

Ellen Ruth Harrison

AN OCEAN CAN DRY INTO SILENCE

for a capella chorus: SATB

for Carolivia with many thanks for the inspiration

SHE THINKS OF NEW MEXICO

Dear Ocean, something I'll tell you
Because I love you,
There is many a god who has fallen
Away from the world.
I've a thought here that says
An ocean can dry into silence
Leaving only that silence
The red cliffs, the salt and the sand.

from *Seasons* by Carolivia Herron

The piece reflects the motion of the ocean's waves, at times soothing and lyrical, at other times despairing and dramatic. It opens with loosely flowing vocalises that are periodically gathered together in gentle chords that highlight the text. The work gradually becomes more rhythmic as the lower voices form an accompaniment to the fragmented, at times anguished, soprano line. After a brief chordal section punctuated with silence, a faint return of the vocalise rides the waves of whispered voices from the sea.

Duration: circa 5 minutes

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An Ocean Can Dry Into Silence

Carolivia Herron

Ellen Ruth Harrison
2011

Flowing legato
♩ = 69

SOPRANO
ah

ALTO
ah

TENOR
ah

BASS
ah

Flowing legato
♩ = 69

Piano
(for rehearsal only)

5

An o - cean An o - cean can dry

ah o - cean An o - cean can dry

o - cean An o - cean can dry

o - cean An o - cean can dry

10

ah

ah

ah

ah

15

p An o - cean can dry *mp* An oh

p o - cean can dry *mp* oh *mf* can dry in - to

p o - cean can dry *mp* o - cean can dry

p o - cean can dry *mp* oh can

20

mf si - lence *f* Solo *mf* si - lence

mp si - lence *mf* 3 can dry in - to

mf si - lence *mp*

dry

23 *Tutti*

si lence si - lence si lence

si lence si lence

si lence

si lence

28

si si - lence

dry in - to si - lence can dry an o - cean can dry dry in - to si - lence

dry in - to si - lence dry an o - cean can dry dry in - to si - lence

si - - - - - lent si - -

35

can dry in - to si-lence *p* si -

mp
to si - lent si - lence dry in - to si - lence can dry an

mp
si - lent si - lence dry in - to si - lence dry an

lence si -

p

41

An o - cean can dry *mf* can dry in - to si-lence

poco mp
o - cean can dry dry in - to si - lence to si - lent si -

poco mp
o - cean can dry dry in - to si - lence si - lent si -

lent si - lence

mf

47

Solo *p* *f* Tutti *f* *p*

si - - lence o - cean can dry_

- lence si - - lent o - - cean can dry_

- lence si - - lent o - - cean can dry_

si - lence An o - - cean can dry_

53

Solo breathy *p* *p*

si - lent si - lence

lightly *pp*

to si - lent si - lence to si - lence to si - lent si - lence to si - lence

lightly *pp*

to si - lent si - lence to si - lence to si - lent si - lence to si - lence

58 gradually add more voice

mp *mp*

si - lent si - lence

poco *pp* *poco* *pp*

to si - lent si - lence to si - lence to si - lent si - lence to si - lence

poco *pp* *poco* *pp*

to si - lent si - lence to si - lence to si - lent si - lence to si - lence

p

si - lent

62

mf normal voice *mp*

si - lence si - lence

poco rit. *A tempo* ♩ = 69

Colla Voce *Colla Voce*

to si - lent si - lence to si - lence to si - lent si - lence to si lence

to si - lent si - lence to si - lence to si - lent si - lence to si -

si - lence si - lent

p

si - lence

mf *pp* *poco rit.* *A tempo* ♩ = 69 *pp*

67 *Tutti*

p ah *mf* ah

p lence *mf* ah

whisper *p* to si-lence to si-lence

whisper *p* to si-lent si-lence to si-lent si-lence to si-lence

whisper *p* *mf*

74 *mf* *p*

An o - cean can dry in - to si - lence

mf *p*

An o - cean can dry si - lence

8 to si-lence to si-lence sing *p* si - lence

si-lence to si-lent si - lence sing *p* si - lence

p sing *p*

79

mp can dry in - to *p* to si - lence *mp* An o - cean can *p* si - lence

p dry si - lence *p* oh si - lence

p dry si - lence *p* oh si - lence

p dry si - lence *p* oh si - lence

mp *p* *mp* *p*

86

p si - lence An o - cean can dry

p si - lence An o - cean can dry

whisper *p* si - lence to si - lence

whisper *p* si - lence to si - lent si - lence

whisper

92

Solo
p

ah _____ ah _____

to si - lence to si - lence

to - si - lent si - lence to si - lent si - lence

96

whisper
pp

can dry in - to si - lence

can dry in - to si - lence

si - lence can dry in - to si - lence