GWYNETH WALKER

I’ve Known Rivers

for SATB Chorus (divisi) and Piano

1. My Soul has Grown Deep - Cat. No. 7281
2. Troubled Water - Cat. No. 7282
3. Jump Right In! - Cat. No. 7283
4. In Time of Silver Rain - Cat. No. 7284
I’ve Known Rivers is a set of four songs based on the poetry of Langston Hughes (1902-67), an African-American poet who lived much of his life in the Harlem neighborhood of New York City. However, Hughes was born in Joplin, Missouri, birthplace also of Samuel Clemens (Mark Twain). And, like Twain, he held a fascination for the Mississippi River and rivers in general. The theme of water is present in many of his writings.

My Soul has Grown Deep reflects upon rivers of historic and geographical importance – the Euphrates, the Nile and the Mississippi. As the rivers have endured over time, so has the human soul. The waters – the blood – runs deep.

In contrast to the universal message of the first song, Troubled Water is contemporary and personal. Water becomes an image of the unsettled and uncertain nature of love. The journey of love is a journey of troubled water. There is no resolution.

Undaunted by the elusive nature of love, the poet (chorus) turns flippant, displaying a persevering and humorous outlook in Jump Right In! (to the river). Romantic misadventures will not conquer the spirit. “I could’ve died for love, but for livin’ I was born.”

In Time of Silver Rain is a song of healing. “In time of silver rain, the earth puts forth new life again.” And with the regeneration of Spring, the poet marvels at the wonder of life.

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, she 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 Brantree, Vermont.

Gwyneth Walker is a proud resident of Vermont. She is the recipient of the Year 2000 “Lifetime Achievement Award” from the Vermont Arts Council as well as the 2008 “Athenaeum Award for Achievement in the Arts and Humanities” from the St. Johnsbury (VT) Athenaeum.

Walker’s catalogue includes over 180 commissioned works for orchestra, band, chorus, and chamber ensembles. The music of Gwyneth Walker is published by E. C. Schirmer of Boston (choral and vocal music) and MMB Music of St. Louis (orchestral and instrumental music). More information concerning Gwyneth Walker can be found on her web site www.gwynethwalker.com.
Gently flowing \( \frac{Q}{X} = 108 \)

1. My Soul has Grown Deep

I've known rivers:

\[ p \text{ evoking the magic and mystery of } \text{rivers} \]

I've known rivers:

\[ \text{simile} \]

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I've evoking the magic and mystery of rivers known rivers: ancient as the world.

I've known rivers ancient as the world.

and older than the flow of human flow of human.
poco rit.

Slower

blood in human veins.

My soul has grown deep like the

blood in human veins.

My soul has grown deep like the

a tempo (\( \text{q} = 108 \))

Ah,

I bathed in the Eu-phra-tes when dawns were young.

simile
Ah, I built my hut near the Congo and it lulled me to sleep.

Ah, I looked up on the Nile and raised the pyramids above it.
heard the singing of the Mississippi when Abe Lincoln went down to

New Orleans, and I've seen its muddy bosom turn all golden in the sunset.

New Orleans,
I've known rivers:

Ancient, dusty rivers.

My soul has grown deep like the rivers.

My soul has grown deep like the rivers.
I've known rivers,____
Ah,____I've known rivers.

I've known rivers,
Ah,____I've known

I've known rivers,____known____

I've known rivers,
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*My Soul has Grown Deep* reflects upon rivers of historic and geographical importance – the Euphrates, the Nile and the Mississippi. As the rivers have endured over time, so has the human soul. The waters – the blood – runs deep.

In contrast to the universal message of the first song, *Troubled Water* is contemporary and personal. Water becomes an image of the unsettled and uncertain nature of love. The journey of love is a journey of troubled water. There is no resolution.

Undaunted by the elusive nature of love, the poet (chorus) turns flippant, displaying a persevering and humorous outlook in *Jump Right In!* (to the river). Romantic misadventures will not conquer the spirit. “I could’ve died for love, but for livin’ I was born.”

*In Time of Silver Rain* is a song of healing. “In time of silver rain, the earth puts forth new life again.” And with the regeneration of Spring, the poet marvels at the wonder of life.

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for SATB Chorus (divisi) and Piano

Langston Hughes (1902-1967)  
Gwyneth Walker

2. Troubled Water

Flowing $\frac{d}{\text{d}} = 120$

Soprano

Alto

Piano

p gently

A

mf cantabile

Between us, always, loved one,

A

mf cantabile

Between us, always, loved one,

T

pp

la la la la la la la

B.

pp

la la la la la la

A

Red simile

Be

tween

us,
al-
ways,
loved
one,

mm

cantabile

B

Red

la la la la la la

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there lies this troubled water.

You are my sky, my shining sun

You are my sky, my shining sun
You are my sky, my shining sun

You are my sky, my shining sun

You are my sky, my shining sun over troubled water.

