

The Ocean

a suite of four pieces for two part treble voices and piano

words and music by Sheena Phillips

- | | |
|---------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Blue whale | 3:15 |
| 2. Coral reef | 3:20 |
| 3. Gulls | 2:00 (shorter or longer ad lib) |
| 4. Seascape | 3:00 |

total duration c 12:00

perusal score
not for rehearsal or performance
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The blue whale

Deep in the green glides a great creature
Out of the grey rolls a long shoulder
Up from the blue blows a spout of water
Into the green slides a mighty mover

The whale dives
The whale glides
And the whale sings

Sheena Phillips

The blue whale

words and music by Sheena Phillips

♩ = 84

mf

First system of piano accompaniment. The music is in a key with four flats (B-flat major or D-flat minor) and a 3/4 time signature. It consists of six measures with changing time signatures: 3/4, 2/4, 4/4, 3/4, 2/4, and 4/4. The melody is in the right hand, and the bass line is in the left hand.

7 *mf* unis.

Deep in the green glides a great crea - ture

Second system of music. It includes a vocal line starting at measure 7 and piano accompaniment. The vocal line is in a 4/4 time signature. The piano accompaniment continues with the same time signature changes as the first system. The lyrics are: "Deep in the green glides a great crea - ture".

12

Out of the grey rolls a

Third system of music. The vocal line starts at measure 12. The piano accompaniment continues. The lyrics are: "Out of the grey rolls a".

18

long shoul - der

Fourth system of music. The vocal line starts at measure 18. The piano accompaniment continues. The lyrics are: "long shoul - der".

the blue whale 2

23

Up from the blue blows a spout of wa - ter

28

In - to the green slides a

34

might - y mov - er

div.

39

Deep in the green glides a great crea - ture

oh and deep in the green

the blue whale 3

44

Out of the grey rolls a
glides a crea - ture oh and out of the

This system contains measures 44 through 49. It features a vocal line with lyrics and a piano accompaniment. The key signature is three flats (B-flat major/D minor). The time signature changes from 3/4 to 4/4 and back to 3/4. A large watermark 'SmartMusic' is visible across the page.

50

long shoul - der
grey rolls a shoul - der

This system contains measures 50 through 54. It continues the vocal line and piano accompaniment. The time signature changes from 3/4 to 4/4 and back to 3/4. A large watermark 'SmartMusic' is visible across the page.

55

Up from the blue blows a spout of wa - ter
oh and up from the blue

This system contains measures 55 through 59. It continues the vocal line and piano accompaniment. The key signature remains three flats. The time signature changes from 3/4 to 4/4 and back to 3/4. A large watermark 'SmartMusic' is visible across the page.

the blue whale 4

60

Musical score for measures 60-65. The score consists of three staves: a vocal line (treble clef), a piano accompaniment line (treble clef), and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). The time signature changes from 3/4 to 2/4, then 4/4, and back to 3/4. The lyrics are: "In - to the green slides a blows some wa - ter oh and in - to the". A dynamic marking of *mp* is present in the piano accompaniment.

66

Musical score for measures 66-70. The score consists of three staves: a vocal line (treble clef), a piano accompaniment line (treble clef), and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is three flats. The time signature changes from 3/4 to 4/4, then 3/4, and back to 4/4. The lyrics are: "might - y mov - er The green slides a might - y mov - er".

71

Musical score for measures 71-75. The score consists of three staves: a vocal line (treble clef), a piano accompaniment line (treble clef), and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is three flats. The time signature changes from 4/4 to 3/4, then 4/4, and back to 3/4. The lyrics are: "whale dives The whale oh the whale dives".

76

glides And the whale sings
and the whale glides and the whale

Musical score for measures 76-81. It features a vocal line with lyrics and a piano accompaniment. The key signature has five flats (B-flat major/C minor). The time signature changes from 3/4 to 2/4 and back to 3/4. The piano part consists of chords in the right hand and single notes in the left hand.

82

and sings sings
sings and sings

Musical score for measures 82-86. It continues the vocal and piano parts. The piano part features a more active right hand with eighth-note patterns. The lyrics are: "and sings", "sings", "sings", "and sings".

87

mf rit.

Musical score for measures 87-91. It shows the final part of the piano accompaniment. The key signature remains five flats. The piano part includes a dynamic marking of *mf* and a *rit.* (ritardando) instruction. The score ends with a double bar line.

The coral reef

Follow me down to the warm ocean shallows
Wander in gardens of crystal and stone
Store up in memory the ridges and hollows
Marvel at luminous creatures of bone
Drink in the beauty, then leave it alone.

Floating fishes
Flitting fishes
Flashing fishes
Fidgetting and flowing in the water

Shiny fishes
Shifting fishes
Shimmering and shooting through the water

Wily fishes
Wary fishes
Wispy fishes
Wavering and weaving in the water

Darting fishes
Drifting fishes
Dithering and diving in the water

Golden fishes
Gaudy fishes
Glittering and gleaming in the water

Follow me down to the warm ocean shallows
Wander in gardens of crystal and stone
Gaze at the turquoise and milky magenta
Umber and ochre and cobalt and wine
Drink in the beauty, then leave it alone.

