

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

PROGRAM NOTES

Lake Superior is a song of grandeur and triumph associated with this large lake. The bold key of C Major is chosen for the placement of the recurrent theme, “Father of Lakes, Majestic! Lake Superior.” A middle section switches to the key of C Minor, for a fluid melody with lyrics “wave of the wilderness, farewell!” When the music returns to C Major, an ecstatic image is created in the words “O, radiant gift from heaven sending back to the sky its world of blue.” And thus, the music ascends to a final elevated tone cluster on the word “blue.”

This choral setting is part of the cantata *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.

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

Father of Lakes, your waters bend
Beyond the eagle’s utmost view,
When, throned in heaven, he sees you send
Back to the sky its world of blue.

Father of Lakes, Majestic! Lake Superior.

Boundless and deep, your forests weave
Their twilight shade the borders o’er,
And rising cliffs, like giants, heave
Their rugged forms along the shore.

Wave of the wilderness, farewell!
Farewell to rocks and wilds and deepest wood!
Roll on, you ageless testament of blue,
And fill this daily solitude.

Duluth...Thunder Bay...Sault Ste. Marie...Marathon...
Rossport...Nipigon...Grand Marais...Hiawatha...

Father of Lakes, your waters bend
Beyond the eagle’s utmost view.
O, radiant gift from heaven sending
Back to the sky its world of blue.

—Samuel Griswold Goodrich (1793–1860),
alt. Gwyneth Walker

AVAILABLE EDITIONS

The Great Lakes, the complete work		<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

Lake Superior

from *The Great Lakes*

SATB Chorus (divisi) and Piano or Orchestra

“Lake Superior” by
Samuel Griswold Goodrich (1793–1860)
G. W., alt.

Gwyneth Walker

With grandeur [A] **Slowly, with grandeur** ♩ = 88

f

Soprano
Alto

Fath - er of Lakes, your wa - ters bend Be -

Tenor
Bass

With grandeur [A] **Slowly, with grandeur** ♩ = 88

f

Piano

8^{va}

8^{vb}

5 *unis.*, *p*

S yond the ea - gle's ut - most view, When, throned in heaven, he sees you send

A yond the ea - gle's ut - most view, When, throned in heaven, he sees you send

T yond the ea - gle's ut - most view, When, throned in heaven, he sees you send

B yond the ea - gle's ut - most view, When, throned in heaven, he sees you send

for rehearsal only -----

(*Reo.*)

rit.

B Slowly, triumphantly

accel.

9 *f*

S Back to the sky it's world of blue, Fath - er of Lakes, Ma - jes - tic!

A *f* Back to the sky it's world of blue, Fath - er of Lakes, Ma - jes - tic!

T *f* 8 Back to the sky it's world of blue, Fath - er of Lakes, Ma - jes - tic! Lake Su - *with strength*

B *f* Back to the sky it's world of blue, Fath - er of Lakes, Ma - jes - tic! Lake Su - *with strength*

Play *rit.* **B** Slowly, triumphantly *accel.*

13 *a tempo* (♩ = 108)

S

A

T *p* 8 pe - ri - or.

B *p* pe - ri - or.

a tempo (♩ = 108)

mf

with pedal

17 **C** (Same tempo)

S *cantabile mf* And

A *cantabile mf* And

T *unis. mf cantabile*
8 Bound-less and deep, your for-ests weave Their twi-light shade the bor-ders o'er,

B *unis. mf cantabile*
Bound-less and deep, your for-ests weave Their twi-light shade the bor-ders o'er,

C (Same tempo)

Piano accompaniment for measures 17-20.

21

S *rit.*
ris - ing cliffs, like gi - ants, heave Their rug - ged_ forms a - long the shore.

A *rit.*
ris - ing cliffs, like gi - ants, heave Their rug - ged_ forms a - long the shore.

T

B

Piano accompaniment for measures 21-24, including a *f* dynamic marking.

D Slowly, triumphantly *accel.* *a tempo* (♩ = 108)

25 *f*

S Fath - er of Lakes, Ma - jes - tic!

A Fath - er of Lakes, Ma - jes - tic!

T *f* Fath - er of Lakes, Ma - jes - tic! Lake Su - pe - ri - or!

B Fath - er of Lakes, Ma - jes - tic! Lake Su - pe - ri - or!

D Slowly, triumphantly *accel.* *a tempo* (♩ = 108)

mf

ped.

E Flowing ♩ = 108

29 *mf* S1 fare -

S Wave of the wil - der - ness,

A

T

B

E Flowing ♩ = 108

ped.

33 well! _____

S *S2*
fare - well! _____

A
fare - well!

T *unis. mf*
Fare - well to rocks and

B *unis. mf*
Fare - well to rocks and

ped. *ped.* *ped.*

36

S _____

A *mf*
Roll

T *mf*
wilds and deep - est wood. _____

B *mf*
wilds and deep - est wood. _____

ped. *ped.* *ped.*

39 **F** *(as an echo)*
unis. p

S
blue,

A
on, you age - less tes - ta - ment of blue,

T

B

F

Ped. 3

42 *mf*

S
And fill this dai - ly sol - i - tude.

A
mf
And fill this dai - ly sol - i - tude.

T
mf
And fill this dai - ly sol - i - tude.

B
mf
And fill this dai - ly sol - i - tude.

mf

mf

mf

mf

Ped. with pedal

45 *p*, **G** with growing excitement

S

A

T

B

Ah, Du - luth, Thun - der Bay,

Most Basses *p* All Basses (*p*) >

G with growing excitement

49

S

A

T

B

Sault Ste. Ma-rie, Mar-a-thon, Sault Ste. Ma-rie, Mar-a-thon,

Ross-port, Nip - i - gon,

A1 (*mp*) A2 *mp* T1 (*p*) T2 *p* *mp*

53

S1 (mf) *mf* Grand Ma - rais, Hi - a - wa - tha.

S2 Grand Ma - rais, Hi - a - wa - tha.

A Grand Ma - rais, Hi - a - wa - tha.

T *p* Ah,

B *p* Ah,

mf *p cresc.*

5 5 5 5

5 5 5 5

5 5 5 5

5 5 5 5

56 *rit.*

S *f* Fath - er of Lakes, your

A *unis. f* Fath - er of Lakes, your

T *f* Fath - er of Lakes, your

B *f unis.* Fath - er of Lakes, your

rit. *f* *f*

(cresc.) *f*

5 5 5 5

5 5 5 5

5 5 5 5

5 5 5 5

(Cres.)

f

f

f

f

58

S wa - ters bend Be - yond the ea - gle's ut - most view.

A wa - ters bend Be - yond the ea - gle's ut - most view.

T wa - ters bend Be - yond the ea - gle's ut - most view.

B wa - ters bend Be - yond the ea - gle's ut - most view. O,

unis. *p*

61

S O, ra - diant gift from heaven, send - ing back to the sky its

A O, ra - diant gift from heaven, send - ing back to the sky its

T O, ra - diant gift from heaven, _

B ra - diant gift from heaven...

p *f celebratory* *p* *f celebratory* *mf* *f*

65

S world of blue, *(f)* back to the sky its

A world of blue, *(f)* back to the sky its

T *f celebratory* Back to the sky its world of blue, *f celebratory* back to the sky its

B Back to the sky its world of blue, back to the sky its

69 *rit. to end* *ecstatic*

S world of blue. *ecstatic*

A world of blue. *ecstatic*

T world of blue. *ecstatic*

B world of blue. *ecstatic*

rit. to end *8va rapidly blurred*

p *f*

