

These folk carols (songs) are known for their starkly beautiful melodies and harmonies—simple, yet moving. In creating new string adaptations, the composer has enjoyed revisiting the original tunes, exploring a few new trails of thought.

The Cherry Tree Carol is a ballad—a song of many verses telling a story. This string arrangement allows for the steady flow from one verse to the next. The two opening verses are followed by a brief middle section, marked delicately, inspired by the small cherries which Mary gathers. This music grows in intensity in telling of Jesus’ birth. And then, with sudden simplicity, the opening theme returns quietly as an ending.

Jesus, Jesus, Rest Your Head is a gentle lullaby with a refrain in chordal, hymn style. These refrains alternate with verses and interludes which are more rhythmic and soloistic in character. Tenderness is an essential quality throughout.

Go Tell it on the Mountain is an exuberant song which this arrangement balances between lively refrains and recitative-style moments of relaxation.[!] Often the music erupts into rapid patterns of boisterous energy.

The opening lyrics for this last song are “*I wonder as I wander, out under the sky.*” And it is this image of a solitary soul out walking at night beneath the stars that inspires this arrangement. Intervallic leaps in the high range of the upper strings are marked *as stars*. These stars dance lightly above the melody (high range of the cello). A delicate, solo middle section allow the stars to sparkle above a gentle *earth* underpinning. The sky fills with stars, and then the music quiets to the end. One lone star shines.

—Gwyneth Walker

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Available Editions

Originally for Piano Solo and published within *The Holly and the Ivy* by MorningStar Music Publishers, MSM-15-745

String Orchestra

Complete Set	1.3615
Additional Full Score	1.3615A
Additional Parts	1.3615B

String Quartet

Complete Set	1.3616
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Folk Carols for Strings

for String Orchestra

Gwyneth Walker

1. Cherry Tree Carol

Moderate tempo, flowing ♩ = 108

Violin I *p*

Violin II *p*

Viola *mf cantabile*

Violoncello *mf*

Contrabass *pizz.*

A

Detailed description: This block contains the first six measures of the score. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/4. The tempo is 'Moderate tempo, flowing' with a quarter note equal to 108 beats per minute. The score is for five parts: Violin I, Violin II, Viola, Violoncello, and Contrabass. Violin I and II play a melody of eighth notes with slurs. The Viola, Violoncello, and Contrabass provide harmonic support. A rehearsal mark 'A' is placed above the first measure of the Viola part.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vlc.

Cb.

7

(p)

mf > p

(p)

mf > p

arco

pizz.

arco

Detailed description: This block contains measures 7 through 11. A double bar line with a repeat sign is at the beginning. Measure 7 is marked with a '7'. The Violin I and II parts have dynamics *(p)* and *mf > p*. The Viola part has dynamics *(p)* and *mf > p*. The Violoncello and Contrabass parts have dynamics *arco* and *pizz.* in measure 8, and *arco* in measure 11.

Tune: CHERRY TREE CAROL, Traditional carol (PD).

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13

Vln. I *mf* > *p* *mf*

Vln. II *mf* > *p* *mf*

Vla. *mf*

Vlc. *mf*

Cb. *pizz.*

19

Vln. I *p* (gentle accomp.)

Vln. II *p* (gentle accomp.)

Vla. *p* (gentle accomp.)

Vlc. *legato* (*mf*)

Cb. *arco* *legato* (*mf*)

B

25

Vln. I *mf* > *p* *mf* > *p* *mf*

Vln. II *mf* > *p* *mf* > *p* *mf*

Vla. *mf*

Vlc. *mf*

Cb. *mf*

2. Jesus, Jesus, Rest Your Head

At a peaceful tempo ♩ = 100
gently, "rest your head" motive

A **a tempo** (♩ = 100)

Violin I *p* *legato* *p* (a quiet accomp. to the Viola melody)

Violin II *p* *legato* *p* (a quiet accomp. to the Viola melody)

Viola *p* *mp gently* *legato*

Violoncello *p* *legato* *p* (a quiet accomp. to the Viola melody)

Contrabass *p* *legato* *p* (a quiet accomp. to the Viola melody)

9

Vln. I *mp*

Vln. II *mp*

Vla. *(mp)*

Vlc. *mp*

Cb. *mp*

poco rit.

B Slightly faster ♩ = 112
with rhythmic energy

16

Musical score for measures 16-21. The score is for a string quartet (Violin I, Violin II, Viola, Violoncello/Double Bass). Measure 16 starts with a dynamic of *p* for both Violin I and II. The Viola part has a *div.* marking and a dynamic of *p*. The Cello/Double Bass part has a *pizz.* marking and a dynamic of *p*. From measure 20 onwards, the Violin I and II parts have a dynamic of *mf*. The Viola part has a dynamic of *p* and a *lightly* marking. The Cello/Double Bass part has a dynamic of *p* and a *arco lightly* marking.

22

Musical score for measures 22-26. The score is for a string quartet. Measure 22 starts with a dynamic of *p* for Violin I and *mf* for Violin II. The Viola part has a dynamic of *p*. The Cello/Double Bass part has a dynamic of *p*. From measure 23 onwards, the Violin I and II parts have a dynamic of *mf*. The Viola part has a dynamic of *p*. The Cello/Double Bass part has a dynamic of *p*.

27

C

Musical score for measures 27-31. The score is for a string quartet. Measure 27 starts with a dynamic of *mf* for Violin I and *mf* for Violin II. The Viola part has a dynamic of *mf*. The Cello/Double Bass part has a dynamic of *mf*. From measure 28 onwards, the Violin I and II parts have a dynamic of *mf*. The Viola part has a dynamic of *mf*. The Cello/Double Bass part has a dynamic of *mf*. The Viola part has a *unis.* marking. The Cello/Double Bass part has a *sim.* marking.

3. Go Tell It on the Mountain

Energetic tempo (♩ = 108)

Violin I
Violin II
Viola
Violoncello
Contrabass

5 **A**

Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vlc.
Cb.

Tune: GO TELL IT, Traditional spiritual (PD).

9

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vcl.

Cb.

pizz.

arco

13

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vcl.

Cb.

div.

unis.

p echo

17

rit.

B Slower ♩ = 80
relaxed tempo, recitative style

(strong break)

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vcl.

Cb.

(p)

(p)

mf

(mf)

pizz.

(p)

pizz.

(p)

4. I Wonder as I Wander

Moderate tempo ♩ = 108
as a star in the night sky

Violin I *pp* gently

Violin II

Viola

Violoncello *p* gently

Contrabass

A

as a person out wandering beneath the starry night sky
legato, a simple melody

7

Vln. I *pp*
as another star in the night sky

Vln. II *pp* gently

Vla. *pp* gently

Vlc.

Cb.

14

Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vcl.
Cb.

pp

20

Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vcl.
Cb.

pp
pizz.
p

27

B

Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vcl.
Cb.

mf
arco
mf