

Commissioned by the 2008 Ocean Grove Choir Festival and Dr. Jason Tramm, Music Director
Premiered by the Ocean Grove Festival Choir, July 12, 2009 – Ocean Grove, New Jersey

Wayfaring Stranger


for SATB Chorus (divisi) and optional Brass Quintet, Percussion and Organ

Traditional
G. W. alt.

Gwyneth Walker

Slowly, freely *rit.* At a walking tempo $\text{♩} = 72$

Piano



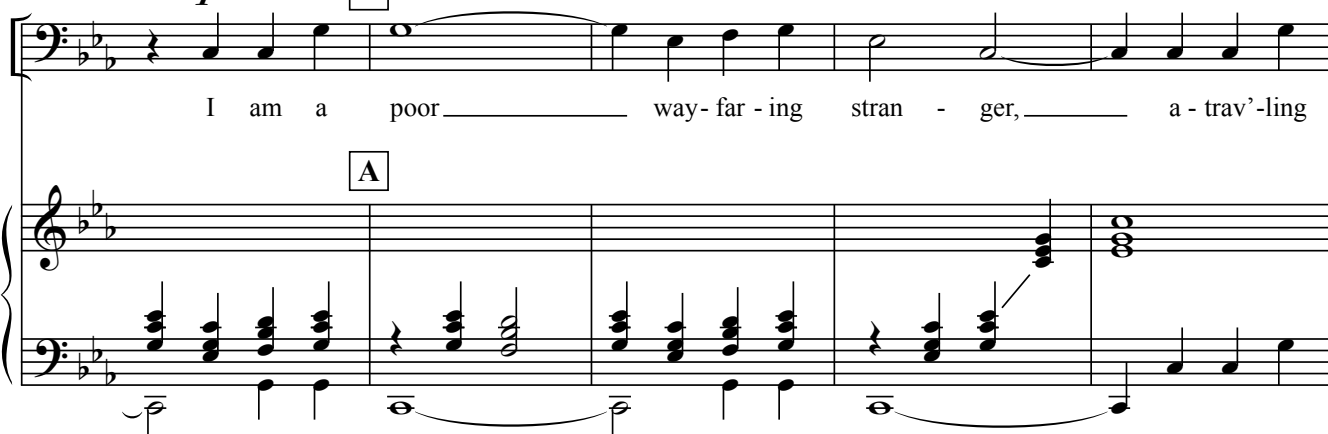
ped. _____ with pedal

Detailed description: This block contains the piano introduction. It starts with a treble clef and a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The tempo markings are 'Slowly, freely' and 'rit.', followed by 'At a walking tempo' with a quarter note equal to 72. The music is in 4/4 time. The piano part begins with a *p* dynamic. The score shows the right and left hands with various chords and melodic lines. A pedal line is indicated at the bottom with a line and a fermata-like symbol.

6 *unis. p cantabile* **A**

T
B

I am a poor _____ way-far-ing stran-ger, _____ a-trav'-ling



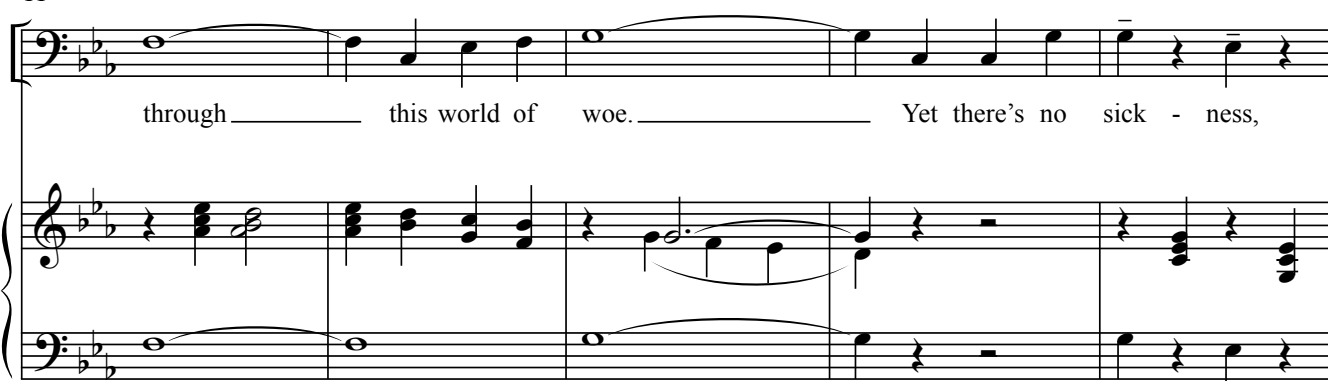
A

Detailed description: This block contains the first line of the vocal melody and piano accompaniment. The vocal part is in bass clef and starts at measure 6. The lyrics are 'I am a poor way-far-ing stran-ger, a-trav'-ling'. The piano accompaniment is in treble and bass clefs. A box labeled 'A' is placed above the vocal line and below the piano accompaniment. The piano part features a steady accompaniment with chords and a melodic line in the bass.

