Gwyneth Walker

The Day is Done

a musical setting of the Henry W. Longfellow poem The Day is Done

for Children’s Chorus, SATB Chorus, Flute, Strings & Percussion (or Piano)
commissioned in 2018 by The Bach Choir of Bethlehem, PA, in celebration of the 25th anniversary of Bel Canto Youth Chorus (founded 1993) and the merger of Bel Canto Youth Chorus with The Bach Choir of Bethlehem (founded 1898)

premiered on May 11, 2019 in Bethlehem, PA

The poem, The Day is Done, speaks of evening as the time when poetry and music come alive. They soothe the cares of day. The soul hears the music of celestial harmonies. This is a benediction that follows after prayer.

The musical setting presents the opening, beautiful lyrics in the children’s voices, selected for their lightness and purity of tone. The day is done, and the darkness falls from the wings of night. These phrases, or slight variations thereof, return as refrains throughout the song, always falling gently.

The verses alternate between the men’s and women’s voices, with the children interjecting refrains or offering commentary in the background. Finally, the children interrupt the SATB dialogue with exclamations of a song! a song! a song! These lead to the climax of the song, given to the children’s chorus, singing And the night shall be filled with music. All voices then join together in celebration: Our song shall fill the night.

The accompaniment (originally composed for piano, later adapted for flute, strings, and percussion) delights in text-setting with sparkling arpeggios depicting the celestial harmonies, and filigree patterns for the star-filled night sky.
The Day is Done
for Children’s Chorus (SA), Adult Chorus (SATB) and Piano

“The Day is Done”  
Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (1807–1882)  
adapted by the composer

Gwyneth Walker

Moderate tempo \( \frac{\text{d}}{\text{min}} = 120 \)

#### Piano

\[ \text{Ch} \]

4

\[ \text{Ch} \]

7

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feather floating downward from an eagle in her flight.

The day is done, and the darkness falls from the wings of night.

Walker | The Day is Done
wings of night.

A feeling of sadness and

longing that is not akin to pain,

Yet there is sadness...

only as the mist is like the rain.
when the day is done, day is done.

Come, read to me some poem, some simple words that

soothe the cares of

Ah, evening...
When darkness falls, and the day is done, day is done. And the day is done.

words from the grand old masters, nor from the bards sub-

words from the grand old masters, nor from the bards sub-

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whose distant footsteps echo through the corridors of lime, whose distant footsteps echo through the corridors of lime, whose distant footsteps echo through the corridors of lime, whose distant footsteps echo through the corridors of lime, whose distant footsteps echo through the corridors of lime, whose distant footsteps echo through the corridors of lime, whose distant footsteps echo through the corridors of lime, whose distant footsteps echo through the corridors of lime, whose distant footsteps echo through the corridors of lime, whose distant footsteps echo through the corridors of
Like the strains of marching music, music, their time. Like the strains of marching music, their time. Like the strains of marching music, their time. Like the strains of marching music, their time. Like the strains of marching music, their mighty words suggest...
The day is done, and the rest.

Slowly
[strong break]

(words suggest life's endless toil and endeavor;)

for

But now I long for

Slowly
[strong break]

The day is done, and the rest.
darkness falls from the wings of night.

Read from a humble poet whose songs come from the heart as
showers from the clouds of summer, or tears from the eyes will

Who, through long days of labor, and nights devoid of

start.

and nights devoid of

start.

and nights devoid of

Walker | The Day is Done
Ch

III\# unis.

Ch...

SA

qui et... care... and come like a bene-

T

qui et the rest-less pulse of care, Hmm ...

with exuberance of celebratory song

115

(p)

dic-tion that fol-lows af-ter prayer. a song! a

Ch

(p)

Ch...

SA

dic-tion that fol-lows af-ter prayer.

T

that fol-lows af-ter prayer.

by: Walker | The Day is Done
Then read from a treasured volume the poem of your choice,

and lend to the rhyme of the poet the

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Ch 126 cresc. song! a song! And the night shall be filled with
Ch cresc. song! a song! And the night shall be filled with
S A cresc. And the night shall be filled with

beauty of your voice.

129 unis. music, Hmm
Ch unis f shall fold their tents like
S A shall fold their tents like

T B and the cares that in-fest the day

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and silently steal away.

phantoms,

For the night shall be filled with

music...

The my song shall rise on high. The

music, my song shall rise on high.

music,
Ch 140

chorus...

S A
stars resound the chorus of

T B

Ch 142

sky... Ah

S A
voices 'cross the sky. The stars resound the

T B
Ah sky. The stars resound the

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chorus. The heavens dance in delight. We

lift our voice together. Our song shall

chorus. The heavens dance in delight. We

lift our voice together. Our song shall

chorus. The heavens dance in delight. We

light...

light.

light.

light.

song shall

song shall

song shall

getherness

getherness

getherness

getherness

walks

walks

walks

walks

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shall fill the night.

shall fill the night.

shall fill the night.

shall fill the night.

shall fill the night.

shall fill the night.