

Seth Houston, choral composer

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Inspirations
(The Sound of the Sea)

for SATB chorus, divisi
with tenor and soprano soloists
a cappella

Seth Houston
www.sethouston.com

2008

The Sound of the Sea

Henry James Longfellow

(1807-1882)

The sea awoke at midnight from its sleep,
And round the pebbly beaches far and wide
I heard the first wave of the rising tide
Rush onward with uninterrupted sweep;
A voice out of the silence of the deep,
A sound mysteriously multiplied
As of a cataract from the mountain's side,
Or roar of winds upon a wooded steep.
So comes to us at times, from the unknown
And inaccessible solitudes of being,
The rushing of the sea-tides of the soul;
And inspirations, that we deem our own,
Are some divine foreshadowing and foreseeing
Of things beyond our reason or control.

About the Composer

Seth Houston is a choral director, composer, and performer living in Boulder, Colorado. Currently completing a master's degree in choral conducting at the University of Colorado, Houston also holds degrees in composition and religion from Oberlin College. Houston has been teaching middle school and high school choirs in Waldorf schools since 2001, and also founded and directed the youth chorus *Big Sky*. Houston's choral compositions are widely performed and have been featured on *A Prairie Home Companion*, in *Sing Out!* magazine, and in the choral collection *Northern Harmony*.

Inspirations

(The Sound of the Sea)

Text by Henry James Longfellow
Music by Seth Houston, 2008

Rubato espressivo ♩ = 46

mp

The sea a-woke at mid-night from its sleep, And

The sea a-woke at mid-night from its sleep, And

The sea a-woke at mid-night from its sleep, *div.* from its sleep, And And

The sea a-woke at mid-night from its sleep, and

Rubato espressivo ♩ = 46

mp

5

round the peb - bly bea - ches far and wide,

round the peb - bly bea - ches far and wide, *div.* far and wide,

round the peb - bly bea - ches far and wide, *div.* far and wide,

round the peb - bly bea - ches far and wide,

5

5

Detailed description: This page of sheet music contains four vocal staves and a piano accompaniment. The vocal parts are arranged in four voices: Soprano (top), Alto (second), Tenor (third), and Bass (fourth). The piano accompaniment is shown in grand staff notation (treble and bass clefs). The music is in a key with two flats (B-flat major or D minor) and a 4/4 time signature. The lyrics are 'round the peb - bly bea - ches far and wide,'. The Soprano and Alto parts include a 'div.' (divisi) marking. The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords in the right hand.

Inspirations (*The Sound of the Sea*)

9 *mf* *f*

I heard, I heard the first wave of the

mf *f*

I, I heard the first wave of the

mf *f*

8 I heard heard the the first wave of the

mf *f*

I heard, I heard the first wave of the

9 *mf* *f*

9

Inspirations (*The Sound of the Sea*)

poco rit. *a tempo*

fp sub. *f*

13 *div.*

ri - sing tide Rush on-ward with un - in - ter - rupt - ed sweep;

fp sub. *f*

div.

ri - sing tide Rush on-ward with un - in - ter - rupt - ed sweep;

fp sub. *f*

8 ri - sing tide Rush on-ward with un - in - ter - rupt - ed sweep;

fp sub. *f*

ri - sing tide Rush on-ward with un - in - ter - rupt - ed sweep;

13 *poco rit.* *a tempo*

fp sub. *f*

13

tenor solo
mp [A]

18

8

A voice out of the si- lence of the deep, A

a niente

a niente

a niente

a niente

a niente

(*tutti*) *p*

deep,

18

[A]

mp

p

27

ca - ta-ract from the moun - tain's side, Or

tutti
div. *f* ca - ta-ract from the moun - tain's side, Or

f *div.* ca - ta-ract from the moun - tain's side, Or

div. ca - ta-ract from the moun - tain's side, Or

ca - ta-ract from the moun - tain's side, Or

ca - - - ta - ract from the moun - tain's side, Or

27

27

poco rit.

31 *ff*

roar of winds up - on a wood - ed steep.

31 *ff*

roar of winds up - on a wood - ed steep.

8 *with emphasis* *ff*

roar of winds up - on a wood - ed steep.

roar up - on a wood - ed steep.

31 *poco rit.* *ff*

31 *ff*

B Slower, reflective ♩ = 52

soprano solo

35 *p*

So comes to us at times, from the un - known And ³in-ac-

p *div.*

So comes to us at times, from the un - known And in-ac-

p

So comes to us at times, from the un - known

p

8 So comes to us at times, from the un - known And ³in-ac-

p

So comes to us at times, from the un - known

B Slower, reflective ♩ = 52

35

35 *p*

41 *end of soprano solo*

soul; *p* soul; And ³in-spi - ra - tions, that we deem our own, Are

soul; *p* in - spi - ra - tions we deem our own, Are *div.*

soul; *p* in - spi - ra - tions we deem our own, Are

soul; *p* in - spi - ra - tions we deem our own, Are

41 ³ *p* ³

41

44 *mf* *p sub.*

some di-vine fore-sha-dow-ing and fore-see-ing Of

some di-vine fore-sha-dow-ing and fore-see-ing Of

some di-vine fore-sha-dow-ing and fore-see-ing Of

some di-vine fore-sha-dow-ing and fore-see-ing Of

44 *mf* *p sub.*

44

rit.
mp *a niente*

things beyond our rea - son or con - trol.

mp *a niente*
div. con-trol.

things beyond our rea - son or con trol.

mp *a niente*

things beyond our rea - son or con - trol.

mp *a niente*
div.

things beyond our rea - son or con - trol. con-trol.

rit.
mp *a niente*

46