

PROGRAM NOTES

A familiar American folk song is *A Man of Constant Sorrow*. Adaptations exist for a maid of constant sorrow as well. This is a very simple melody, placed in the key of C major. The message is a mournful one. The soul is troubled, and not at rest. “All through this world, I’m bound to ramble...perhaps I’ll take the very next train.” Then, later, “perhaps I’ll die upon this train.” Some comfort is taken with the lines “I know we’ll meet on God’s Golden Shore.” But the life on this earth is one of constant sorrow.

—Gwyneth Walker

Duration: 4:15

Also available for SATB Chorus: 7956

Maid of Constant Sorrow

for Women's Chorus (SSA) and Piano

Traditional
G. Walker, alt.

Gwyneth Walker (ASCAP)

Gently ♩ = 108

Piano

Leg. *simile*

(as falling tears)

5

8 All Women, *unis.* **A**
p smoothly, simply, as a folksong

S
A

I am a maid of con-stant sor-row,

A

12

— I've seen trou - - - ble all my days. —

This system contains measures 12 through 15. The vocal line begins with a whole note on G4, followed by a half note on A4, and then a half note on B4. A long horizontal line indicates a sustained note for the rest of the phrase. The piano accompaniment features a steady eighth-note pattern in the right hand and a similar pattern in the left hand, with some melodic movement in the right hand.

16

— I'm go - ing back — to my New

This system contains measures 16 through 18. The vocal line starts with a half note on G4, followed by a half note on A4, and then a half note on B4. A long horizontal line indicates a sustained note. The piano accompaniment continues with the eighth-note pattern, with some melodic movement in the right hand.

19

Eng - land, — place where I —

This system contains measures 19 through 21. The vocal line begins with a half note on G4, followed by a half note on A4, and then a half note on B4. A long horizontal line indicates a sustained note. The piano accompaniment continues with the eighth-note pattern, with some melodic movement in the right hand.

22

— was born — and raised. —

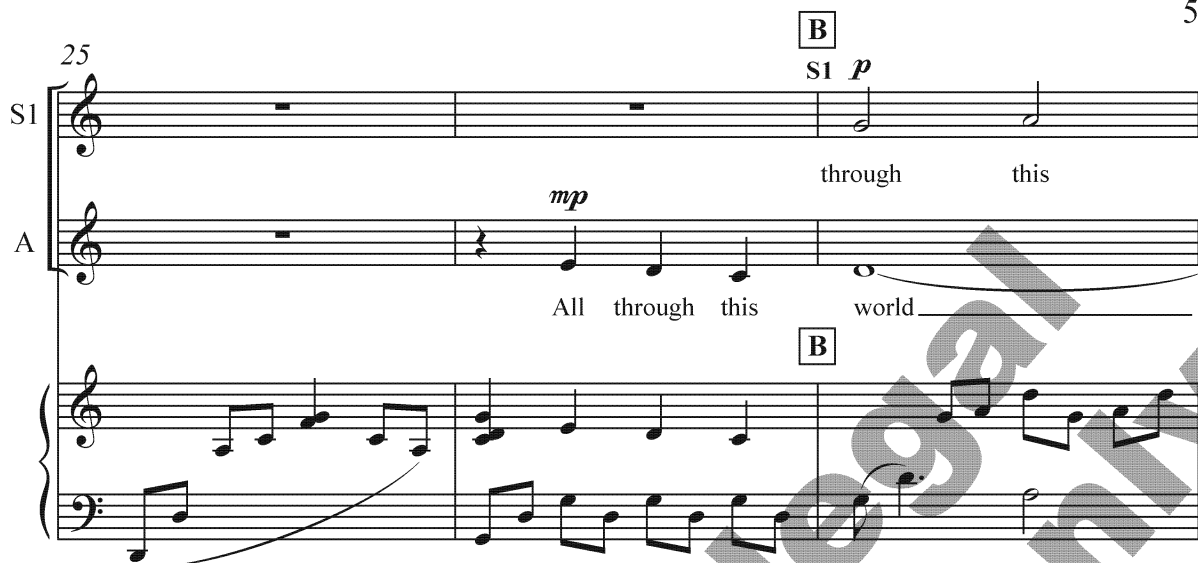
This system contains measures 22 through 24. The vocal line begins with a half note on G4, followed by a half note on A4, and then a half note on B4. A long horizontal line indicates a sustained note. The piano accompaniment continues with the eighth-note pattern, with some melodic movement in the right hand. The system ends with a double bar line and repeat signs.

