

Daniel Newman-Lessler

As the Seas Rise

As the Seas Rise

The air heavy with kelp and salt,
the sough and roar of waves—
the shoreline vanishes
in morning's bright, insistent haze.
A lone sandpiper pecks between
the seashells cracked and bleached,
as the briny wind, grain
by grain, whips up the fickle beach.
Somewhere, the aftershock of storm;
far off, the melting snow.
An atoll caves to tides,
While glaciers calve and feed the floes.
The ocean spills into our world,
tumbling up the sloughs.
The angry tides announce
themselves like a dark and swollen bruise.
The soiled feather of a gull drifts
along the shifting sand—
at last, it all collides:
air and water, water and land.

- *David Starkey, 2019*

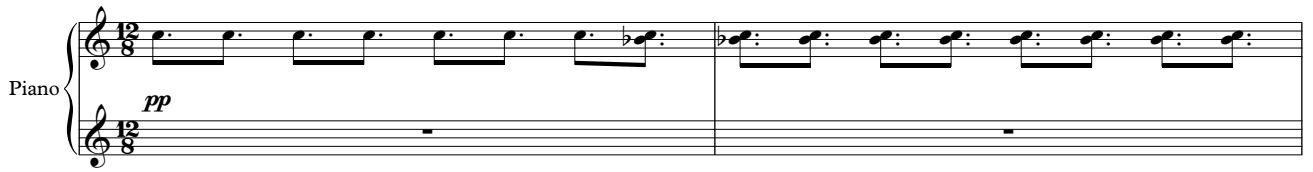
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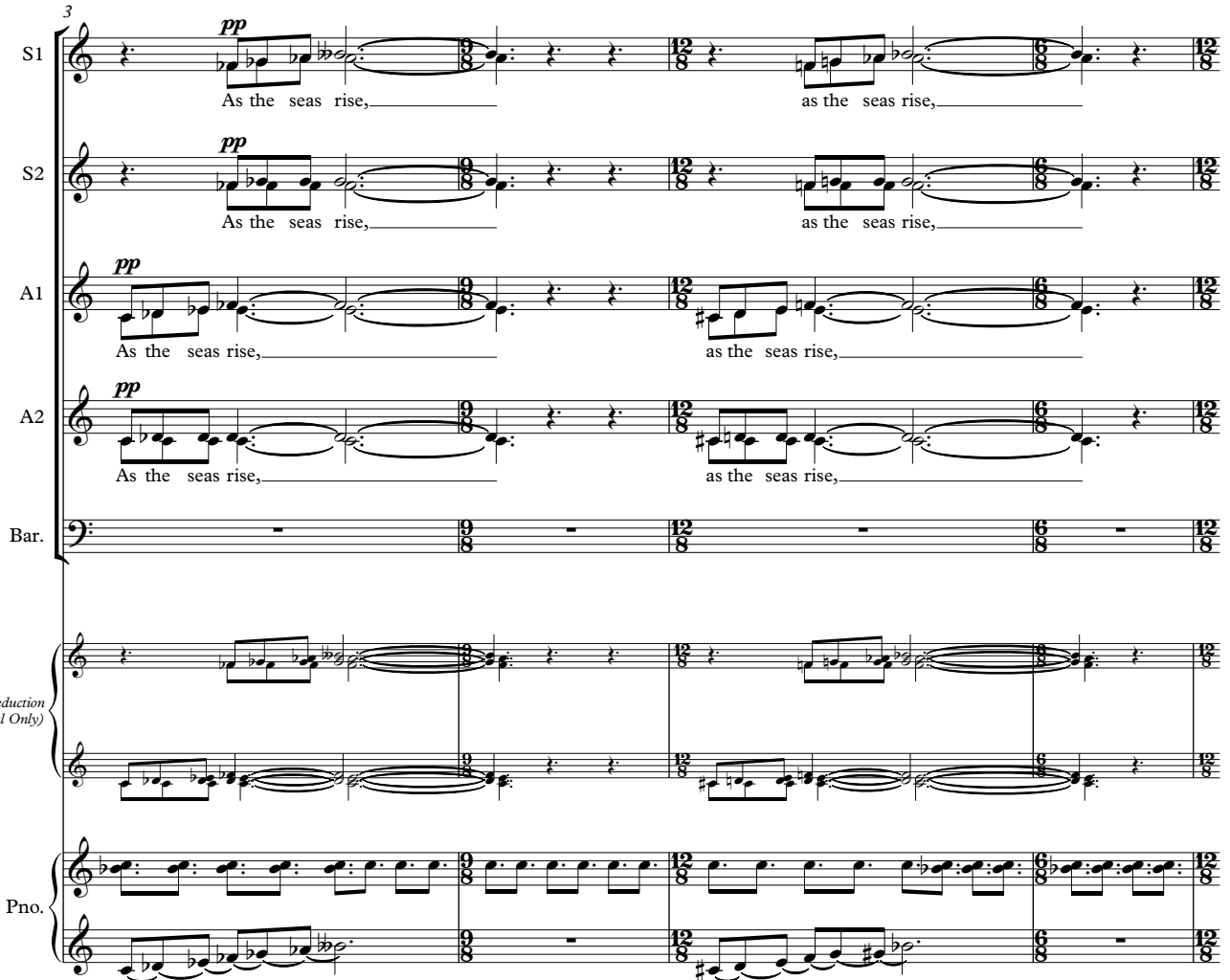
Urgent ♩. = 66

