# GWYNETH WALKER Songs for the Christ-Child

Christmas Folk Carols for Voice and Piano

Hebrides Lullaby Cherry Tree Carol Jesus, Jesus, Rest Your Head Go Tell It On the Mountain

# Songs for the Christ-Child

duration: circa 16 minutes

These songs are based on very simple, unadorned folk carols and spirituals. The intent has been to provide singers and pianists with additional Christmas repertoire based on these genuine American tunes. In most cases, the melodies have been left in their original forms. The accompaniments aim to enhance the vocal lines and express the lyrics, while not adding "extraneous clutter." The style remains folk music.

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# Songs for the Christ-Child

for Voice and Piano

# Hebrides Lullaby

Traditional Gwyneth Walker

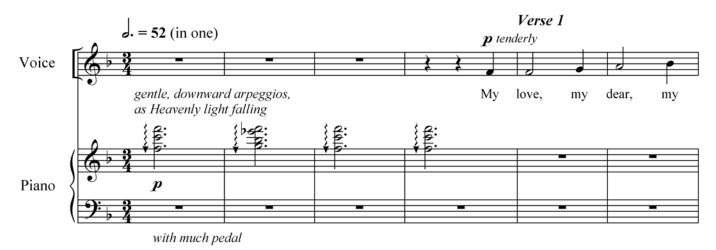
The Hebrides Lullaby, also known as The Christ-Child's Lullaby, has its origin in the Hebrides Islands (Scotland). As is typical of Celtic music, the Mixolydian mode (lowered 7th step) characterizes the melody. The "lowered" modality and the low vocal range are well suited to the message of this song. Mary sings with humility to her son, "Unworthy I to tend to thee." In the accompaniment, downward arpeggios are marked "as Heavenly light falling."

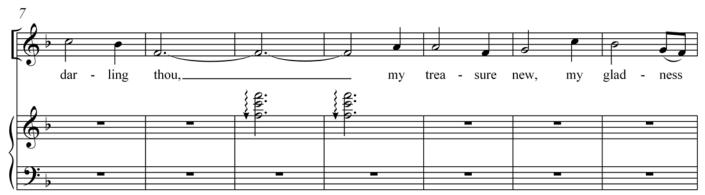
My love, my dear, my darling thou, my treasure new, my gladness thou, my comely beauteous babe-son thou, unworthy I to tend to thee. O dear the eye that softly looks, O dear the heart that fondly loves, Tho' but a tender babe thou art, the graces all grow up with thee. White sun of hope and light art thou, of love the heart and eye art thou, tho' but a tender babe, I bow in Heavenly rapture unto thee.

Alleluia

Alleluia

Alleluia





Note-setting and format by Gwyneth Walker Music Productions.



<sup>\*</sup>ossia provided as "comfortable options"















## Cherry Tree Carol

Traditional Gwyneth Walker

The *Cherry Tree Carol* is an Appalachian folk ballad. The story is told of Mary and Joseph before the birth of Jesus. While in the garden, Mary, with child, asks for cherries to eat. The tree bows down and offers its fruit. This is but one of the many miracles to come with the birth of The Child.

When Joseph was an old man, an old man was he, he courted Virgin Mary, the Queen of Galilee.

When Joseph and Mary walked through the orchard green, there were apples and cherries, plenty to be seen.

Then Joseph flew in anger, in anger flew he, "Let the father of the baby gather cherries for thee!"

Then up spoke Baby Jesus, a few words spoke He, "Let my mother have some cherries, bow down O cherry tree." The cherry tree bowed down, bowed low to the ground, and Mary gathered cherries while Joseph stood around.

Then Joseph took Mary all on his right knee, "O Lord, what have I done, have mercy on me!"

Then Joseph took Mary all on his left knee, "O tell me, little Baby, when thy birthday will be."

"On the day of my birth, so wondrous to see, the earth and the elements will tremble with glee!"





















## Jesus, Jesus, Rest Your Head

Traditional Gwyneth Walker

Jesus, Jesus, Rest Your Head traces its origins to Kentucky. This song has two sections, both of which repeat. A lullaby opens the music. The melody ("Jesus, Jesus, rest your head") is gentle and is surrounded by Shepherds' calls (Horn-like arpeggios) in the distance. The second section is filled with excitement, announcing the birth of Christ. The accompaniment is rapid, perhaps suggesting news "flying through the air!"

