

# The Ends of the Earth (Are in Your Hand)

Alto Solo, SATB *divisi*, and Piano

Henry Richard McFayden (1877–1964)

Gwyneth Walker

G. Walker, alt.

**Moderate tempo** ♩ = 112

*Solo* **A**  
*p* with plaintive longing for the presence of the Great Spirit

Alto Solo

The lone, wild

**Moderate tempo** ♩ = 112 (to suggest a "Lone, Wild Bird" in the distance) **A**

*pp* barely audible, as a background for the voice

Piano

8<sup>vb</sup>  
C<sub>2</sub>

6

Alto Solo

bird in loft - y flight is still with

*(p)*

8<sup>vb</sup>  
C<sub>2</sub>

11

Alto Solo

You nor leaves Your sight. And I am

**B**

*(p)* **B**

8<sup>vb</sup>  
C<sub>2</sub>

Text: Based on "The Lone, Wild Bird" by Henry Richard McFayden (1877–1964) (PD); G. Walker, alt.

Tune: PROSPECT (GRAHAM), Walker's *Southern Harmony*, 1835 (PD).

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16

Alto Solo

Yours, I rest in You. Great Spir - it

*(p)*

(8vb)  
(8co.)

21

Alto Solo

come, rest in me too.

*(p)*

(8vb)  
(8co.)

26

T

Each se - cret thought is known to

*mf espr.*

B

Each se - cret thought is known to

*mf espr.*

*mf*

(8vb)  
(8co.)

8co. simile

30 *p*

S Ah, \_\_\_\_\_ Ah, \_\_\_\_\_

*Tutti p*

A Ah, \_\_\_\_\_ Ah, \_\_\_\_\_

T You, \_\_\_\_\_ the path I walk my whole life

B You, \_\_\_\_\_ the path I walk my whole life

35 D

S Ah, \_\_\_\_\_ Ah, \_\_\_\_\_

A Ah, \_\_\_\_\_ Ah, \_\_\_\_\_

T through: \_\_\_\_\_ my days, my deeds, my \_\_\_\_\_

B through: \_\_\_\_\_ my days, my deeds, my \_\_\_\_\_

D

39

S Ah, Ah,

A Ah, Ah,

T hopes, my fears,

B hopes, my fears, my deep est

43

S Ah, Ah,

A Ah, Ah,

T my si - lent tears.

B joys, my si - lent tears.

6

48 *mf* **E** *unis.*

S The earth is scarred, and cries in pain.

A *mf* The earth is scarred, and cries in pain.

T *mf* pain,

B *mf* pain,

**E**

*with pedal*

53

S

A

T *mf* pain, The for - ests burn, and thirst for

B *mf* pain, The for - ests burn, and thirst for *unis.*

57 **F** *rit.* [strong break] **Slowly**  
*unis. p*

S rain, rain, When chil - dren die, and par - ents

A rain, rain, When chil - dren die,

T rain. When chil - dren die,

B rain. When chil - dren die,

**F** *rit.* **Slowly**

62 (Slowly)

S mourn, *Solo (as beginning)*

A *p* mourn, *p* Great Spir - it come in my heart re -

T *p* mourn,

B *p* mourn,

(Slowly) *pp*

67 *p* *accel.*

S Be in our hearts re - born!

(Solo) born

A *Tutti p* [Solo rejoin]

T Be in our hearts re - born!

Be in our hearts re - born!

B *unis. p* Be in our hearts re - born!

*p* *accel.*

71 *(accel.) f* **G** a tempo ♩ = 112

S For the ends of the earth are in Your hands,

A For the ends of the earth are in Your hands,

T For the ends of the earth are in Your hands,

B For the ends of the earth are in Your hands,

*(accel.) f* **G** a tempo ♩ = 112

76

S  
A  
T  
B

and the dis - tant land.  
and the dis - tant land.  
the sea's dark deep, and the dis - tant land.

