

Gwyneth Walker

The Great Lakes Overture

a nautical adventure for chamber orchestra

setting forth...on the water...early in the morning

Total duration: 3 minutes

This overture is the preface to the **The Great Lakes** cantata, a 7-movement work for chorus and chamber orchestra. The intent of this introduction is to provide *nautical* imagery to bring the listener into the watery world of the Great Lakes.

The start of the journey is marked by the ringing of a ship's bell, tolling the hours of the embarkation (or of the beginning of the orchestra concert!). Soon, the listener might hear (envision) the rising of the mist on the lake. Then comes a *jaunty* Piccolo/ fife theme, with the spirit of "setting forth."

A calmer middle section arrives with triple meter and a gentle Oboe theme "on the water." Strings provide a *shimmering waves* accompaniment.

Energy gathers for a lively closing section based on the sea chanty "What Shall We Do with the Drunken Sailor...so early in the morning?" The phrase of these lyrics, "Way, way up she rises," joyously comes to life in the Temple Blocks. A quick ending follows: "so early in the morning!" And then the ship's bell returns, marking the hours.

The Great Lakes Overture – a Nautical Adventure

Envisioning “setting forth,” “on the water,” and “early in the morning”

for Orchestra

Gwyneth Walker

Free tempo

Piccolo

Flute

Oboe

B♭ Clarinet

Bassoon

Horn 1 in F

Horn 2 in F

*Trumpet 1 in C

*Trumpet 2 in C

Trombone

Ship's Bell
rung to mark the hour (at the start of the overture, concert time)
such as 3 p.m. (6 bells), 4 p.m. (8 bells) etcetera, ringing in groups of two

Percussion
(Ship's Bell [Chimes],
Suspended Cymbal,
Glockenspiel, Maracas,
Low Tom-Tom, Bongo,
Triangle, Temple Blocks [5],
Slapstick)

Chimes (substitute if Ship's Bell is not available)

Free tempo

Violin 1

Violin 2

Viola

Violoncello

Contrabass

*B♭ Trumpet parts are also available.

1 With motion ♩ = 132

Perc. **Suspended Cymbal**
pp *p*

Vln. 1 With motion ♩ = 132
pp

Vln. 2 (morning mist on the lake)
pp

Vla.

Vlc.

Cb.



5

Cl.

Bsn. *p*

Perc. *pp*

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla. *pizz.*
p

Vlc. *pizz.*
p

Cb. *p*

A Jaunty theme: "setting forth"

9

Picc. *mf*

Fl. *mf*

Ob. *mf*

Cl. *mf*

Bsn. *mf*

Hn. 1 *mf*

Hn. 2 *mf*

Tpt. 1 *mf*

Tpt. 2 *mf*

Tbn. *mf*

Perc. Glockenspiel *mf*

A Jaunty theme: "setting forth"

Vln. 1 *mf* pizz. arco

Vln. 2 *mf* pizz. arco

Vla. *mf* arco

Vcl. *mf* arco

Cb. *mf* arco

13

Picc.

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Bsn.

Hn. 1

Hn. 2

Tpt. 1

Tpt. 2

Tbn.

(Glock.)

Perc.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Cb.

pizz.

arco

17 **B**

Picc.

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Bsn.

Hn. 1

Hn. 2

Tpt. 1

Tpt. 2

Tbn.

Perc.

Maracas

mf

B

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

pizz.

arco

Vlc.

pizz.

arco

Cb.

pizz.

arco

21

Picc.

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Bsn.

Hn. 1

Hn. 2

Tpt. 1

Tpt. 2

Tbn.

(Mar.)
Perc.

Tom-Tom (*mf*)

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla. *pizz.* *arco*

Vlc. *pizz.* *arco*

Cb. *pizz.* *arco*

25 **C**

Picc.
Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
Hn. 1
Hn. 2
Tpt. 1
Tpt. 2
Tbn.
Perc. **Bongo** **Susp. Cym.**
Vln. 1 **C**
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vlc.
Cb.

29

Picc.

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Bsn.

Hn. 1

Hn. 2

Tpt. 1

Tpt. 2

Tbn.

Perc.

Bongo

Susp. Cym.

Tom-Tom

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Cb.

33

Picc.

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Bsn.

Hn. 1

Hn. 2

Tpt. 1

Tpt. 2

Tbn.

Perc. **Bongo**

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Cb.

36

Perc.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Cb.

p

p

p

p

p



39

Perc.

Triangle

p

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Cb.

Same tempo ♩ = 132

Same tempo ♩ = 132

D Waves theme: "on the water"

43

Ob. *mf cantabile*

(Tri.)

Perc.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla. *rolled pizz.*

Vlc. *rolled pizz.*

Cb. *pizz.*

48

Ob.

