

Commissioned by the Toledo Choral Society  
Richard Napierala, Artistic Director  
for premiere June 26, 2022  
Toledo, Ohio

### PROGRAM NOTES

*Lyric* comes from *The Great Lakes*, a musical journey across the magnificent five lakes bordering the Eastern US and Canada. Texts by American and Canadian poets have been selected as lyrics for this cantata. The journey moves from East (Lake Ontario) to West (Lake Superior), stopping to explore the unique character of each lake en route.

The Prologue, *Lyric*, is based on the poem by William Wilfred Campbell, a Canadian poet. Appropriately, the text speaks of bringing (or breathing) a song in reverence of the lakes. This is gentle music, with notes often floating across the measures in lightly syncopated *hemiola* rhythms. The initial and closing phrases in the Bass voices represent the *deep voice of the lakes*.

Although the preliminary form of the cantata was scored for chorus with piano accompaniment, the final version is now orchestrated. Therefore, the composer has enjoyed exploring orchestral colors inspired by the personalities of the lakes.

### TEXT

I would bring you a song, O lakes:  
A song of delight and desire;  
A song of the spring that wakes,  
Of the warm red light that shakes  
Far over your white ice-pyre.

I would breathe you a song, O lakes;  
A song of the love that thrills  
The heart of the year, and breaks  
The bonds of winter, and eases  
The thirst of the season in tiny little streams and rills.

I would breathe you a song, O lakes;  
And the bountiful answer you give, O lakes;  
And the love and the music it wakes  
Entrances my spirit and makes  
Me thankful to God that I live!

—William Wilfred Campbell (1860–1918),  
from *Lake Lyrics and Other Poems* (1889),  
alt. Gwyneth Walker

### AVAILABLE EDITIONS

<b>The Great Lakes, the complete work</b>		<i>Available individually</i>	
Piano/Choral Score	8979	Lyric	8980
Additional Full Score	8979A	By Blue Ontario's Shore	8981
Complete Score and Parts	RENTAL	Erie Waters	8982
		Lake Huron	8983
		Lake Superior	8984
		As Birds in Flight	8985

# Lyric

from *The Great Lakes*  
for SATB Chorus (divisi) and Piano or Orchestra

“A Lyric” by  
William Wilfred Campbell (1860–1918)  
Canadian Poet

Gwyneth Walker

**Flowing** ♩. = 66  
*serenely, as waves on a lake*

Piano

*p*

10 10

*And.* *And.* *simile*

Detailed description: This block contains the piano introduction. It features a grand staff with treble and bass clefs. The music is in 6/8 time and D major. The right hand plays a flowing eighth-note melody, while the left hand provides harmonic support with chords and single notes. Dynamics include piano (*p*) and markings for tempo and articulation: *And.*, *And.*, and *simile*. There are two measures marked with a '10' in the right hand.

4

B

[Basses are the “deep voice” of the lakes]

*p*

Ah

Detailed description: This block shows the beginning of the vocal entry for the basses and the piano accompaniment for measures 4-6. The bass line starts with a whole rest in measure 4, followed by a melodic phrase in measures 5 and 6. The piano accompaniment continues with the flowing eighth-note pattern. A dynamic marking of piano (*p*) is present. The vocal line includes the syllable 'Ah' with a long horizontal line underneath. The piano part has two measures marked with a '10' in the right hand.

7

B

Ah

Detailed description: This block shows the continuation of the vocal entry for the basses and the piano accompaniment for measures 7-9. The bass line features a long, sustained note in measure 7, followed by a melodic phrase in measures 8 and 9. The piano accompaniment continues with the flowing eighth-note pattern. The vocal line includes the syllable 'Ah' with a long horizontal line underneath. The piano part has six measures marked with a '10' in the right hand.

A

*unis. mf serenely*

10

S  
A

I would bring you a song, 0

B

10 10

*mf*

A

13

S  
A

lakes: A song of de -

B

10 10 10 10

B

16

S  
A

light and de - sire; A song of the spring that

T  
B

*p*

Ah

*p* *mf*

20

S wakes, far o - ver the

A wakes, far o - ver the

T *mf* of the warm red light that shakes far o - ver the

B *mf* of the warm red light that shakes far o - ver the

C

24

S white ice - pyre. I would bring you a song, O

A white ice - pyre. song, O

T white ice - pyre. song, O

B white ice - pyre. song, O

C

(Ceo.)

