

Gwyneth Walker

*Variations on
"Amazing Grace"*

for Band

Duration: 4 minutes

Variations on "Amazing Grace" is a short set of continuous, free-flowing variations on the familiar American hymn tune. The work opens with a simple presentation of the hymn tune by the trumpets – one voice singing alone. The counterpoint slowly increases, voice by voice, to lead to treatments of the tune in full harmonic splendor and color. After a climax, the ensemble fades away to reveal a simple presentation by the trumpets (echoing off each other) of the melody over a pulsating background. The work is based on the version for solo organ which was composed as a wedding gift for the composer's cousin, Arthur Walker, and was premiered at his wedding ceremony.

Notes by Carson Cooman

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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, Walker resigned from academic employment in 1982 in order to pursue a career as a full-time composer. She now lives on a dairy farm in Braintree, Vermont.

Walker's catalog includes over 130 commissioned works for orchestra, band, chorus and chamber ensembles. The music of Gwyneth Walker is published by E.C. Schirmer of Boston (choral & vocal music) and MMB Music of St. Louis (orchestral & instrumental music).

Gwyneth Walker is a proud resident of Vermont. She is the recipient of the Year 2000 "Lifetime Achievement Award" from the Vermont Arts Council.

Variations on "Amazing Grace"

for Band

Gwyneth Walker

Moderato ♩ = 88

1 Flutes 2 Flutes

Piccolo (Flute 2)

Oboes

1 B♭ Clarinets 2 B♭ Clarinets 3 B♭ Clarinets

Bass Clarinet

Bassoons

Alto Saxophone 1 (or Soprano)

Alto Saxophone 2

Tenor Saxophone

Baritone Saxophone

Moderato ♩ = 88

One Player Solo

mf One Player Solo

1 B♭ Trumpets 2 B♭ Trumpets 3 B♭ Trumpets

1 F Horns 2 F Horns

1 Trombones 2 Trombones 3 Trombones

Euphoniums

Tuba

Timpani

Glockenspiel

1 Percussion 2 Percussion 3 Percussion

13

1 Fls. *mf*

2 (Flute) *mf*

Picc. (Fl. 2) *mf*

Obs. *mf*

1 B \flat Cls. *mf*

2 *mf*

3 *mf*

Bs. Cl. *mf*

Bsns. *mf*

Alto 1 (Sop.) *mf*

Alto 2 *mf*

Ten. Sax. *mf*

Bar. Sax. *mf*

A

13

1 B \flat Tpts. *p*

2 *p*

3

1 F Hns.

2

1 Tbns. 2

3

Euphs. *mf*

Tuba

Timp.

Glock.

Suspended Cymbal *p* *mp* *p*

1 Perc. *p*

2

3

A

23

1 Fls.
2 Fls.
Picc. (Fl. 2)
Obs.
1 B♭ Cl. 2
3 B♭ Cl. 3
Bs. Cl.
Bsns.
Alto 1 (Sop.)
Alto 2
Ten. Sax.
Bar. Sax.

Detailed description: This section of the score covers measures 23 to 30. It features woodwind and string parts. The woodwinds include Flutes (1 and 2), Piccolo (Flute 2), Oboe, B♭ Clarinets (1, 2, and 3), Bass Clarinet, Bassoon, Alto 1 (Soprano), Alto 2, Tenor Saxophone, and Baritone Saxophone. The strings include Basses (1, 2, and 3), Euphonium, Tuba, Timpani, and Glockenspiel. The percussion part includes snare drum, tom-toms, and cymbals. The score is written in a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a 4/4 time signature. The woodwinds and strings play melodic lines with various articulations and dynamics. The percussion part features a rhythmic pattern with dynamic markings of *mp*, *p*, and *mf*.

23

1 B♭ Tpts. 2
3 B♭ Tpts. 3
1 F Hns.
2 F Hns.
1 Tbn. 2
3 Tbn. 3
Euphs.
Tuba
Timp.
Glock.
1 Perc.
2 Perc.
3 Perc.

Detailed description: This section of the score covers measures 23 to 30. It features brass and percussion parts. The brass instruments include B♭ Trumpets (1, 2, and 3), French Horns (1 and 2), Trombones (1, 2, and 3), Euphonium, and Tuba. The percussion includes Timpani, Glockenspiel, and a Percussion ensemble (1, 2, and 3). The score is written in a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a 4/4 time signature. The brass instruments play melodic lines with various articulations and dynamics. The percussion part features a rhythmic pattern with dynamic markings of *mp*, *p*, and *mf*.

33 **B** poco accel. ♩ = 108

1 Fls.
2 Fls.
Picc. (Fl. 2)
Obs.
1 B♭ Cl. 2
3 B♭ Cl. 3
Bs. Cl.
Bsns.
Alto 1 (Sop.)
Alto 2
Ten. Sax.
Bar. Sax.

mf

33 **B** poco accel. ♩ = 108

1 B♭ Tpts. 2
3 B♭ Tpts. 3
1 F Hns.
2 F Hns.
1 Tbps.
2 Tbps.
3 Tbps.
Euphs.
Tuba
Timp.
Glock.
1 Perc. Tenor Drum
2 Perc.
3 Perc.

mf

p

Tenor Drum

mf

accel. **C** ♩ = 120

44

1 Fls. *mf*

2 Fls. *mf*

Picc. (Fl. 2) *mf*

Obs. *mf*

1 B♭ Cl.s

2 B♭ Cl.s

3 B♭ Cl.s

Bs. Cl.