You are my sky, my shining sun over troubled water.

You are my sky, my shining sun over troubled water.
The trip is troubled water. This touch your hand. We see yet cannot understand.
We see yet cannot understand this fateful troubled water. We see yet cannot understand this fateful water.
Deep hearts, dear, dream of happiness

Deep hearts, dear, dream of happiness

Deep hearts, dear, dream of happiness
balked by troubled water. Between us always-
balked by troubled water. Between us always-

Be - tween us al - ways -

Be - tween us al - ways -

Be - tween us al - ways -

Be - tween us al - ways -

Love, and this -

Love, and this -

Love, and this -

Love, and this -

Love, and this -

Love, and this -

Love, and this -

Be - tween us al - ways -

Be - tween us al - ways -

Be - tween us al - ways -

Be - tween us al - ways -
* Use ENDING 1 if this song is to be performed individually. Use ENDING 2 if continuing on to Jump Right In.
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4. In Time of Silver Rain - Cat. No. 7284
Commissioned by the Holland Chorale, Gary W. Bogle, Music Director
Premiered by the Holland Chorale on March 15, 2008 – Holland Michigan

Duration: 12 minutes

Notes

_I've Known Rivers_ is a set of four songs based on the poetry of Langston Hughes (1902-67), an African-American poet who lived much of his life in the Harlem neighborhood of New York City. However, Hughes was born in Joplin, Missouri, birthplace also of Samuel Clemens (Mark Twain). And, like Twain, he held a fascination for the Mississippi River and rivers in general. The theme of water is present in many of his writings.

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Undaunted by the elusive nature of love, the poet (chorus) turns flippant, displaying a persevering and humorous outlook in _Jump Right In!_ (to the river). Romantic misadventures will not conquer the spirit. “I could’ve died for love, but for livin’ I was born.”

_In Time of Silver Rain_ is a song of healing. “In time of silver rain, the earth puts forth new life again.” And with the regeneration of Spring, the poet marvels at the wonder of life.

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for SATB Chorus (divisi) and Piano

Langston Hughes (1902-1967)

3. Jump Right In!

With energy $q = 120$

Piano

I went down to the river, I set down on the bank. I

I came up once and hollered! I shouted (not on pitch)

tried to think but couldn’t, so I jumped up and sank.

Hey!

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came up twice and cried!

If that water hadn’t been so cold

cried!

But it was cold in that water!

might’ve sunk and died.

It was cold!
But it was high up there!

I might’ve jumped and died.

It was high!

ch ch ch ka ta ka ch ch ch ka ta ka
ch ch ch ka ta ka ch ch ch ka ta ka ah

So since I'm still here liv'in', I
guess I will live on. I could've died for love— but for liv'in' I was born.

you may see hol-ler, and you may see me cry— I'll be dogged, sweet ba-by,
Life is fine, life is fine! So since I'm still here liv'in', I

Life is fine, life is fine! So since I'm still here liv'in', I
Life is fine, life is fine, life is fine,
Life is fine, life is fine, life is fine,

Life is fine, life is fine, life is fine,

2'30"
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Langston Hughes (1902-1967)

Gwyneth Walker

4. In Time of Silver Rain

At a peaceful tempo $q = 92$

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in time of silver rain,

the earth puts forth new life again,
green grasses grow and

la la la la la la la la la la la la la la la

la la la la la la la la la la la la la

flowers lift their heads, and

la la la la la la la la la la la la la

rit.

Slower

over all the plain the wonder spreads, the wonder spreads of

over all the plain the wonder spreads, the wonder spreads
life, of life, of life, of life!

In time of sil-ver rain, in time of sil-ver rain.

life, of life, of life, of life!

In time of sil-ver rain, in time of sil-ver rain.
unis.

of silver rain

Butterflies lift silken wings to

catch a rainbow cry, and

(Rea)
as down the roadway passing boys and
girls go singing, too. In time of sil-ver rain,
in joy be-neath the sky,
in joy be-neath the sky,

I. trees put forth new leaves to sing in joy be-neath the sky,
II. trees put forth new leaves to sing in joy be-neath the sky,

(solo)

In time of sil-ver rain,
in time of sil-ver rain,
in time of sil-ver rain,

(solo)

In time of rain,
in time of rain,
In time of silver rain, in time of silver rain when spring and

rain, when spring and

when spring and

In time of silver rain, in time of silver rain,
In time of silver rain

with much pedal

the earth puts forth new life again.

unis. mf cantabile

grasses grow

and flowers lift their heads

unis. mf cantabile
life, of life, of life, the

In time of sil-ver rain, In time of sil-ver rain, in time of sil-ver rain, the

In time of sil-ver rain, In time of sil-ver rain, in time of sil-ver rain, the

won-der, won-der of life!

won-der, won-der of life!

won-der, won-der of life!

won-der, won-der of life!

(rit.)