Piano



The piano introduction consists of two staves in 12/8 time. The right hand plays a sequence of eighth notes: C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4. The left hand is silent. The dynamic is *pp*.

ped. keep pedal down through m. 9



3

S1 *pp*
As the seas rise, _____ as the seas rise, _____

S2 *pp*
As the seas rise, _____ as the seas rise, _____

A1 *pp*
As the seas rise, _____ as the seas rise, _____

A2 *pp*
As the seas rise, _____ as the seas rise, _____

Bar.

Choral Reduction
(For Rehearsal Only)

Pno.

The choral score features four parts: Soprano 1 (S1), Soprano 2 (S2), Alto 1 (A1), and Alto 2 (A2). Each part begins with a fermata on the first measure. The lyrics are "As the seas rise, _____ as the seas rise, _____". The piano accompaniment includes a baritone line (Bar.) and a piano reduction (Pno.) for rehearsal purposes. The piano part continues with a sequence of eighth notes: C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4.

7

S1
as the seas rise, as the seas rise,

S2
as the seas rise, as the seas rise,

A1
as the seas rise, _____ as the seas rise, _____

A2
as the seas rise, _____ as the seas rise, _____

Bar.

Choral Reduction
(For Rehearsal Only)

Pno.

Red. *



10 *f marcato*

Bar.
The air hea - vy _____ with kelp and salt, the

Choral Reduction
(For Rehearsal Only)

Pno.

f

Red.

12

Bar. *sough* _____ *and* *roar* of the waves, _____ *the* *shore* - *line*

*Choral Reduction
(For Rehearsal Only)*

Pno. *simile*

Ped. _____ Ped. _____ Ped. _____ Ped. _____ Ped. _____ Ped. _____ Ped. _____



14

S1 _____ *mp*

S2 _____ *mp*

A1 _____ *mp*

A2 _____ *mp*

Bar. *van - i shes* _____ *in* *mor - ning's* *bright* *in - sis - tent* *haze.* _____ *A*

*Choral Reduction
(For Rehearsal Only)*

Pno. _____

Ped. _____ Pedal similarly

17

S1 lone sand - pi - per pecks be - tween the sea - shells cracked and

S2 lone sand - pi - per pecks be - tween the sea - shells cracked and

A1 lone sand - pi - per pecks be - tween the sea - shells cracked and

A2 lone sand - pi - per pecks be - tween the sea - shells cracked and

Bar. lone sand - pi - per pecks be - tween the sea - shells cracked and

Choral Reduction
(For Rehearsal Only)

Pno. *mp*

19

S1 bleached,

S2 bleached,

A1 bleached, grain by

A2 bleached, as the bri - ny wind

Bar. bleached, as the bri - ny wind

Choral Reduction
(For Rehearsal Only)

Pno. *pp*

21

p grain by grain, *mf* as the bri - ny wind_ grain by grain whips

p grain by grain, *mf* as the bri - ny wind_ grain by grain whips

grain, as the bri - ny wind_ grain by grain whips

as the bri - ny wind_ grain by grain whips

mf grain by grain as the bri - ny wind_ grain by grain whips

grain by grain as the bri - ny wind_ grain by grain whips

Choral Reduction (For Rehearsal Only)

Pno.



23

ff tutti up the fi - ckle beach. Some - where, the af - ter - shock of

ff tutti up the fi - ckle beach Some - where the af - ter - shock of

ff tutti up the fi - ckle beach Some - where the af - ter - shock of

ff tutti up the fi - ckle beach Some - where the af - ter - shock of

ff tutti up the fi - ckle beach Some - where the af - ter - shock of

ff tutti up the fi - ckle beach Some - where the af - ter - shock of

Choral Reduction (For Rehearsal Only)

Pno.