Bsns.

Alto 1 (Sop.)

Alto 2

Ten. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

44

tutti *mf*

accel. **C** ♩ = 120

1 B♭ Tpts. *mf*

2 B♭ Tpts. *mf*

3 B♭ Tpts. *mf*

1 F Hns.

2 F Hns.

1 Tbns.

2 Tbns.

3 Tbns.

Euphs.

Tuba *mf*

Timp.

Glock.

1 Perc.

2 Perc.

3 Perc. Bass Drum *mf*

55

1 Fls.

2 Fls.

Picc. (Fl. 2)

Obs.

1 B \flat Cl.s

2 B \flat Cl.s

3 B \flat Cl.s

Bs. Cl.

Bsns.

Alto 1 (Sop.)

Alto 2

Ten. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

55

1 B \flat Tpts.

2 B \flat Tpts.

3 B \flat Tpts.

1 F Hns.

2 F Hns.

1 Tbns.

2 Tbns.

3 Tbns.

Euphs.

Tuba

Timp.

Glock.

1 Perc.

2 Perc.

3 Perc. B.D.

D

65

1 Fls.

2 Fls.

(Piccolo)

Obs.

1 B♭ Cl.

2 B♭ Cl.

3 B♭ Cl.

Bs. Cl.

Bsns.

Alto 1 (Sop.)

Alto 2

Ten. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

D

65

1 B♭ Tpts.

2 B♭ Tpts.

3 B♭ Tpts.

1 F Hns.

2 F Hns.

1 Tbns.

2 Tbns.

3 Tbns.

Euphs.

Tuba

Timp.

Glock.

1 Perc.

2 Perc.

3 Perc.

Crash Cymbals

E

76

1 Fls. 2 Fls. Picc. Obs.

1 B♭ Cl. 2 B♭ Cl. 3 B♭ Cl.

Bs. Cl. Bsns.

Alto 1 (Sop.) Alto 2 Ten. Sax. Bar. Sax.

E

76

1 B♭ Tpts. 2 B♭ Tpts. 3 B♭ Tpts.

1 F Hns. 2 F Hns.

1 Tbns. 2 Tbns. 3 Tbns.

Euphs. Tuba

1 Timp. Glock.

1 Perc. 2 Perc. 3 Perc.

Snare Drum

rit. ♩ = 108

F

86

1 Fls.

2 Fls.

Picc.

Obs.

1 B♭ Cl. 2

3 B♭ Cl. 3

Bs. Cl.

Bsns.

Alto 1 (Sop.)

Alto 2

Ten. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

F

rit. ♩ = 108

86

1 B♭ Tpts. 2

3 B♭ Tpts. 3

1 F Hns.

2 F Hns.

1 Tbns. 2

3 Tbns. 3

Euphs.

Tuba

Timp.

Glock.

1 Perc. 2

3 Perc. 3

Triangle

Tom-Tom

94 *rit.* **G** ♩ = 88

1 Fls. *ff*

2 Fls. *ff*

Picc. *ff*

Obs. *ff*

1 B♭ Cl. *ff*

2 B♭ Cl. *ff*

3 B♭ Cl. *ff*

Bs. Cl. *ff*

Bsns. *ff*

Alto 1 (Sop.) *ff*

Alto 2 *ff*

Ten. Sax. *ff*

Bar. Sax. *ff*

(Cls. 1, 2, 3: Players gradually drop out until only three are playing at m. 104)

p

p sub.

p sub.

p sub.

94 *rit.* **G** ♩ = 88

1 B♭ Tpts. *ff*

2 B♭ Tpts. *ff*

3 B♭ Tpts. *ff*

1 F Hns. *ff*

2 F Hns. *ff*

1 Tbns. *ff*

2 Tbns. *ff*

3 Tbns. *ff*

Euphs. *ff*

Tuba *ff*

Timp. *ff*

Glock. *ff*

p sub.

p sub.

p

1 Perc. *ff*

2 Perc. *ff*

3 Perc. *ff*

Large Gong *ff* *lv. until silent*

Susp. Cymb. *ff* *lv. until silent*

(Trgl.)

(TT)

112

rit. ♩ = 60

1 Fls. *pp* *Solo mp* *pp*

2 Fls. *pp*

Picc. *pp* (hum at concert pitch)

Obs. *pp*

1 B♭ Cls. 2 3

Bs. Cl. *pp*

Bsns. *pp*

Alto 1 (Sop.) *pp*

Alto 2 *pp*

Ten. Sax. *pp*

Bar. Sax. *pp*

112

rit. ♩ = 60

1 B♭ Tpts. 2 3 *pp* *p*

1 F Hns. 2 *pp*

1 Tbns. 2 3 *pp*

Euphs. *pp*

Tuba *pp*

Timp. *pp*

Glock. *pp* *p* *pp*

1 Perc. 2 3 Hum any pitch in Glockenspiel part

* Hum any of these pitches