25

S1 *p* **B** through this

A *mp* All through this world

B



28

world I'm bound to ram - ble,

I'm bound to ram - ble, through sun and



31

S1 S2 *p* through sun and wind,

A wind, through driv - ing



33

through driv - ing rain. (*mp*)

rain. I'm going to

35 S1 (*p*)

S1 ride the North - ern Rail - way.

A ride the North - ern Rail - way. Per - haps I'll

39

S1 S2 (*p*) Per - haps I'll take train. (S2)

A take the ver - y next train.

43 *poco accel.* C Slightly faster ♩ = 120

S1 *p* fare thee

S2 *mf* O fare thee well

A

poco accel. C Slightly faster ♩ = 120

mf *p*

46 well my gen - tle lov - er.

— my gen - tle lov - er. I'll nev - er

(p)

49 I'll nev - er see your face a -

see your face a - gain.

52

S1 gain.

S2 (*mf*)
I'm bound to ride these tracks for - ev - er.

A *p*
ride... for -

56

mf
I'll die up - on this

Per - haps I'll die up - on this

ev - er...

59

accel.

train, _____ I'll die, I'll die up - on this

train, _____ per - haps I'll die up - on this

mf per - haps I'll die up - on this

accel.

cresc.

This block contains the musical notation for measures 59 through 62. It features three vocal staves (Soprano, Alto, and Tenor) and a piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: "train, _____ I'll die, I'll die up - on this" for the Soprano; "train, _____ per - haps I'll die up - on this" for the Alto; and "per - haps I'll die up - on this" for the Tenor. The piano part has a dynamic marking of *mf* and includes an *accel.* (accelerando) marking. A large diagonal watermark "Copyright is illegal" is visible across the page.

D Faster ♩ = 132

63

f

train. _____

train. _____

train. _____

This block contains the musical notation for measures 63 through 66. It features three vocal staves (Soprano, Alto, and Tenor). The lyrics are: "train. _____" for all three parts. The piano part has a dynamic marking of *f* (forte). The vocal parts have long, sustained notes with slurs. A large diagonal watermark "Copyright is illegal" is visible across the page.

D Faster ♩ = 132

f

This block contains the piano accompaniment for measures 63 through 66. It features a grand staff (treble and bass clef). The piano part has a dynamic marking of *f* (forte) and consists of a rhythmic pattern of eighth and sixteenth notes. A large diagonal watermark "Copyright is illegal" is visible across the page.

67

S1
S2

(*f*)

May - be your

A

(*f*)

May - be your

71 **E**

friends_____ think I'm a stran - ger._____

friends_____ think I'm a stran - ger._____

E

mf

74

— And I'll re - turn to you no

— And I'll re - turn to you no

77 *p* **F**

S1 more..

S2 *p* more.. But there is one prom - ise,

A *p* *(p)* more.. But there is one prom - ise

F

81 *(p)*

one prom - ise giv - en, meet, on God's Gold - en

one prom - ise, I know we'll meet on God's Gold - en

giv - - - en, meet, on God's Gold - en

cresc.

85 *mf*

S1
S2

Shore, we'll meet on God's

A

Shore, we'll meet on God's *div.*

(cresc.) *mf*

G Triumphantly

88 *f*

Gold - - en Shore.

unis. *f*

Gold - - en Shore.

G Triumphantly

f

91 *poco rit.*

(S2)

poco rit.

94 *(rit.)* S1 (*f*) **H** Slower ♩ = 120

But there is one prom - ise

S2 (*f*)
A But there is one prom - ise

(rit.) **H** Slower ♩ = 120

97 *mf* , *rit.*

giv - - - en, we'll meet on God's Gold - en

mf , *rit.*

giv - - - en, we'll meet on God's Gold - en

mf *rit.*

I *a tempo* (♩ = 120)

101 *p*

unis. *p*

Shore.

I *a tempo* (♩ = 120)

as if fading away in the distance

105

pp

pp

LH

pp

108

S
A

(in the distance)
All unis. *p* sotto voce

I am a

111

rit. to end

maid of con - stant sor - row.

pp