Heartbroken ♩ = c.50

26 *rit.* *p*

S1 storm; far off, the mel - ting snow. An a - toll caves to tides,

S2 storm; far off, the mel - ting snow.

A1 storm; far off, the mel - ting snow An a - toll caves to

A2 storm; far off, the mel - ting snow

Bar. storm; far off, the mel - ting snow

Choral Reduction
(For Rehearsal Only)

rit. *fff* (piano tacet)

Pno.

Viol. I

Viol. II

Cello

Double Bass



31 *f*

S1 While gla - ciers calve and feed the floes.

S2 *p* As the seas rise, while gla - ciers calve, calve and feed the floes.

A1 tides, calve and feed the floes

A2 An a toll caves to tides, while gla - ciers calve and feed the floes.

T. Solo *ff ad lib.* The

Bar. *p* As the seas rise, gla - ciers calve and feed the

Choral Reduction
(For Rehearsal Only)

Choral Reduction
(For Rehearsal Only)

$\text{♩} = c.62$

35

S1 *f* The o - cean spills in-to our world.

S2 (rising 1/6th tones) *f* The o - cean spills in-to our world

A1 *pp* As the seas rise. *f* The o - cean spills in-to our world tum-bling

A2 *pp* As the seas rise. *f* The o - cean spills in-to our world tum-bling up the

T. Solo Return to Bar.

Bar. o - cean spills (rising 1/6th tones) *pp* floes. As the seas rise. *f* The o-cean spills, tum-bling up the sloughs

Choral Reduction (For Rehearsal Only)



39

S1 *ff* The an - gry tides an-nounce them-selves like a dark and swol-len

S2 *ff* tum bling up the sloughs. The an - gry tides an-nounce them-selves like a dark and swol-len

A1 *ff* up the sloughs. The an - gry tides an-nounce them-selves like a dark and swol-len

A2 *ff* sloughs. The an - gry tides an-nounce them-selves like a dark and swol-len

Bar. *ff* The an - gry tides an-nounce them-selves like a dark and swol-len

rit.

Choral Reduction (For Rehearsal Only)

Furious ♩.=66

43

S1
S2
A1
A2
Bar.

bruise.

bruise.

bruise.

bruise.

bruise.

bruise.

Choral Reduction
(For Rehearsal Only)

Furious ♩.=66

Pno.

ff



45

Pno.

solo



46

Pno.

S1

S2

A1

A2

Bar.

mp

The soiled fea - ther_ of a gull drifts a - long_ the shif - ting

Choral Reduction
(For Rehearsal Only)

Pno.

ffp

8^{vb}-----

8^{vb}-----



S1

S2

A1

A2

Bar.

mf

at last, it all col - lides

sand-- at last, it all col - lides

Choral Reduction
(For Rehearsal Only)

Pno.

mf

8^{vb}-----

8^{vb}-----

53

f

S1 air___ and wa - ter, wa - ter and land. air___ and wa - ter,

S2 air___ and wa - ter, wa - ter and

A1 *f* air___ and wa - ter, wa - ter and land. air___ and wa - ter, wa - ter and land.

A2 *f* air___ and

Bar.

*Choral Reduction
(For Rehearsal Only)*

f

Pno.

ped. as before

S1 wa-ter and land. wa - ter and land. *ff*

S2 land. air_ and wa - ter, wa-ter and land. *ff*

A1 air_ and wa - ter, wa - ter and land. *ff*

A2 wa - ter wa - ter and land. *ff*

Bar. air_ and wa - ter, wa - ter and land. *f* *ff*

Choral Reduction
(For Rehearsal Only)

Pno. *ff*



S1

S2

A1

A2

Bar.

Choral Reduction
(For Rehearsal Only)

Pno.

*All singers repeat ad lib., gradually desynchronize, and gradually place palm over mouth while continuing to sing; creating a "drowning effect". Singers fade out one-by-one asynchronously. The piece is over several seconds after the last singer has stopped

Start slow, then tempo ad lib. ♩ = 100

20-30"

58

S1 *p* air_ and wa - ter, wa ter and land. air_ and wa - ter, wa ter and land.

S2 *p* air_ and wa - ter, wa - ter and land. air_ and wa - ter, wa - ter and land.

A1 *p* air_ and wa - ter, wa ter and land. air_ and wa - ter, wa - ter and land.

A2 *p* air_ and wa - ter, wa - ter and land. air_ and wa - ter, wa ter and land.

Bar. *p* air_ and wa - ter, wa - ter and land. air_ and wa - ter, wa - ter and land.

Start slow, then tempo ad lib. ♩ = 100

Pno.