songs with texts on topics of *home*. The expressions range from reverent ("A Home Song" and "A House of Love and Light") to a working song ("Take this Hammer") to a celebratory spiritual in swing rhythm ("I'm Buildin' Me a Home").

Home is considered a place where the soul breathes free, where the heart is at rest, where the peace of the Lord shall enter. And for the builders, home is a place of hammers, saws and drills. [!]

Home is both physical and spiritual. *This earthly house gonna soon decay. My soul's gotta have somewhere to stay.*

Home is both a goal (a place to live) and a beginning (a place of welcome, an opening of the heart). There are many causes for gratitude and celebration. Perhaps these **Songs of Home** might serve to acknowledge the valuable work of *Habitat for Humanity*.

1. A Home Song

poem by Henry Van Dyke (1852-1933) published 1909 adapted by Gwyneth Walker

I read within a poet's book some words that marked the page: "Stone walls do not a prison make, nor iron bars a cage!"

Yes, that is true; and something more you'll find, where'er you roam, that marble floors and gilded walls can never make a home.

Yes, marble floors and guided walls are not a home to me. For I must live where my mind can roam, and where my soul breathes free.

But every house where Love abides, And Friendship is a guest, Is surely home, a cherished home, For there the heart can rest.

Songs of Home

for SATB Chorus and Piano

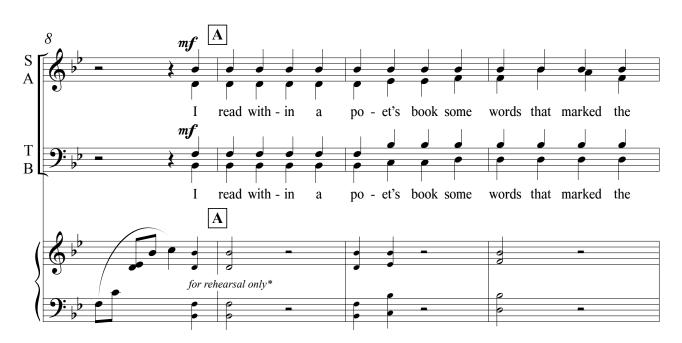
Henry Van Dyke (1852–1933) published in 1909 adapted by the composer

Gwyneth Walker

1. A Home Song







^{*}Cue-sized notes in the piano part are for rehearsal only.