#### Refrain

Jesus, Jesus, rest your head. You have got a manger bed. All the evil folk on earth Sleep in feathers at their birth. Jesus, Jesus, rest your head. You have got a manger bed.

#### Verse 1

Have you heard about our Jesus?
Have you heard about his fate?
How his mammy went to the stable
On that Christmas Eve so late?
Winds were blowing, cows were lowing,
Stars were glowing, glowing, glowing.

#### Verse 2

To the manger came then wise men. Bringing things from hin and yon, For the mother and the father, And the blessed little Son. Milkmaids left their fields and flocks And sat beside the ass and ox.



<sup>\*\*</sup>a soft, comfortable bed



with pedal

### Go Tell It On The Mountain

Traditional Gwyneth Walker

The familiar spiritual, *Go Tell it on the Mountain*, is presented in an unaccustomed upbeat style. Although the song starts slowly, with an announcement-like introduction, the tempo quickens into patterns of eighth-notes similar to folk guitar-picking techniques. This is celebratory music. In the middle section, the phrase "The stars in the Heavens will dance with delight" summarizes the joy of the message, and the energy of the guitar style.

#### Refrain

Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere. Go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born.

#### Verse 1

When I was just a learner, I sought both night and day. I asked the Lord to help me, and He showed me the way.

He made of me a watchman upon the city wall, And if I am a Christian, I am the least of all.

#### Refrain

Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere, Go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born.

#### Verse 2

While shepherds kept their watching over wandering flocks by night Behold from out the Heavens, then shone a holy light.

The shepherds feared and trembled when high above the earth rang out the angel chorus that hailed the Savior's birth.

#### Interlude

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed, the little Lord Jesus lay down his His sweet head.

The stars in the Heavens will dance with delight, for the beautiful Baby is born this night.

#### Refrain

Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere, Go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born.

















3'30" /Total: 16'00" July 31, 2013 New Canaan, Connecticut

#### Other Versions of and Performing Materials for the Songs in this Collection

Catalog No.	Title	Voicing	Use
5665	Appalachian Carols (SATB Full Score)	SATB & Brass Quintet	General
5665A	Appalachian Carols (Brass Parts for SATB Version)	SATB & Brass Quintet	General
5666	Appalachian Carols: No. 1. Wondrous Love (Choral Score)	SATB & Keyboard	Lent
5667	Appalachian Carols: No. 2. The Cherry Tree Carol (Choral Score)	SATB & Keyboard	Christmas
5668	Appalachian Carols: No. 3. Jesus, Jesus, Rest Your Head (Choral Score)	SATB & Keyboard	Christmas
5669	Appalachian Carols: No. 4. Go Tell It on the Mountain (Choral Score)	SATB & Keyboard	Christmas
7482	Appalachian Carols (SSAA Full Score)	SSAA & Brass Quintet	General
7483	Appalachian Carols (Brass Parts for SSAA Version)	SSAA & Brass Quintet	General
7484	Appalachian Carols: No. 1 Wondrous Love (Choral Score)	SSAA & Keyboard	Lent
7485	Appalachian Carols: No. 2 The Cherry Tree Carol (Choral Score)	SSAA & Keyboard	Christmas
7486	Appalachian Carols: No. 3 Jesus, Jesus, Rest Your Head (Choral Score)	SSAA & Keyboard	Christmas
7487	Appalachian Carols: No. 4 Go Tell It on the Mountain (Choral Score)	SSAA & Keyboard	Christmas
5268	Hebrides Lullaby (The Christ Child's Lullaby)	MS. Solo, SA divisi	Christmas

