Gwyneth Walker

Sing On! (A Musical Toast)

for Mixed Chorus and Piano
Duration: 3 minutes

commissioned by the Ellington High School Vocal Ensemble
Sal Cicciarella, Music Director

premiered on May 18, 2003 – Ellington, CT

The pleasures of music, food and love are ‘toasted’ in Sing On! Based on the familiar text by Col. Henry Heveningham (“If music be the food of love...”), this musical setting adds a few new touches: the clanking of knife-on-glass to set the tempo; a gesture of a toast-celebration as the final cut-off; and playful clusters (perhaps cream puffs!) in the piano accompaniment.

A middle section delights in reordering the words:
If food be the music of love...
if music lovers love food...
if the love of food be music! (which may speak to the gourmets in the audience)

Delicacies, one and all!

This song was composed to honor Sal Cicciarella, Choral Director, and his students, who share in his love of music, food and life. Sal retired in June, 2003, after 36 years of teaching at the Ellington (CT) High School.

Sing On!

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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. And, as part of a focus on local performances, Gwyneth Walker will be creating a new musical theater work to be premiered at Chandler Hall, Randolph, VT in June, 2003.
Sing On! (A Musical Toast)

SATB and Piano

Commissioned by the Ellington High School Vocal Ensemble—Sal Cicciarella, Music Director
Premiere May 18, 2003—Ellington, CT

Colonel Henry Heveningham, ca. 1690

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*Before starting the song, the tempo may be established by singer or conductor tapping a glass with a dinner knife—as a toast would be announced.

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(non-pitched sigh, descending from high to low)

enraptured

If music be the food of love, sing on!

(random white-note clusters)

playfully

Sing on 'till I am filled with joy.
to pleasures that can never cloy.

If music be the food of

(random white-note clusters)
More freely, quasi recitative

S. 30 rit.

B  \( \frac{d}{\text{B}} = 72 \)

A.

T.

B.

S.

33

A.

T.

B.

you are music ev’rywhere. Pleasures invade both eye and ear, so fierce the transports are, they wound.

you are music ev’rywhere. Ah, so fierce the transports are, they wound.

you are music ev’rywhere. And
all my sen-ses feast-ed are, tho' yet the treat is on-ly sound

Music, food, love,
D Playfully

(*savoring" the words)

if love be the food of music,

love, (*savoring" the words)

if love be the food of music,

If music be the food of love,

If music be the food of love,

D Playfully

("savoring" the words)

if music lovers love food!

if music lovers love food!

food be the love of music,

food be the love of music,
if the love of food be music!

la, la, la, love,

love of food be

love be music!

and love be food, and

Sure I must perish by your charms,

un-less you save me in your arms.

food and music and la, la, love,

food and music and la, la, love,

food and music and la, love,

food and music and la, love,

food and music and la, love,
With pleasures that can never cloy.

With pleasures that can never cloy.

la, la, la, la, la,

la, la, la, la, la,

For

la, la, sing on 'till I am filled with joy.

la, la, sing on 'till I am filled with joy.

For

la, la, la, la, la, la, For

la, la, la, la, la, la, For
then my listening soul you move, if music be the food,
then my listening soul you move, if music be the food,
then my listening soul you move, if
then my listening soul you move, if

if music be the food, if music be the food,  

if music be the food, if music be the food,  

if music be the food, if music be the food,  

if music be the food, if music be the food,  

Music Miser, Vermont

Duration: 3'