29

S  
lakes.

A  
lakes.

T  
8  
lakes.

B  
lakes.

*mf*

*Teo.* *simile*

33 **D**

S

A  
*p*  
Ah

T  
*mf enraptured*  
I would breathe you a song, O lakes;

B  
*mf enraptured*  
I would breathe you a song, O lakes;

**D** 10 10 10 10 10 10

36

S  
A  
T  
B

A song of the love that thrills the  
A song of the love that thrills the

39

S  
A  
T  
B

Ah, And breaks the bonds of  
Ah, And breaks the bonds of

heart of the year,  
heart of the year,

*(p)* *mf*  
*(p)* *mf*

*p* *mf*

42

S win - ter, and eas - es the thirst of the sea - son in ti - ny, ti - ny, lit - tle

A win - ter, and eas - es the thirst of the sea - son in ti - ny, ti - ny, lit - tle

T Ah in ti - ny, ti - ny, lit - tle

B Ah in ti - ny, ti - ny, lit - tle

*mf* *p* *delicately* *p* *delicately* *delicately* *delicately*

(♩ = ♪)

46

S streams and rills.

A streams and rills.

T streams and rills.

B streams and rills.

*rapidly blurred* *(p)*

(♩ = ♪)

50 *unis. p* *mf*

S I would breathe you a song. O lakes.

A *p* *mf*  
song. O lakes.

T *p* *mf*  
song. O lakes.

B

55 G *f with exuberance* *mf*

S I would breathe you a song, O

A G *f* *mf*  
10 10

T *f*  
*Red.* *simile*

B

58

S lakes; And the boun - ti - ful an - swer you

A *f with exuberance*  
10 10

T O lakes!

B



61

S  
A  
T  
B

give, O lakes; And the

O lakes!

10 10

*p sub.*

**H** *With growing excitement*  
*cresc. poco a poco*

64

S  
A  
T  
B

love and the mu - sic it wakes en - tranc - es my spir - it and makes, makes me

*p cresc. poco a poco*

Ah Ah

*mp cresc. poco a poco*

Ah

**H** *With growing excitement*  
*cresc. poco a poco*



**I** *a tempo* (♩. = 66)

[voices are added,  
as if coming to life]

77

S *a few voices* *p* I live, \_\_\_\_\_ *All (p)* I live!

A *a few voices* *p* I live, \_\_\_\_\_ *All (p)* I live!

T *a few voices* *p* I live, \_\_\_\_\_ *All (p)* I live!

B *(Solo)* *all Baritones p* live, \_\_\_\_\_ I live, \_\_\_\_\_ I

**I** *a tempo* (♩. = 66)

*p delicately*

*with pedal*

10 10

Ped.

80

S *mf* *mf enraptured*  
A song of the spring that

A *mf* *mf enraptured*  
A song of the spring that

T *mf*  
live!

B *mf*  
live!

**J**

*cresc.* *mf*

*with pedal*

Ped.

84

S wakes, And the love and the mu - sic it

A wakes, And the love and the mu - sic it

T *mf* enraptured of the warm red light that shakes, And the love and the mu - sic it

B *mf* enraptured of the warm red light that shakes, And the love and the mu - sic it

88

S wakes. I will bring you a song, O lakes.

A wakes. I will bring you a song, O lakes.

T wakes. I will bring you a song, O lakes.

B wakes. I will bring you a song, O lakes.

*shimmering*

*f*

*f*

*f*

*f*

*f*

92 *p* *rit. to end*  
*(p)*

S Ah *(p)*

A Ah *(p)*

T Ah *(p)*

B *p*

*dim.* *p* *rit. to end*  
 10 10

95 *(rit.)*

S Ah

A Ah

T Ah

B *p*  
 Ah

*rapidly, blurred, unmeasured*

*(rit.)* 10 10

*ped.* *ped.*