#### 2014 Catalog of Vocal Music by Gwyneth Walker

Catalog No.	Title	Voicing	Use
4309	As a Branch in May	Medium Voice & Guitar	Wedding
6349	As a Branch in May	Soprano or Treble Solo & Piano	Wedding
6350	As a Branch in May	2 Treble Voices & Piano	Wedding
6642	Collected Songs	Medium/Low Voice & Piano	Secular
4320	Collected Wedding Songs	Medium/Low Voice & Piano	Wedding
4321	Collected Wedding Songs	High Voice & Piano	Wedding
4518	Collected Wedding Songs: As a Branch in May	Medium/Low Voice & Piano	Wedding
4515	Collected Wedding Songs: My Love Walks in Velvet	Medium/High Voice & Piano	Wedding
4516	Collected Wedding Songs: My Love Walks in Velvet	Medium/Low Voice & Piano	Wedding
5758	Crossing the Bar	High Voice & Piano	General
8071	Good Shepherd	2 Tenors (or 2 Trebles) & Organ	General
7585	Come Life, Shaker Life! No. 2 I Never Did Believe (Orchestra score & parts on rental)	Soprano & Tenor Soli & Piano	Secular
4322	I Speak for the Earth (Set of 3 Scores)	Soprano, Violin & Piano	Secular
7576	La Ternura (Tenderness) (Piano/Vocal Score)	Soprano Solo, Ob., Perc., Str. Orch.	Secular
7577	La Ternura (Tenderness) (Full score)	Soprano Solo, Ob., Perc., Str. Orch.	Secular
7578	La Ternura (Tenderness) (Parts)	Soprano Solo, Ob., Perc., Str. Orch.	Secular
5132	Mornings Innocent	High Voice & Piano	Secular
5728	No Ordinary Woman!	Soprano & Piano	Secular
5729	No Ordinary Woman!	Mezzo-Soprano & Piano	Secular
6614	No Ordinary Woman! (Individual Instrumental Part)	Soprano Solo, Chamber Orch	Secular
8073	Peace, My Heart	Voice & Piano	Memorial
8074	Peace, My Heart	Voice & Piano (opti. harmony),	Memorial
7498	Poet's Heart, The (Full Score)	Mezzo-Soprano, Piano, String Trio	Secular
7499	Poet's Heart, The (Parts for String Trio)	Mezzo-Soprano, Piano, String Trio	Secular
6591	Prayers and Blessings (Full Score)	Bass-Baritone, Violoncello & Organ	General
6592	Prayers and Blessings (Violoncello Part)	Bass-Baritone, Violoncello & Organ	General
6593	Prayers and Blessings (Piano/Vocal Score)	Bass-Baritone, Violoncello & Organ	
5740	Psalm 23	Treble Voice & Piano	Psalm General
8066	Sacred Songs, #, (Voice & Organ), [General]		
	Songs of the Spirit #8123, (Soprano & Piano), [General]		
8121	Songs to the Christ-Child	Voice & Piano	Christmas Lent
7745	Great Trees, The: No. 2 The Silence	Soprano Solo, Clarinet & Piano	Secular
7936	Songs of Ecstasy	Tenor & Organ	General
7747	Great Trees, The: No. 4 The Steps of the City	Soprano Solo, Clarinet & Piano	Secular
6162	Sun is Love, The	High Voice & Piano	Secular
4319	Though Love Be a Day (Five Songs)	High Voice & Piano	Secular
6843	Three Songs	High Voice & Piano	Secular
4325	Three Songs for Tres Voces	CTenor, Tenor, Baritone & Guitar	Secular

#### Gwyneth Walker (b. 1947)

Walker is beloved by performers and audiences alike for its energy, beauty, reverence, drama, and humor. 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. For nearly 30 years, she lived on a dairy farm in Braintree, Vermont. She now divides her time between her childhood hometown of New Canaan, Connecticut and the musical communities of Sarasota, Florida and Randolph, Vermont.

Gwyneth Walker has been a proud resident of Vermont for many years. 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. In 2012, she was elected as a Fellow of the Vermont Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Walker's catalog includes over 300 commissioned works for orchestra, chamber ensembles, chorus, and solo voice. A special interest has been dramatic works that combine music with readings, acting, and movement. The music of Gwyneth Walker is published by E. C. Schirmer (choral and vocal music) and Lauren Keiser Music (orchestral and instrumental music).

Further information concerning Gwyneth Walker and her works is available at www.gwynethwalker.com



