

No. 7553 | Walker | Tell the Earth to Shake | TTBB & Piano

GWYNETH WALKER

# Tell the Earth to Shake

*for TTBB Chorus and Piano*

*SATB version commissioned by the Clearview Regional High School Vocal Ensemble, Mullica Hill, New Jersey*  
*Jack Hill, Music Director*  
*Completed August 11, 2004 in Braintree, Vermont; Duration: 4'15"*  
*Premiere performance: February 2, 2005*  
*at the National Convention of the American Choral Directors Association,*  
*Los Angeles, California*

*TTBB version created for the Boston Gay Men's Chorus, Reuben Reynolds, Music Director.*  
*Premiere performance: March 27, 2010, Jordan Hall, Boston, Massachusetts.*

### Program Notes

The poem *Earthquake*, by the Trappist Monk Thomas Merton (1915–1968), presents the powerful voice of God: “Tell the earth to shake... for a new world is born, and all my people shall be one.” This is an insistent poem, with repetitions of stanzas and only slight variations. Through forceful restatement, the poem grows into the closing lines:

There shall be no more hate  
And no more oppression  
The old wrongs are done  
My people shall be one.

The musical setting adopts the form of the poem. As the lyrics are structured into verse “pairings” (“tell the earth to shake...” “the old wrongs are over...”), so the voices are paired and answer one another. The alternation continues several times, with the tonal center shifting up a step with each section.

The modulations, intended to increase the strength and intensity of the song, are effected through sections of “*pacem*” (peace). This word has been inserted by the composer to form bridges between the verses. For, as the earth will shake “with marching feet of messengers of peace...” so peace becomes the means of bringing the people together as one.

—Gwyneth Walker

### Earthquake

Go tell the earth to shake And tell the thunder To wake the sky And tear the clouds apart Tell my people to come out And wonder	For the old wrongs are over The old days are gone A new world is rising Where my people shall be one.	So tell the earth to shake With marching feet Of messengers of peace Proclaim my law of love To every nation Every race.	So tell the earth to shake With marching feet Of messengers of peace Proclaim my law of love To every nation Every race.
Where the old world is gone For a new world is born And all my people Shall be one.	So tell the earth to shake With marching feet Of messengers of peace Proclaim my law of love To every nation Every race.	For the old world is ended The old sky is torn apart A new day is born They hate no more They do not go to war My people shall be one.	There shall be no more hate And no more oppression The old wrongs are done My people shall be one.
So tell the earth to shake With marching feet Of messengers of peace Proclaim my law of love To every nation Every race.	And say The old wrongs are over The old ways are done There shall be no more hate And no more war My people shall be one.		

—Thomas Merton

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# Tell the Earth to Shake

*for TTBB Chorus (divisi) and Chamber Orchestra or Piano*

*Earthquake*

Gwyneth Walker

Thomas Merton (1915–1968)

G. W., alt.

*spoken forcefully by a series of soloists from the chorus, one speaker per measure*

Chorus

\* Go tell the earth to shake    And tell the thunder to wake the sky and tear the clouds apart    Tell my people to come out and wonder where the old world is gone    For a new world is born    And all my people shall be one.

Piano

*f* — *p*

8<sup>va</sup>  
with Ped.

**A**

2 **Marching tempo** ♩ = 88

T2

B2

*f*

So

*f*

So

**Marching tempo** ♩ = 88

*f with energy*

Ped. — similar pedaling throughout

\* The capitalization of the opening ten lines of the poem has been altered to accommodate the spacing of the spoken lyrics.

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6 **B**

tell the earth to shake With march-ing feet Of mes-sen-gers of peace

tell the earth to shake With march-ing feet Of mes-sen-gers of peace

10

Pro - claim my law of love To ev-ery na-tion, Ev - ery race.

Pro - claim my law of love To ev-ery na-tion, Ev - ery race.

14 **C**

*f* For the old wrongs are o - ver, The old days are gone

*f* For the old wrongs are o - ver, The old days are gone

18

T1  
A new world is ris - ing Where my peo - ple shall be

B1  
A new world is ris - ing Where my peo - ple shall be

22 **D**

T1  
one. Pa - cem.

T2  
Pa - cem, pa - cem, pa - cem, pa - cem.

B1  
one. Pa - cem.

B2  
Pa - cem, pa - cem, pa - cem, pa - cem.

*poco accel.*

**E Slightly faster** ♩ = 96

26

*f* >

So, shake, \_\_\_\_\_ feet, \_\_\_\_\_

*f* >

So tell the earth to shake With march-ing feet Of mes-sen-gers of peace \_\_\_\_\_

*f* >

So, shake, \_\_\_\_\_ feet, \_\_\_\_\_

*f* >

So tell the earth to shake With march-ing feet Of mes-sen-gers of peace \_\_\_\_\_

**Slightly faster** ♩ = 96

*f* >

29

*p*

ah. \_\_\_\_\_

*(f)*

Pro - claim my law of love To ev-ery na-tion, Ev-ery race. \_\_\_\_\_

*p*

ah. \_\_\_\_\_

*(f)*

Pro - claim my law of love To ev-ery na-tion, Ev-ery race. \_\_\_\_\_

*(f)*

Pro - claim my law of love To ev-ery na-tion, Ev-ery race. \_\_\_\_\_

33 **F**

*f* And say The old wrongs are o - ver *(f)* The old ways are done

o - ver, *f* *p*

And say The old wrongs are o - ver *(f)* The old ways are done

o - ver, *f* *p*

37 *(f)*

There shall be no more hate And no more war My

done, *f* *p*

There shall be no more hate And no more war My

done, *f* *p*

41 G

peo - ple shall be one. *p*

*p* Pa - cem, pa - cem, pa - cem, pa - cem,

peo - ple shall be one. *p*

*p* Pa - cem, pa - cem, pa - cem, pa - cem,

*p*

3 3 3 3

46 *accel.*  
*p cresc.*

Pa - - - cem, pa - - - cem.