81

S  
A  
T  
B

I noth - ing want but to know Your care. *unis.*  
I noth - ing want but to know Your care.  
I noth - ing want but to know Your care.  
I noth - ing want but to know Your care.



86

S

A

T

B

re - ceive our prayer.

re - ceive our prayer.

Great Spir - it, come, re - ceive our prayer.

*And.*

91

S

A

T

B

*p* Ah, *f* For the ends of the

For the ends of the

ends of

ends of

*And.*

**I**

**I**

95

S  
earth are in Your hand, \_\_\_\_\_ the sea's dark

A  
earth are in Your hand, \_\_\_\_\_ the sea's dark

T  
8 earth are in Your hand, \_\_\_\_\_ sea's dark *unis.*

B  
earth are in Your hand, \_\_\_\_\_ sea's dark *unis.*

8<sup>vb</sup>----- loco

100

S  
deep, and the dis - tant land. \_\_\_\_\_ I

A  
deep, and the dis - tant land. \_\_\_\_\_ I

T  
8 deep, and the dis - tant land. \_\_\_\_\_ I *unis.*

B  
deep, and the dis - tant land. \_\_\_\_\_ I *unis.*

*unis.*

S  
noth - ing want but to know Your care.

A  
noth - ing want but to know Your care.

T  
noth - ing want but to know Your care.

B  
noth - ing want but to know Your care. Great

**J**

S

A  
*p*  
Great Spir - it, live,

T  
*unis. mp*  
Great Spir - it,

B  
Spir - it, hear, *mp* Great Spir - it,

114

*mp* *mf*

S Great Spir - it, heal, Great Spir - it, come, re -

*mp* *mf*

A Great Spir - it, heal, Great Spir - it, come, re -

T breathe, Great Spir - it, come, re -

B breathe, Great Spir - it, come, re -

*mf*

119

**K** *p*

S ceive our prayer.

*p*

A ceive our prayer.

*p*

T ceive our prayer.

*p*

B ceive our prayer.

*p*

**K**

125

*p*

(Ceo.)

[patterns of birds in flight]

128

1 *p* the lone, wild bird, lone, wild

2 *p* the lone, wild bird,

L

(Ceo.)

132

1 bird, lone, wild bird, lone, wild

2 lone, wild bird, the lone, wild bird,

1 *p* bird in flight, bird in flight,

2 *p* bird in flight,

(Ceo.)

136

*poco rit.*

1 S bird,

2 lone, wild bird,

1 A bird in flight,

2

T *p* And *p*

B And

*poco rit.*

5

(*And.*)

139 **M** Slightly slower

S *unis. (p)* Great Spir - it,

A *unis. (p)* Great Spir - it,

T I am Yours, I rest in You. Mmm,

B I am Yours, I rest in You. Mmm,

144 *rit.*

S  
come, rest in me, too.

A  
come, rest in me, too.

T  
*, unis.*  
rest in me, too.

B  
*, unis.*  
rest in me, too.

*rit.*  
(the "lone, wild bird")

*p* 3 3 3

*Ad.*

4:00  
November 20, 2020  
New Canaan, Connecticut

### Program Notes

**The Ends of the Earth** is based on the folk hymn "The Lone, Wild Bird." One of the stanzas of the lyrics spoke to the composer with special relevance to contemporary environmental concerns:

*The ends of the earth are in Your hand.  
The distant seas and the far-off land.  
I nothing want but to know Your care.  
Great Spirit, come, receive our prayer.*

This is a powerful and hopeful message of the Lord's care for the earth. The fate of our imperiled planet is in God's hand. And with this focus on our environment, a new verse has been inserted into this folk song:

*The earth is scarred and cries in pain.  
The forests burn, and thirst for rain.  
When children die, and parents mourn,  
Great Spirit be in our hearts reborn.*

In this time of violence, and in this time of harm to our planet, Lord, receive our prayer.