Sheena Phillips

The coral reef

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$\bullet = 104$ *mp*

Fol - low me down to the

$\bullet = 104$ *p*

7 warm o - cean shal - lows Wan - der in gar - dens of

12 cry - stal and stone Store up in mem - ory the rid - ges and

the coral reef 2

18

hol - lows Mar - vel at lu - mi-nous crea-tures of

23

bone Drink in the beau - ty, then leave it a - lone.

29

mp

Float-ing fish-es

p

the coral reef 3

35 *mp* optional descant line

ah,
Flit-ting fish-es Flash-ing fish-es Fid-get-ting and flow-ing in the wa-ter

39

ah,
Shi-ny fish-es Shift-ing fish-es Shim-mer-ing and shoot-ing through the wa-ter

43

ah,
Wi-ly fish-es Wa-ry fish-es Wisp-y fish-es Wa-ver-ing and weaving in the

the coral reef 4

48

ah,

wa-ter Dart-ing fish-es Drift-ing fish-es Dith-er-ing and div-ing in the wa-ter

53

end optional descant

ah

Gold-en fish-es Gaud-y fish-es Glit-ter-ing and gleam-ing in the wa-ter

58

mf

Fol - low me down to the warm o-cean

mp

Float-ing fish-es Flit-ting fish-es Flash-ing fish-es

mp

the coral reef 5

63

shal - lows Wan - der in gar - dens of
Fid-get-ting and flow-ing in the wa-ter Shi-ny fish-es Shift-ing fish-es

This system contains measures 63 through 66. It features a vocal line with lyrics, a piano accompaniment with a melodic line in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand, and a grand staff with piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: 'shal - lows Wan - der in gar - dens of' on the first line, and 'Fid-get-ting and flow-ing in the wa-ter Shi-ny fish-es Shift-ing fish-es' on the second line.

67

crys - tal and stone Gaze at the
Shim-mer-ing and shoot-ing through the wa-ter Wi-ly fish-es

This system contains measures 67 through 70. It features a vocal line with lyrics, a piano accompaniment with a melodic line in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand, and a grand staff with piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: 'crys - tal and stone Gaze at the' on the first line, and 'Shim-mer-ing and shoot-ing through the wa-ter Wi-ly fish-es' on the second line.

71

tur - quoise and milk - y ma-gen - - - ta
Wa-ry fish-es Wisp-y fish-es Wa-ver-ing and weav-ing in the wa-ter

This system contains measures 71 through 74. It features a vocal line with lyrics, a piano accompaniment with a melodic line in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand, and a grand staff with piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: 'tur - quoise and milk - y ma-gen - - - ta' on the first line, and 'Wa-ry fish-es Wisp-y fish-es Wa-ver-ing and weav-ing in the wa-ter' on the second line.

75

Um - ber and o - chre and co - balt and wine

Dart-ing fish-es Drift-ing fish-es Dith-ering and div-ing in the wa-ter

This system contains measures 75 through 78. It features a vocal line with lyrics, a piano accompaniment line, and a grand staff with piano and bass clefs. The lyrics are: "Um - ber and o - chre and co - balt and wine" and "Dart-ing fish-es Drift-ing fish-es Dith-ering and div-ing in the wa-ter".

79

Drink in the beau - ty, then leave it a -

Gold-en fish-es Gaud-y fish-es Glit-ter-ing and gleam-ing in the

This system contains measures 79 through 82. It features a vocal line with lyrics, a piano accompaniment line, and a grand staff with piano and bass clefs. The lyrics are: "Drink in the beau - ty, then leave it a -" and "Gold-en fish-es Gaud-y fish-es Glit-ter-ing and gleam-ing in the".

83

lone.

wa - ter

pp

This system contains measures 83 through 86. It features a vocal line with lyrics, a piano accompaniment line, and a grand staff with piano and bass clefs. The lyrics are: "lone." and "wa - ter". The piano part ends with a *pp* dynamic marking.

Instructions

In this piece, each singer represents one bird. Even if the whole choir is singing line 1, each singer cries or calls at his or her own speed, and taking as much or as little time in between cries as they like.

First, practice the cries one at a time, using an open 'o' vowel (as in 'Polly'). Start off in unison (following your director) and then freely, each singer choosing their own timing, pace, and dynamics.

Feel free also to vary the vowel towards 'oh' (as in 'Romeo'), or towards 'ee' for an extra piercing quality.

When you are used to the sound of everyone singing one line freely, try mixing two lines. For example, have half the choir sing line 1 (freely) and half sing line 7 (freely).

Some combinations will be harder than others.

One scheme that I think would be effective is written out below, but feel free to write your own schemes and try them out.

