

Gwyneth Walker

To Everything  
There is a Season

*for SATB Chorus and Piano*

# To Everything There is a Season

*duration: circa 3'30"*

*Commissioned by the Massachusetts Music Educators' Association, Northeastern District,  
for premiere at the MMEA–ND Senior Festival, on January 10, 2015, Lowell, MA  
Brian M. O'Connell, Conductor*

The biblical text (from Ecclesiastes) speaks of accepting the range of life experiences – from prosperity to adversity, from joy to sorrow. In this new interpretation, the lyrics are expanded into personal relevance: “In my life, there is a season. In my life, there is a purpose.” And furthermore, “For I believe, in my life, there is a time of hope that we can live together in peace.”

The message of this song is the strength to face hardship and challenges, with the belief that one's life has a purpose.

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Widely performed throughout the country, the music of American composer **Gwyneth 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](http://www.gwynethwalker.com)

*This piece is dedicated to all the aspiring musicians of the Northeastern District of Massachusetts*

# To Everything There is a Season

*for SATB Chorus and Piano*

Ecclesiastes 3: 1-8  
G. W., alt.

Gwyneth Walker

With motion ♩ = 100

Piano

*mf*

*with pedal*

The piano introduction consists of four measures in 4/4 time, marked *mf*. The right hand features a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes, while the left hand plays a steady quarter-note accompaniment. A 'with pedal' instruction is placed below the first measure.

5 **A** *mf*

S To ev-ery-thing there is a sea - son, and a time for ev-ery pur - pose

A *mf*

A To ev-ery-thing there is a sea - son, and a time for ev-ery pur - pose

T *mf*

T To ev-ery-thing there is a sea - son, and a time for ev-ery pur - pose

B *mf*

B To ev-ery-thing there is a sea - son, and a time for ev-ery pur - pose

**A**

The vocal parts (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and piano accompaniment are shown for the first line of the song. The vocal parts are in 4/4 time, marked *mf*. The lyrics are: "To ev-ery-thing there is a sea - son, and a time for ev-ery pur - pose". The piano accompaniment is in 4/4 time, marked *mf*. A first ending bracket labeled 'A' spans the final two measures of the piano part. A 'Ped.' line is shown at the bottom of the piano part.

8

un - - - der hea - ven: \_\_\_\_\_ a time to be

un - - - der hea - ven: \_\_\_\_\_ a time to be

un - - - der hea - ven: \_\_\_\_\_

un - - - der hea - ven: \_\_\_\_\_

12 **B**

born, a time to plant, a time to

born, a time to plant, a time to

and a time to die, and a time to reap,

and a time to die, and a time to reap,

**B**

16 *poco rit.*

break, a time to laugh, a time to

break, a time to laugh, a time to

and a time to heal, a time to laugh, to

and a time to heal, a time to laugh, to

*poco rit.*

20 *(rit.)* **Slightly slower** *p*

weep, weep, weep, a time of joy and sor-row.

**Slightly slower**

*(rit.)* *p*

Ped.

**C** *a tempo* ♩ = 100

24

*mf*

To ev-ery-thing there is a sea-son, and a time for ev-ery pur-pose

*mf*

To ev-ery-thing there is a sea-son, and a time for ev-ery pur-pose

*mf*

To ev-ery-thing there is a sea-son, and a time for ev-ery pur-pose

*mf*

and a time for ev-ery pur-pose

**C** *a tempo* ♩ = 100

*mf*

Ped.

27

un - - - - der hea - ven: \_\_\_\_\_

un - - - - der hea - ven: \_\_\_\_\_

un - - - - der hea - ven: \_\_\_\_\_ a time to

un - - - - der hea - ven: \_\_\_\_\_ a time to

*mf*

31 **D**

and a time to dance, and a time to let go,  
and a time to let go,  
mourn, a time to hold, a time to  
mourn, a time to hold, a time to

**D**

35 *poco rit.*

and a time to part, and a time to part, a time to  
join, a time to love, a time to love, a time to

*p* *p* *p* *poco rit.*

39 (rit.) **Slightly slower** *p* *a tempo*, ♩ = 100 *mf*

a time of joy and sor - row. In my  
leave a - lone, In my  
leave a - lone,

**Slightly slower** *a tempo*, ♩ = 100

*(rit.)*

Red.