11

T
B

through _____ this world of woe. _____ Yet there's no sick-ness,



Detailed description: This block contains the second line of the vocal melody and piano accompaniment. The vocal part is in bass clef and starts at measure 11. The lyrics are 'through this world of woe. Yet there's no sick-ness,'. The piano accompaniment continues with chords and a melodic line in the bass. The piano part features a steady accompaniment with chords and a melodic line in the bass.

16

T
B

toil or dan - ger in that bright land to which I

21

*unis. p cantabile***B**

S
A

I'm go - ing home o - ver Jor - dan, go.

T
B

go.

B

26

S

I'm go - ing home no more to roam.

A

I'm go - ing home no more to roam. I'm on - ly

31 *(p)*

S I'm on - ly go - ing

A go - ing o - ver Jor - dan. I'm on - ly go - ing

36 *unis.*

S to my home.

A to my home.

mf

Leg.

40 **C** *p* (a light, rhythmic counterpoint)

S la la la la la la la la la la la la la la la la

A *p* (a light, rhythmic counterpoint)
la la la la la la la la la la la la la la la la

T *unis. mf*
I know dark clouds will gath-er round me. I know my

B

C *p*

(Leg.)

45

S
la la la la la la la la la la la la la la Ah___

A
la la la la la la la la la la la la la la Ah___

T
way _____ is rough and steep. _____ But gold - en fields lie

B
way _____ is rough and steep. _____ But gold - en fields lie

Piano accompaniment with chords and melodic lines.

50

S
la la la la la la la la la la la la la la Ah___

A
la la la la la la la la la la la la la la Ah___

T
out__ be - fore me, _____ where all the saints their vig - ils__

B
out__ be - fore__ me, _____ where all the saints their vig - ils__

Piano accompaniment with chords and melodic lines.

55 *mf* **D**

S la la la la la la la I'm go-ing home _____ to meet my fath - er. _____

A la la la la la la la I'm go-ing home _____ to meet my fath - er. _____

T keep. _____ *(mf)* la la la la la la la la la la la la la la

B keep. _____ *(mf)* la la la la la la la la la la la la la la la la

mf **D**

60 *unis.* *p* ,

S He said He'd meet me when I come. _____

A He said He'd meet me when I come. _____

T la meet me come... I'm go - ing *p tenderly*

B la meet me come... I'm go - ing *p tenderly*

65

rit.

, *Slowly, freely*

S
A
T
B

home to meet my moth - - - er, she said she'd wait for me in the

home to meet my moth - - - er, she said she'd wait for me in the

unis.

rit.

for rehearsal only

, *Slowly, freely*

p

70

accel.

p

S
A
T
B

in the Prom - ised Land.

in the Prom - ised Land, in the Prom - ised Land.

Prom - ised Land, in the Prom - ised Land, in the Prom - ised Land.

Prom - ised Land, in the Prom - ised Land, in the Prom - ised Land.

p

unis.

(rehearsal)

accel.

Play

p

Play

Reo.

E More quickly, animated $\text{♩} = 80$

73

S *f* I want to wear a crown of glo - ry,

A *f* I want to wear a crown of glo - ry,

T *f* I want to wear a crown of glo - ry,

B *f* I want to wear a crown of glo - ry,

E More quickly, animated $\text{♩} = 80$

77

S *unis.* when I ar - rive in Ca - naan Land. I want to

A when I ar - rive in Ca - naan Land. I want to

T when I ar - rive in Ca - naan Land.

B when I ar - rive in Ca - naan Land.

81

S SHOUT SAL - VA - TION'S STO - - - - RY, when I join *(f)*

A SHOUT SAL - VA - TION'S STO - - - - RY, when I join *(f)*

T SHOUT SAL - VA - TION'S STO - - - - RY, when I join *(f)*

B SHOUT SAL - VA - TION'S STO - - - - RY, when I join *(f)*

unis.

85

S in with the gos - pel band, _____ with the gos - pel band.

A in, _____ in with the gos - pel band. _____

T in... _____ in with the gos - pel band.

B in... _____ I'm go - ing

(f)

89 **F**

S I'm go - ing there to see my Sav - ior.

A I'm go - ing there to see my Sav - ior.

T I'm go - ing there to see my Sav - ior.

B there _____ to see my Sav - ior. He _____ said He'd

F

93 *unis.* , (*f*)

S He said He'd meet me when I come. _____ I'm on - ly

A He said He'd meet me when I come. _____ I'm on - ly

T He said He'd meet me when I come. _____ I'm on - ly

B meet me when I come. _____ I'm on - ly

F

97 *rit.* **Slower**
dim. poco a poco

S
A
T
B

go - ing o - ver Jor - - - dan, I'm on - ly
go - ing o - ver Jor - - - dan, I'm on - ly

dim. poco a poco

rit. **Slower**

101 *a tempo* (♩ = 80)
unis.
p

S
A
T
B

go - ing to my home.
go - ing to my home.

p

a tempo (♩ = 80)

106 **G** *mf*

111

115

mf

S
A
T
B

My Pre - cious Sa - vior, bring me
My Pre - cious Sa - vior, bring me
Pre - cious Sa - vior, bring me home.
Pre - cious Sa - vior, bring me home.