*cresc.* pa - - - cem, pa - - - cem.

*p cresc.* Pa - - - cem, pa - - - cem.

*cresc.* pa - - - cem, pa - - - cem.

*accel.*  
*cresc.*

3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3



**H** Slightly faster ♩ = 104

48 *f* So, shake, \_\_\_\_\_ feet, \_\_\_\_\_

*f* So tell the earth to shake With march-ing feet Of mes-sen-gers of peace \_\_\_\_\_

*f* So, shake, \_\_\_\_\_ feet, \_\_\_\_\_

*f* So tell the earth to shake With march-ing feet Of mes-sen-gers of peace \_\_\_\_\_

**Slightly faster** ♩ = 104

51 *f* ah. \_\_\_\_\_ *p*

*unis. (f)* Pro - claim my law of love To ev-ery na-tion Ev -ery race. \_\_\_\_\_ *unis.*

*f* ah. \_\_\_\_\_ *p*

*(f)* Pro - claim my law of love To ev-ery na-tion Ev -ery race. \_\_\_\_\_

55 *f* **I** *rit.* **Slower**

For the old world is end-ed The old sky is torn a-part A new day is born

For the old world is end-ed The old sky is torn a-part A new day is born

For the old world is end-ed The old sky is torn a-part A new day is born

A new day is born

*rit.* **Slower**

60 *mf* *mp* *rit.* **J** Start slowly, *pp* then accel. to **K**

They hate no more They do not go to war My peo-ple shall be one.

They hate no more They do not go to war My peo-ple shall be one.

They hate no more They do not go to war My peo-ple shall be one.

They hate no more They do not go to war My peo-ple shall be one.

*rit.* **Start slowly, then accel. to K**



72

feet, ah. (f)

With march-ing feet Of mes-sen-gers of peace Pro -

feet, ah. (f)

With march-ing feet Of mes-sen-gers of peace Pro -

75

claim my law of love To ev-ery na-tion Ev - ery race. Ah, Ah, (p)

claim my law of love To ev-ery na-tion Ev - ery race. Ah, (p)

claim my law of love To ev-ery na-tion Ev - ery race. Ah, (p)

L

79

*f* There shall be no more hate \_\_\_\_\_ And no more op -  
 To ev-ery na-tion Ev-ery race, \_\_\_\_\_  
 There shall be no more hate \_\_\_\_\_ And no more op -  
 To ev-ery na-tion Ev-ery race, \_\_\_\_\_

82

*accel.* pres - sion, \_\_\_\_\_ There shall be no more hate \_\_\_\_\_  
 To ev-ery na-tion Ev-ery race, \_\_\_\_\_ To ev-ery na-tion Ev-ery  
 pres - sion, \_\_\_\_\_ There shall be no more hate \_\_\_\_\_  
*unis.* To ev-ery na-tion Ev-ery race, \_\_\_\_\_ *unis.* To ev-ery na-tion Ev-ery  
*accel.*

85 (accel.)

Quickly ♩ = 126

And no more op - pres - sion, There shall be no more  
 race, To ev - ery na - tion Ev - ery race,  
 And no more op - pres - sion, There shall be no, there shall be  
 race, To ev - ery na - tion Ev - ery race, *unis.*

(accel.)

Quickly ♩ = 126

88

hate And no more op - pres - sion, There shall be no more hate And no more op - pres - sion,  
 To ev - ery na - tion, To ev - ery na - tion, To ev - ery na - tion,  
 no more hate, There shall be no, there shall be no more op - pres - sion,  
*unis.* To ev - ery na - tion, *unis.* To ev - ery na - tion, *unis.* To ev - ery na - tion,

**M** *rit.* **Slowly** ♩ = 96

91 *(f) unis.* *, mf*

The old wrongs are done My peo - ple shall be

*(f)* *, mf*

The old wrongs are done My peo - ple shall be

*(f)* *, mf*

The old wrongs are done My peo - ple shall be

*(f)* *, mf*

The old wrongs are done My peo - ple shall be

*rit.* **Slowly** ♩ = 96

95 *a tempo* ♩ = 112 *rit.*

*p cresc.* *f*

one, one.

*p cresc.* *f*

one, one.

*p cresc.* *f*

one, one.

*p cresc.* *f*

one, one.

*a tempo* ♩ = 112 *rit.*

*p cresc.* *f*

\* In 2010, the composer changed this note from G to E.

**Gwyneth Walker (b. 1947)**

For biographical information about the composer, please visit her Web site.  
<[www.gwynethwalker.com](http://www.gwynethwalker.com)>