

Gwyneth Walker

And Death Shall Have No Dominion

for SATB Chorus (divisi) and Piano

Commissioned by the Phillips Academy Chorus, Christopher Walter, Music Director
Premiered on October 31, 2010 – Andover, Massachusetts

And Death Shall Have No Dominion

for SATB Chorus (*divisi*) and Piano

Dylan Thomas (1914–1953)

Gwyneth Walker

*And death shall have no dominion.
Dead men naked they shall be one
with the man in the wind and the west moon;
When their bones are picked clean, and the clean bones gone,
They shall have stars at elbow and foot;
Though they go mad they shall be sane,
Though they sink through the sea they shall rise again;
Though lovers be love shall not;
And death shall have no dominion.

Grandly and triumphantly ♩ = 100

Piano

accel. poco a poco

5

8va

(accel.) **Quickly** ♩ = ca. 120

8

(Ped.)

*It is suggested that the first stanza of the poem be read aloud by members of the chorus before singing the song.

A *a tempo* (♩ = 100)

11 *rit.* *f grandly and triumphantly*

S And death shall have no do -

A *f grandly and triumphantly*
And death shall have no do -

T *f grandly and triumphantly*
And death shall have no do -

B

A *a tempo* (♩ = 100)
(RH is a quiet background)

rit. loco *p*

(Ped.) with pedal

14

S min - ion. Dead men na - ked they

A min - ion. Dead men na - ked they

T min - ion. Dead men na - ked they

B *f* no do - min - ion...

f

17

S shall be one _____ With the man in the wind and the west__ moon; _____

A shall be one _____ With the man in the wind and the west__ moon; _____

T shall be one _____ With the man in the wind and the west__ moon; _____

B they shall be one... _____ the

f *p* *(p)*

21 *poco rit.* **Slightly slower** *pp* murmuring*

S _____ no do-min-ion, no do-min-ion, no do-min-ion, no do-min-ion _

A _____ *pp* murmuring* no do-min-ion, no do-min-ion, no do-min-ion _

T _____ *pp* murmuring* no do-min-ion _

B _____ *pp* murmuring* no do-min-ion, no do-min-ion _

west__ moon; _____ no do-min-ion, no do-min-ion _

poco rit. **Slightly slower** *pp*

24 *accel.* **B** *a tempo* (♩ = 100)

p

S When their bones are picked clean and the

A When their bones are picked clean and the

T When their bones are picked clean and the

B When their bones are picked clean and the

accel. **B** *a tempo* (♩ = 100)

p

(Ped.) with pedal

27

mf

S clean bones gone, They shall have stars at el - bow and

A clean bones gone, They shall have stars at el - bow and

T clean bones gone, Ah *p* (vowel to match "stars")

B clean bones gone, Ah *p* (vowel to match "stars")

mf

p

(Ped.)

6

30

f

S foot; Though they go mad they shall be sane,

A foot; Though they go mad they shall be sane,

T

B

f

Though they

f

Though they

(Ped.)

with pedal

33

rit.

p

f

Slowly

S rise a - gain; Though lov - ers be lost

A they shall rise a - gain; Though lov - ers be lost

T sink through the sea they shall rise a - gain; Though lov - ers be lost

B sink through the sea they shall rise a - gain; Though lov - ers be lost

rit.

p

f

Slowly

(*f*)

Ped.

37 *accel.* *p* , *f* *a tempo* (♩ = 100)

S love shall not; and death shall have no do - min - ion.

A love shall not; and death shall have no do - min - ion.

T love shall not; and death shall have no do - min - ion.

B love shall not; and death shall have no do - min - ion.

accel. *a tempo* (♩ = 100)

p *f*

Ped. Ped.

41 **C** *f*

S no do -

A *f* And death shall have no do - min - ion.

T

B

C

Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped.

45

S min - ion... *(f)* They ly - ing long shall not die

A *(f)* They ly - ing long shall not die

T *f* the sea

B *f* Un - der the wind - ings of the sea

48

S wind - i - ly; Twist - ing on rack where sin - ews give way, **D**

A wind - i - ly; Twist - ing on rack where sin - ews give way, **D**

T

B

51 *rit.* *a tempo* (♩ = 100)

S yet they shall not break; Faith in their hands shall

A yet they shall not break; Faith in their hands shall

T 8 Strapped to a wheel, yet they shall not break; Faith in their hands shall

B Strapped to a wheel, yet they shall not break; Faith in their hands shall

rit. *for rehearsal only* *Play* *a tempo* (♩ = 100)

54 *rit.*

S snap in two, Split all ends up they

A snap in two, Split all ends up they

T 8 snap in two, And the un - i - corn e - vils run them through; Split all ends up they

B snap in two, And the un - i - corn e - vils run them through; Split all ends up they

rit. *for rehearsal only*

58 *(rit.)* *accel.* *a tempo* (♩ = 100) *(f)*

S shall not crack; And death shall have no do - min - ion. _____ And *(f)*

A shall not crack; And death shall have no do - min - ion. _____ And

T shall not crack; And death shall have no do - min - ion. _____

B shall not crack; And death shall have no do - min - ion. _____

(rit.) *accel.* *a tempo* (♩ = 100)

Play

Ped.

