GWYNETH WALKER

The Tree of Peace

for SATB Chorus (divisi) and Orchestra
Orchestral version premiered by the Buffalo (NY) Choral Arts High School Honors Choir and the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra – Norman Zogaib, Conductor
May 6, 2007 – Hamburg, New York
Duration: 5’30”

Instrumentation

2 Flutes
Oboe
B♭ Clarinet
Bassoon
2 Horns in F

2 Trumpets in C
Trombone
Percussion (one player) Timpani, Suspended Cymbal, High Bongo
Strings

Notes

The text for The Tree of Peace has been adapted from the Quaker poem, O Brother Man, by John Greenleaf Whittier (1807–1892). This contemporary adaptation of the poem broadens the scope of the original with more inclusive language, opening with, “O, my sister and my brother, all who walk upon this earth, fold to your hearts each other.”

A new text fragment, “Listen, listen to one another,” is introduced into the poem, and serves as an interlude between the stanzas. The final sentence of the original poem becomes the focal point of this work, returning many times. “Love shall tread out the fire of anger, and in its ashes plant a tree of peace.”

The musical setting reflects the dual nature of the title, Tree (strength) and Peace (tenderness). The work opens with accented chords in the strings, clarinet, bassoon, and timpani. These chords are marked “with strength.” This is the conviction of the Tree of Peace.

The tender aspects are introduced in the arpeggio patterns in the piano. These are marked “flowing.” The related choral phrases refer to humanity, “O, my brother and my sister,” to mercy and to the peace of the Lord. Passages of tenderness alternate and intertwine with passages of strength to form a confluence of the message—a prayer for peace.

–Notes by the composer

–The Composer recommends performing this work as part of a set of three songs with orchestral accompaniment.

Tell the Earth to Shake - Full score: ECS Cat. No. 6937, Parts: ECS Cat. No. 6938, Octavo: ECS Cat. No. 6423
The Tree of Peace - Full score: ECS Cat. No. 6940, Parts: ECS Cat. No. 6941, Octavo: ECS Cat. No. 6939
There Is a Way to Glory - Full score: ECS Cat. No. 6975, Parts: ECS Cat. No. 6976, Octavo: ECS Cat. No. 6974
The Tree of Peace
for SATB Chorus (divisi) and Orchestra

Gwyneth Walker

Adapted from the poem O Brother Man
by John Greenleaf Whittier (1807-1892)

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ritard.\] a tempo, flowing\]
O, my sister and my brother, all who walk up on this.
earth, fold to your hearts each other.
Where mercy dwells, the peace of the Lord is there.
To live right ly is to love one an oth er_____

each kind ness a gift,

To live right ly is to love one an oth - er_____

each kind ness a gift,
each deed a prayer, O, my sister and my
brother, fold to your hearts each other.
brother, fold to your hearts each other.
brother, fold to your hearts each other.
brother, fold to your hearts each other.
Listen, listen to one another

ritard.

Listen, listen to one another

ritard.

Listen, listen to one another

ritard.

Listen, listen to one another

ritard.

Listen, listen to one another

ritard.

Listen, listen to one another

ritard.
Walk with reverence in the steps of those who have gone before, where forgiveness and wisdom have stood.
So shall the wide earth become a temple, each loving life a psalm of gratitude.
walk with reverence where for-give-ness and wis-dom have stood.

Listen, listen to one an-o-ther,
Listen, listen to one another, listen, listen,

Ah, Listen, listen to one another,
Listen, listen to one another, listen.
Listen, listen to one another. Listen, listen to one another.

Ah,
61

Fls.  

Ob.  

Cl.  

Bsn.  

Hns.  

Tpts.  

Tbn.  

Perc.  

S  

A  

Choir  

T  

B  

Vlns.  

Vla.  

Vc.  

Ch.  

ash es plant a tree of peace.  
Then shall all shack les fall.  
ash es plant a tree of peace.  
Then shall all shack les fall.  
ash es plant a tree of peace.  
Then shall all shack les fall.  
ash es plant a tree of peace.  
Then shall all shack les fall.  
O, my  
O, my
The violence of war over the earth shall cease.

Sister and my brother,
fold to your hearts each other,
Love shall tread out the fire of anger, and in its ashes plant a tree of mercy, the Lord is there.
Plant a tree of peace, a tree of peace, plant a tree of peace.

Ah,

Ah,
anger, and in its ashes plant a tree of peace.
Plant a tree of peace.  

Plant a tree of peace.  

Plant a tree of peace.
92 \[\text{Tempo primo } J = 88\]

Listen, listen to one another.

Listen, listen to one another.

Peace.

Peace.

\[\text{Tempo primo } J = 88\]

Arco, sul tasto

Arco, sul tasto

Arco, sul tasto

Arco, sul tasto

Arco, sul tasto

Arco, sul tasto

Arco, sul tasto
white note glissando, entire length of keyboard

Duration: 5’30”
February 10, 2007
BRAINTREE, VERMONT