119

rit.

S
A
T
B

home. My Pre - cious Sa - vior bring me home. I'll soon be
home. My Pre - cious Sa - vior bring me home. I'll soon be
My Pre - cious Sa - vior, Pre - cious Sa - vior bring me home.
My Pre - cious Sa - vior, Pre - cious Sa - vior bring me home.

H Grandly (♩ = 80)

123

f >

S free from earth - ly tri - als, and fol - low

f

A free from earth - ly tri - als, and fol - low

f > > >

T I'll soon be free from earth - ly tri - als,

f > > >

B I'll soon be free from earth - ly tri - als,

H Grandly (♩ = 80)

f >

with pedal

127

unis.

S on my Great Re - ward.

A on my Great Re - ward. I'll drop my bur - den

unis.

T on my Great Re - ward. I'll drop my bur - den

B on my Great Re - ward. I'll drop my bur - den

unis.

132 rit.

Slower

S de - ni - al, Lord, *S2 p* sing-ing to my,

A and de - ni - al, Lord and go home sing-ing to my, sing-ing to my,

T and de - ni - al, Lord and go home sing-ing to my, sing-ing to my,

B and de - ni - al, Lord and go home sing-ing to my, sing-ing to my,

rit. *Slower*

p

with pedal

137 S1

accel.

f a tempo (♩ = 80)

S sing-ing to my, sing-ing to my God! _____

A sing-ing to my, sing-ing to my God! _____

T sing-ing to my, sing-ing to my God! _____

B sing-ing to my, sing-ing to my God! _____

accel. *f* a tempo (♩ = 80)

142 *(f)* **I**

S I'm go - ing there _____ to see my Sa - vior. _____ He said He'd

A *(f)* *unis.* I'm go - ing there _____ to see my Sa - vior. _____ He said He'd

T *(f)* I'm go - ing there to see my Sa - vior. _____

B *(f)* I'm go - ing there to see my Sa - vior. _____

I

(*And.*)

147 *unis.* *rit. dim.*

S meet me when I come. _____ I'm on - ly go - ing

A meet me when I come. _____ I'm on - ly go - ing *dim.*

T *unis.* meet me when I come. _____ I'm on - ly go - ing *dim.*

B meet me when I come. _____ I'm on - ly go - ing *dim.*

rit. dim.

152 (rit.) **Slower**, *p*

S o - ver Jor - - - dan. I'm on - ly go - ing to my

A o - ver Jor - - - dan. I'm on - ly go - ing to my

T o - ver Jor - - - dan. Hmm

B o - ver Jor - - - dan. Hmm

(rit.) **Slower**, *p*

157 **J** With building energy (♩ = 80)

S home.

A home.

T My Pre - cious Sa - vior, bring me

B Pre - cious Sa - vior, bring me home.

J With building energy (♩ = 80)

p

with pedal

16

rit. to end

161

mf

f

ff

S

A

T

B

My Pre - cious Sa - vior, bring me home!

home. Pre - cious Sa - vior, bring me home!

My Pre - cious Sa - vior, bring me home!

My Pre - cious Sa - vior, bring me home!

mf

f

ff

rit. to end

f

ff

Leo.

4'30"

December 10, 2008
Braintree, Vermont

Wayfaring Stranger is based on the traditional American song, *I am a Poor, Wayfaring Stranger*. The lyrics describe two forms of journey – the journey “home” to be with parents, and the journey to the “Heavenly home” to be with God. These two journeys merge, as one seeks to join with one’s earthly parents in heaven just as one meets with the Heavenly Father at the end of the final voyage.

The imagery of the text is varied, from the tenderness of longing for parents to the celebration of “singing to my God!” Thus, the musical setting endeavors to highlight this emotional range. Each verse receives a different musical expression relevant to the lyrics. The depths of longing (lowest vocal range) associate with missing one’s mother, and the heights of celebration arrive with the words, “I’ll soon be free of earthly trials.”

The musical language is characterized by a recurrent rhythmic underpinning. This walking pattern reflects the journey home – a deliberate tempo with increasing energy. “Precious Savior, bring me home!”

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. She now lives on a dairy farm in Braintree, Vermont.

Gwyneth Walker is a proud resident of Vermont. 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.

Walker’s catalog includes over 180 commissioned works for orchestra, band, chorus and chamber ensembles. The music of Gwyneth Walker is published by E. C. Schirmer of Boston (choral and vocal music) and MMB Music of St. Louis (orchestral and instrumental music).