62 **E** *cantabile*

S death shall have no do - min - ion. No more may gulls cry _____

A *cantabile*
death shall have no do - min - ion. No more may gulls cry _____

T *(f) cantabile*
And death shall have no do - min - ion. _____

B *(f) cantabile*
And death shall have no do - min - ion. _____

E

Ped. *Ped.* *Ped.* *Ped.* *simile*

65 *rit.*

S — at their ears

A — at their ears

T Or waves break loud on the sea - shores;

B Or waves break loud on the sea - shores;

68 **F** *Slower, quasi recitative* , *p* where —

S where blew a flow'r may a

A *p* Where blew a flow'r may a flow'r no more lift its head, where blew a flow'r may a

T *p* Where blew a flow'r may a flow'r no more lift its head, where blew a flow'r may a

B , *p* where blew a flow'r may a

F *Slower, quasi recitative*

for rehearsal only ————— Play for rehearsal only —————

p

Ped. ————— Ped. ————— Ped. —————

71

S *mf unis.*
flow'r no more lift its head to the blows of the rain;

A *mf* (*mf*)
flow'r no more lift its head to the blows

T *mf* (*mf*)
8 flow'r no more lift its head of the rain;

B *mf*
flow'r no more lift its head

Play

(Ped.) Ped. Ped.

74 **G** *start slowly and accel.*

S *p* *cresc.*
Though they be mad and dead as nails, Heads of the char-ac-ters

A *p* *cresc.*
Though they be mad and dead as nails, Heads of the char-ac-ters

T *p cresc.*
8 Heads of the char-ac-ters

B

G *start slowly and accel.*

(*p*) *cresc.*

(Ped.)

77 *(accel.)* **Quickly** *mf* **H** *rit.* *f* *(f)* **Slowly**³

S ham-mer through dai - sies; Break in the sun till the sun breaks down, And -

A ham-mer through dai - sies; Break in the sun till the sun breaks down,

T ham-mer through dai - sies; Break in the sun till the sun breaks down,

B Break in the sun till the sun breaks down,

(accel.) **Quickly** *mf* **H** *rit.* *f* *(f)* **Slowly**

80 *accel.* *(f)* *(f)* *(f)* *accel.*

S death shall have...

A And - death shall have, and - death shall have no do -

T and - death shall have no do -

B and death shall have no do -

(f) *accel.*

83

a tempo (♩ = 100)

poco accel.

I Slightly faster ♩ = 108
with motion

S
A
T
B

min - ion.

min - ion.

min - ion.

a tempo (♩ = 100)

poco accel.

I Slightly faster ♩ = 108
with motion

cantabile

Ped. Ped. Ped.

86

S
A
T
B

no do-min - ion... Ah

no do-min - ion... Ah

no do-min - ion... Ah

no do-min - ion... Ah

rit.

Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped.

89 **Slower** *f* *rit.* *ff* **Slowly** *f grandly*

S Break in the sun till the sun breaks down, And death shall have no do -

A Break in the sun till the sun breaks down, And death shall have no do -

T Break in the sun till the sun breaks down, And death shall have no do -

B Break in the sun till the sun breaks down, And death shall have no do -

f *rit.* *ff* *f grandly*

Slower *f* *rit.* **Slowly**

f *rit.* *f*

Ped.

92 **J** *a tempo* (♩ = 108) *accel.*

S min - ion.

A min - ion.

T min - ion.

B min - ion.

J *a tempo* (♩ = 108) *accel.*

p cresc.

Ped.

16

96 **Quickly** *rit.* ***ff*** ***ff*** ***ff*** ***ff***

S no do - min - ion.

A no do - min - ion.

T no do - min - ion.

B no do - min - ion.

Quickly *rit.* ***ff***

8^{vb} 4'30"

August 1, 2010
Braintree, Vermont

Program Notes

This musical setting of the well-known Dylan Thomas poem focuses on the strength and certainty of the message – though death may claim the mortal life, the spirit of humanity endures. Thus, the piano introduction and the first entrance by the chorus are marked “grandly and triumphantly.” The musical language is often loud and forceful. Harmonies are bold – either spare (open fourths and fifths) or blunt (added seconds). The softening sonorities of thirds are rarely heard, especially in the opening verse. However, richer and gentler chords are chosen to express the life-affirming sentences:

Though they sink through the sea, they shall rise again...
Break in the sun till the sun breaks down...

The poetic text primarily portrays the darkness and decay of death. And yet, with these few gloriously transcendent lines, the enduring spirit is celebrated. Thus, the final “no dominion” is victorious.

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 200 commissioned works for orchestra, chamber ensembles, chorus and solo voice. The music of Gwyneth Walker is published by E. C. Schirmer of Boston (choral and vocal music) and Lauren Keiser Music (orchestral and instrumental music).