

Peace I Ask of Thee, O River

ST. LOUIS WOMEN'S CHORALE



3900011567

for Women's Chorus with Piano (or String Orchestra) accompaniment

Commissioned by the St. Louis Women's Chorale in celebration of their tenth season: 1995-2005.
Premiered by the St. Louis Women's Chorale, Scott Schoonover, Music Director
June 5, 2005 St. Louis, Missouri.

Duration: 4' 30"

This choral setting is based on the traditional song, "Peace, I Ask of Thee, O River." New material has been added to form the accompaniment and to provide interludes between and after the verses. The intent of creating these additions was to enhance the image of the river as it flows through the song. And perhaps to expand upon the message of peace.

The work opens with an ascending scale, as a supplication. Then follows an arpeggiated "river" pattern which will recur many times in the song. The chorus enters with the first verse, which is followed by a section with new lyrics ("peace like the falling rain...like the floating cloud..."). The choral phrases are on fixed pitches, with the river flowing beneath. The second verse is presented, followed by an expanded return of the interlude. At the end, the lines descend and settle into a peaceful cadence.

Traditional American,
adapted by the composer

Gwyneth Walker

Gently flowing ♩ = 80

accel.

Piano

p

ped. *simile*

(accel.) **A** Faster ♩ = 100

mf

ped. *sim.*

12

ritard.

p

mf *p*

ped. *sim.*

17 **B** a tempo ♩ = 80

P

1 S. Peace, I ask of thee, O ri - ver, peace, peace, peace.

2 Peace, I ask of thee, O ri - ver, ——— peace, peace, peace.

A. 1/2 *P*

Peace, I ask of thee, peace, peace, peace. ———

17 **B** a tempo ♩ = 80

P

21 **C** *mp*

1 S. When I learn to live se-rene - ly, cares will cease. From the hills I gath-er

2 When I learn to live se-rene - ly, ——— cares — will — cease. From the hills I gath-er

A. 1/2 *mp*

When I learn to live — cares — will — cease. ——— From the hills I gath-er

21 **C** *mp*

74

1 S. Peace like the fall - ing rain,

2 ...like the float - ing cloud,

1 A. ...like the flow - ing

2 breeze.

74

(*Ad.*)

77

1 S. Peace like the fall - ing rain, like the fall - ing

2 *poco accel. & cresc.* - - - - -
...like the float - ing

1 A. stream

2 *poco accel. & cresc.* - - - - -
...like the gen - tle breeze.

77

p poco accel. & cresc. - - - - -

(*Ad.*) *Ad.*

80 *(poco accel. & cresc.)*

1 S. rain, like the fall - ing rain, like the fall - ing rain.

2 cloud, like the float - ing cloud, like the float - ing cloud.

1 A. ...like the flow - ing stream, ...like the flow - ing stream.

2 ...like the gen - tle breeze.

80 *(poco accel. & cresc.)*

ped. *sim.*

ritard.

83 *f*

1 S. Peace, O ri - ver, peace, O ri - ver, peace.

2 Peace, O ri - ver, peace, O ri - ver, peace.

1 A. Peace, O ri - ver, peace, O ri - ver, peace.

2 Peace, O ri - ver, peace, O ri - ver, peace.

83 *f*

ritard.

f *p*