43 **E**

life, there is a sea - son. In my  
life, there is a sea - son. In my  
In my life, there is a pur - pose.  
In my life, there is a pur - pose.

**E**

*mf*

**E**



47 9

life, there is a time for love, a time for war.

life, there is a time for love, a time for war.

There is a

a time for peace. There is a

51 **F**

cast a-way stones, a time to gather to -

cast a-way stones, a time to gather to -

time to cast a-way stones,

time to cast a-way stones,

**F**

54 *accel poco a poco* *cresc. poco a poco*

geth - er. a time to re - frain, a  
 geth - er. a time to re - frain, a  
 gath - er to - geth - er, a time to em - brace, a time to gain,  
 gath - er to - geth - er, a time to em - brace, a time to gain,

*cresc. poco a poco*  
*cresc. poco a poco*  
*cresc. poco a poco*  
*accel. e cresc. poco a poco*

58 *(accel.)* *(cresc.)* **Quickly** **Slower**  
*(cresc.)* *f* *abrupt break*

time to lose, a time for si - lence, a time to speak out, a time to  
 time to lose, a time for si - lence, a time to speak out, a time to  
 a time for si - lence, a time to speak out, a time to  
 a time for si - lence, a time to speak out, a time to

*(accel. e cresc.)* *f* *abrupt break*

**Quickly** **Slower**

61 *p* *rit.* *a tempo* ♩ = 100

lis - ten, a time to de - cide, For I be -

lis - ten, a time to de - cide, For I be -

8 lis - ten, a time to de - cide, to de - cide. For I be -

lis - ten, a time to de - cide, to de - cide. For I be -

*a tempo* ♩ = 100

*rit.* *p*

64 **G**

lieve, in my life, there is a rea - son, and I be - lieve, in my life, there is a

lieve, in my life, there is a rea - son, and I be - lieve, in my life, there is a

8 lieve, in my life, there is a rea - son, a rea - son, I be - lieve, in my life, there is a

lieve, in my life, there is a rea - son, a rea - son, I be - lieve, in my life, there is a

**G**

*f*

67

pur - pose, \_\_\_ and I be - lieve, in my life, there is a time of hope, and I be -

pur - pose, \_\_\_ and I be - lieve, in my life, there is a time of hope, and I be -

pur - pose, a pur - pose, I be - lieve, in my life, there is a time of hope, and I be -

pur - pose, a pur - pose, I be - lieve, in my life, there is a time of hope, and I be -

ped.

70

*cresc.*

S1 lieve, in my life, that we can live to - geth - er, to - geth - er.

*cresc.*

S2 lieve, in my life, that we can live to - geth - er in peace. \_\_\_\_\_

*cresc.*

A lieve, in my life, that we can live to - geth - er in peace. \_\_\_\_\_

*cresc.*

T lieve, in my life, that we can live to - geth - er in peace. \_\_\_\_\_

*cresc.*

B lieve, in my life, that we can live to - geth - er in peace. \_\_\_\_\_

*p* *cresc.*

*Ped.*

74 **H**

*f*

S To ev - ery - thing there is a sea - son,

*f*

A To ev - ery - thing there is a sea - son,

*f*

T To ev - ery - thing there is a

*f*

B To ev - ery - thing there is a

**H**

*f*

76

to ev - ery - thing there is a sea - son,  
 to ev - ery - thing there is a sea - son,  
 sea - son, to ev - ery - thing there is a  
 sea - son, to ev - ery - thing there is a

*v* *d*

78

to ev - ery - thing there is a sea - son, and a time for ev - ery  
 to ev - ery - thing there is a sea - son, and a time for ev - ery  
 sea - son, to ev - ery - thing there is a time for ev - ery  
 sea - son, to ev - ery - thing there is a time for ev - ery

*v* *d*

Musical score for measures 81-84. It includes four vocal staves (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and a piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: "pur - pose un - der hea - ven, —". The piano part features a steady accompaniment with a *Ped.* (pedal) marking. The tempo and dynamics markings are *rit. poco a poco to end* and *dim. poco a poco to end*.

Musical score for measures 85-88. It includes four vocal staves and a piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: "un - der hea - ven.". The piano part features a steady accompaniment with a *Ped.* (pedal) marking. The tempo and dynamics markings are *(rit. e dim.)* and *pp* (pianissimo). There are also markings for *8va* and *8va* in the piano part.