Hn. 1 *pp*

Hn. 2 *pp*

Perc. *Glock. (as shimmering waves)*
p (as shimmering waves)

Vln. 1 *(p) (as shimmering waves)*

Vln. 2 *(p) arco*

Vla. *arco* *rolled pizz.*

Vlc. *arco* *rolled pizz.*

Cb. *arco* *pizz.*

54

Ob.

Hn. 1

Hn. 2

(Glock.)

Perc.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Cb.

pp

pp

arco

arco

arco

60 **E**

Ob.

Hn. 1

Hn. 2

Perc.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Cb.

(mf)

mf cantabile

mf cantabile

mf

E

rolled pizz.

rolled pizz.

pizz.

arco

arco

arco

66

Picc.

Fl.

Ob. *(mf)*

Cl.

Bsn.

Hn. 1

Hn. 2

Tpt. 1 *mf cantabile*

Tpt. 2 *mf cantabile*

Tbn.

(Glock.)

Perc.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla. *rolled pizz.*

Vlc. *rolled pizz.*

Cb. *pizz.*

72

Picc.

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Bsn.

Hn. 1

Hn. 2

Tpt. 1

Tpt. 2

Tbn.

Perc.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Cb.

mf

mf

mf

arco

div.

arco

arco

Sea chanty: "What Shall We
Do with the Drunken Sailor?"*

82

The score is for a sea chanty titled "What Shall We Do with the Drunken Sailor?". It begins at measure 82. The instrumentation includes Piccolo, Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, Bassoon, Horns 1 & 2, Trumpets 1 & 2, Trombone, Percussion (Slapstick and Bongo), Violin 1 & 2, Viola, Violoncello, and Contrabass. The woodwinds (Piccolo, Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, Bassoon) and strings (Violins, Viola, Violoncello, Contrabass) play a rhythmic melody with accents. The brass section (Horns, Trumpets, Trombone) plays a steady accompaniment of eighth notes, marked with a forte (*f*) dynamic. The percussion includes a Slapstick and Bongo. The Tom-Tom part is marked with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. The score is written in 2/4 time.

*Lyrics are included in the score to highlight the musical quotations from the sea chanty in the orchestra.

“...early in the morning?”

86

Picc.

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Bsn.

Hn. 1

Hn. 2

Tpt. 1

Tpt. 2

Tbn.

Perc.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Cb.

“Way, way up. . . (she rises)”

“way, way up. . . (she rises)”

90 **G**

Picc. *p* ————— *f* *p* ————— *f*

Fl. *p* ————— *f* *p* ————— *f*

Ob. *p* ————— *f* *p* ————— *f*

Cl. *p* ————— *f* *p* ————— *f*

Bsn. *(f)* *p* ————— *f* *p* ————— *f*

Hn. 1 *(f)* *p* ————— *f* *p* ————— *f*

Hn. 2 *(f)* *p* ————— *f* *p* ————— *f*

Tpt. 1 *(f)* *p* ————— *f* *p* ————— *f*

Tpt. 2 *(f)* *p* ————— *f* *p* ————— *f*

Tbn. *(f)* *p* ————— *f* *p* ————— *f*

Perc. **Temple Blocks**
f *p* ————— *f* *p* ————— *f*

Vln. 1 **G** *p* ————— *f* *p* ————— *f*

Vln. 2 *p* ————— *f* *p* ————— *f*

Vla. *p* ————— *f* *p* ————— *f*

Vlc. *p* ————— *f* *p* ————— *f*

Cb. *(f)* *p* ————— *f* *p* ————— *f*

"way, way up... (she rises)"

"so early in the morning?"

94

Picc.

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Bsn.

Hn. 1

Hn. 2

Tpt. 1

Tpt. 2

Tbn.

Perc.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Cb.

p

f

“What shall we do with the drunk - en sai - lor...”

98

Picc.

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Bsn.

Hn. 1

Hn. 2

Tpt. 1

Tpt. 2

Tbn.

Perc. Tom-Tom (w/ hands) *(f)*

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Cb.

"so early. . .

"so early in the morning!"

102

Picc. *p* *f*

Fl. *p* *f*

Ob. *p* *f*

Cl. *p* *f*

Bsn. *p* *f*

Hn. 1 *p* *f*

Hn. 2 *p* *f*

Tpt. 1 *p* *f*

Tpt. 2 *p* *f*

Tbn. *p* *f*

Perc. *p* *f* Bongo Tom-Tom

Vln. 1 *p* *f* *div.* *unis.*

Vln. 2 *p* *f* *div.* *unis.*

Vla. *p* *f*

Vlc. *p* *f* *div.* *unis.*

Cb. *p* *f*

106 Free tempo

Picc. Fl. Ob. Cl. Bsn. Hn. 1 Hn. 2 Tpt. 1 Tpt. 2 Tbn. Perc. Vln. 1 Vln. 2 Vla. Vlc. Cb.

Ship's Bell
x x x x x x x x

Chimes (substitute if Ship's Bell is not available)
f

Free tempo