Gull performance scheme

Divide the choir into three groups A, B, C

1. Group A starts singing line 1, one at a time, freely (i.e. each person in their own time)
2. At a sign from the conductor, Group B starts singing line 2, freely. Meanwhile, Group A continues on line 1.
3. At a sign from the conductor, Group C starts singing line 3, freely. A and B continue.
4. At a sign from the conductor, Group A drops out of line 1 and takes up line 4 (freely, each person in their own time)
5. At a sign from the conductor, Group B drops out of line 2 and takes up line 5 (freely, each person in their own time)
6. At a sign from the conductor, Group C drops out of line 3 and takes up line 6 (freely, each person in their own time)
7. At a sign from the conductor, Group A drops out of line 4 and takes up line 7 (freely, each person in their own time)
5. At a sign from the conductor, Group B drops out of line 5 and takes up line 8 (freely, each person in their own time)
6. At a sign from the conductor, Group C drops out of line 6 and takes up line 9 (freely, each person in their own time)
7. Gradually fade out

At any time, the conductor may indicate an overall change in dynamic level, and/or an overall change in frequency (e.g. very rushed, or very laid back).

Gulls

an aleatoric piece

Sheena Phillips

1. *etc*

2. *etc*

3. *etc*

4. *etc*

5. *etc*

6. *etc*

7. *etc*

8. *etc*

9. *etc*

Seascape

1.

The sea, the sea, the green of the sea
The sky, the sky, the grey of the sky

The green of the sea
The grey of the sky

The noisy smash of the sea
The windy rush of the sky

The green, the grey, the grey, the green

The heaving heartless mass of the sea
The reckless reeling height of the sky
The sea, the sky, the sea

2.

The rocks, the rocks, the clutter of rocks
The birds, the birds, the scatter of birds

The salty rubble of rocks
The restless calling of birds

The rocks, the birds, the birds, the rocks

The misty domes of spray on the rocks
The hungry wheeling armies of birds
The rocks, the birds, the rocks

3.

The sky, the sky, the blue of the sky
The sea, the sea, the white of the sea

The blue of the sky
The white of the sea

The curving cast of the sky
The fearsome force of the sea

The blue, the white, the white, the blue

The vast and vacant hovering sky
The huge and ever towering sea
The sky, the sea, the sky

Sheena Phillips

Seascape

words and music by Sheena Phillips

♩ = 72 **animato** *mp* unis.

The sea, the sea, the

9 *mf*
green of the sea The sky, the sky, the

17 *f*
grey of the sky The noi - sy smash of the sea The

25 *mp*
wind - y rush of the sky The green, the grey,

Detailed description of the musical score: The score is written for voice and piano. It begins with a tempo marking of 'animato' and a quarter note equal to 72 beats. The key signature has two flats (B-flat major). The time signature is 3/4. The first system (measures 1-8) features a vocal line starting with a whole rest, followed by the lyrics 'The sea, the sea, the'. The piano accompaniment consists of a steady eighth-note pattern in the right hand and a simple bass line in the left hand. The second system (measures 9-16) continues the vocal line with 'green of the sea The sky, the sky, the'. The piano accompaniment continues with the same eighth-note pattern. The third system (measures 17-24) has the vocal line singing 'grey of the sky The noi - sy smash of the sea The'. The piano accompaniment remains consistent. The fourth system (measures 25-32) concludes with the vocal line singing 'wind - y rush of the sky The green, the grey,'. The piano accompaniment ends with a few final notes.

seascape 2

33

mf

the grey, the green

The heav - ing heart - less mass of the sea

41

mf

The reck - less reel - ing height

of the sky

The sea,

49

mf

p

the sky,

the sea

57

cantando

mf

seascape 3

65

p

75 *a 2* *p*

The rocks, *mf* the rocks, the clutter of rocks

The rocks, the rocks, the clutter of rocks

mf

83 *mf*

The birds, *p* the birds, the scatter of birds

The birds, the birds, the scatter of birds

mp

91 *mf*

The salt - y rubble of rocks The rest - less call - ing of

The salt - y rocks The call - - - ing

mf

seascape 4

99

p *mp*

birds The rocks, the birds, the birds, the rocks

birds The rocks, the birds, the

p *mp*

107

cresc. *mf*

The mist - y domes of spray on the rocks The hun - gry wheel - ing

rocks The domes of spray The wheel - ing

cresc. *mf*

115

mf *mp*

arm - ies of birds The rocks, the

arm - ies of birds The rocks,

mf

seascape 5

123

birds, the rocks

the birds, the rocks

mp *p*

131 *cantando*

mf

139 *mf* (unison)

The sky, the sky, the

mf

147 *mf*

blue of the sky The sea, the

mf

seascape 6

153 (unison) *mf* div. *mf*

sea, the white of the sea The curv - ing

The curv -

160 *mp*

cast of the sky The fear-some force of the sea The

ing sky The fear - - - - some sea

168 *mf*

blue, the white, the white, the blue The

The blue, the white, the blue

175

vast and va - cant ho-ver-ing sky The huge and ev - er tow -

mf

The va - - - cant sky The ev - er tow -

183

- er-ing sea The sky, the sea,

mf *mf* *mf*

- er-ing sea The sky, the

191

the sky

mf *mf*

sea, the sky

199