Gwyneth Walker

Now Let Us Sing!

for Mixed Chorus and Piano
Commissioned by the Colchester Community Chorus
in memory of Perrie Coope

Premiere Performance by the Colchester Community Chorus
Carol Reichard – Music Director
Colchester, Vermont
May 7, 2004

Duration: 3’ 30”

Program Notes

Now Let Us Sing! is a celebration of song – the singing of a community chorus, the singing of all creatures on the earth. A voice for everyone!

The basis for this work is the traditional spiritual with the lyrics: "Now Let Us Sing ‘til the power of the Lord comes down.” This is an exhortation for all to lift up their voices, unafraid. After beckoning the chorus to sing, the lyrics spread out to include all of the animals on Noah’s Ark as well!

Lines from the Prayer of St. Francis are interspersed: "the rising morn in praise rejoice, the lights of evening find a voice...” All the earth shall sing. Now!

About the Composer

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.
Now Let Us Sing!

SATB and Piano

Commissioned by the Colchester, Vermont Community Chorus

in memory of Perrie Coope

Traditional lyrics, adapted by composer

Gwyneth Walker

Soprano

Alto

Tenor

Bass

Piano

Now let us, now let us, now let us, now let us,

Now, now, now, now,

pp (whispered on pitch)

pp (sung softly)

pp unobtrusively

Now let us, now let us, now let us, now let us,

now, now, now, now,

Now let us

poco Ped. ad lib.

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Boston, Massachusetts. All rights reserved. Made in U.S.A.
Sing 'till the pow'r of the Lord comes down.

Sing 'till the pow'r of the Lord comes down.

Sing 'till the pow'r of the Lord comes down.

Sing 'till the pow'r of the Lord comes down.

Lift up your voice, be not a-fraid to sing 'till the pow'r of the Lord comes down.

Lift up your voice, be not a-fraid to sing 'till the pow'r of the Lord comes down.

Lift up your voice, be not a-fraid to sing 'till the pow'r of the Lord comes down.

Lift up your voice, be not a-fraid to sing 'till the pow'r of the Lord comes down.

G WALKER: NOW LET US SING
The Lord said to No-ah: “There’s go-na be—a flood.”

The Lord said to No-ah: “The ani-mals com-ing too.”

Lord said to No-ah: “Get your feet out of the mud!”

Lord said to No-ah: “Get your feet out of the mud!”
Lord said to No-ah: “You can see them lin-ing up, two by two, two by two, two by two.” And they will

sing ’till the pow’r of the Lord comes down.

And they will sing.

They lift their
They lift their voices, they're not afraid to sing till the pow'r of the Lord comes down.
now, now, now, now, now, now
creatures who on earth do dwell, lift up your voices, let them swell!
creatures who on earth do dwell, lift up your voices, let them swell! The
creatures who on earth do dwell, lift up your voices, let them swell!
creatures who on earth do dwell, lift up your voices, let them swell!
creatures who on earth do dwell, lift up your voices, let them swell!

The silver moon with shimmering gleam,

burning sun with golden beam,

the clouds that sail in heav'n along,

rushing wind that blows so strong.
makes music for our list'ning ear,

flowing water pure and clear

which brings to us both warmth and light, the

fire so masterful and bright,
rising morn in praise rejoice,

the lights of evening,

lights of evening, lights of evening find a voice, and
Sing 'till the pow'r of the Lord comes down.

And they will sing:

Lord comes down. They lift their voices, they're not afraid to

They lift their voices, they're not afraid to

They lift their voices, they're not afraid to
sing 'till the pow'r of the Lord comes down.

now let us, now let us,

now let us, now let us,

now let us, now let us,

now let us, now let us,

now let us, now let us,
G WALKER: NOW LET US SING
Let us sing! All creatures who on earth do dwell,

Let us sing, let us sing! All creatures who on earth do dwell,

Now let us sing, let us sing, let us sing! All creatures who on earth do dwell,

Now let us sing, let us sing, let us sing! All creatures who on earth do dwell,

lift up your voices, let them swell! All we folk of tender heart, with

lift up your voices, let them swell! All we folk of tender heart,

lift up your voices, let them swell! And all we folk of tender heart,

lift up your voices, let them swell! And all we folk of tender heart,

rit. Slowly

G WALKER: NOW LET US SING
loving-kindness, loving-kindness, loving-kindness take our part, and

loving-kindness, loving-kindness take our part, and

loving-kindness take our part, and

loving-kindness, loving-kindness take our part, and

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loving-kindness take our part, and

loving-kindness take our part, and

We lift our

We lift our

We lift our

We lift our
voices, we're not afraid to sing 'till the pow'r,

We lift our voices, we're not afraid to sing 'till the pow'r, sing 'till the pow'r,

We lift our voices, we're not afraid to sing 'till the pow'r, sing 'till the pow'r,