

Ellen Ruth Harrison

# AN OCEAN CAN DRY INTO SILENCE

for a capella chorus: SSAA

*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  
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**Flowing legato**  
♩ = 69

Soprano *p* ah *pp* ah

Soprano *pp* ah *p* *pp*

Alto *pp* ah *p*

Alto *pp* ah *p*

**Flowing legato**  
♩ = 69

Piano (for rehearsal only) *p*

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a tempo of ♩ = 69. It features five staves: two for Soprano, two for Alto, and one for Piano (for rehearsal only). The key signature has one sharp (F#). The Soprano parts begin with a rest, followed by a melodic line starting on G4. The first Soprano part has dynamics *p* and *pp*, with vocalizations 'ah' under the notes. The second Soprano part has dynamics *pp* and *p*. The Alto parts have dynamics *pp* and *p*, also with 'ah' vocalizations. The Piano part starts with a rest, then plays a melodic line with dynamics *p* and *pp*. The score is marked 'Flowing legato' and includes hairpins for dynamic control.

5

S. *p* An o - cean An o - cean can dry

S. *p* *pp* *p* ah o - cean An o - cean can dry

A. *pp* *p* o - cean An o - cean can dry

A. *pp* *p* o - cean An o - cean can dry

Pno.

10

S. *p* ah

S. *p* ah *mp*

A. *p* *mp* *p* ah

A. *p* *mp* *p* ah ah

Pno.

15

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

S. *p* o - cean can dry *p* oh *mf* o - cean can dry in - to

A. *p* o - cean can dry *mp* oh can dry

A. *p* o - cean can dry *mp* oh can

Pno. *p* *mp*

20

S. *mf* si - lence si - lence *Solo f* si - lence *mf* si - lence

S. *mp* si - lence *mf* can dry in - to

A. *mf* si - lence *mp*

A. dry

Pno. *f* *mf*

23 *Tutti*

S. *mp* *p*  
si - lence si - lence si

S. *p* *mp* *mf*  
si - - - - - lence si - lence

A. *p*  
si - - - - - lence

A. *mp* *p*  
si - - - - - lence

Pno. *mp* *mf*

28 *mf*

S. *mf*  
si si - lence

S. *mp* *poco* *mp*  
dry in - to si - lence can dry an o - cean can dry dry in - to si - lence

A. *mp* *poco* *mp*  
dry in - to si - lence dry an o - cean can dry dry in - to si - lence

A. *mp*  
si - - - - - lent si -

Pno. *mp* *mf* *mp*

35

S. *p*  
can dry in - to si-lence si\_\_\_\_\_

S. *mp*  
to si- lent si - lence dry in - to si - lence can dry an

A. *mp*  
si- lent si - lence dry in - to si - lence dry an

A. lence si - - -

Pno. *p*

41

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

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

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

A. lent si - - - lence

Pno. *mf*

6

47

S. *Solo* *p* *f* *Tutti* *f* *p*  
 si - - lence o - cean can - - dry -

S. *f* *p*  
 - lence si - - lent o - - cean can - - dry -

A. *f* *p*  
 - lence si - - lent o - - cean can - - dry -

A. *f* *p*  
 si - lence An o - - can - - dry -

Pno. *p* *f* *p*

53

S. *Solo* *breathy* *p* *p*  
 si - lent si - lence

S. *pp* *lightly*  
 to si - lent si - lence to si - lence to si - lent si - lence to si - lence

A. *pp* *lightly*  
 to si - lent si - lence to si - lence to si - lent si - lence to si - lence

A. *pp* *lightly*

Pno. *pp* *p*



58 gradually add more voice *mp* *mp*

S. si - lent si - lence

S. *poco* *pp* *poco* *pp*  
 — to si - lent si - lence — to si - lence — to si - lent si - lence — to si - lence

A. *poco* *pp* *poco* *pp*  
 — to si - lent si - lence — to si - lence — to si - lent si - lence — to si - lence

A. *p*  
 si - lent

Pno. *mp*

62 *mf* *normal voice* *poco rit.* *A tempo* ♩ = 69

S. si - lence si - lence

S. *Colla Voce*  
 — to si - lent si - lence — to si - lence — to si - lent si - lence — to si - lence

A. *Colla Voce*  
 — to si - lent si - lence — to si - lence — to si - lent si - lence — to si -

A. whisper

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

67

Tutti whisper

S. *p* to si-lence *mf* to si-lence

S. *p* ah *mf* ah

A. *p* lence ah *mf*

A. *p* to si-lent si-lence to si-lent si-lence to si-lent

Pno. *p* whisper *mf*

74

S. to si-lence to si-lence sing *p* si - lence

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

A. *mf* An o - cean can dry *p* si - lence

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

Pno. *p* sing *p*

79

*mp* *p* *mp* *p*

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

S. *p* *p*  
dry si - lence oh si - lence

A. *p* *p*  
dry si - lence oh si - lence

A. *p* *p*  
dry si - lence oh si - lence

Pno. *mp* *p* *mp* *p*

86

S. *p*  
si - lence An o - cean can dry\_\_\_\_\_

S. *p*  
si - lence whisper to si-lence

A. *p*  
si - lence An o - cean can dry\_\_\_\_\_

A. *p*  
si - lence whisper to si-lent si - lence\_\_

Pno. *p*  
whisper

92

S. *Solo*  
*p*  
ah \_\_\_\_\_ ah \_\_\_\_\_

S. \_\_\_\_\_  
to si - lence \_\_\_\_\_ to si - lence \_\_\_\_\_

A. \_\_\_\_\_

A. \_\_\_\_\_  
to - si - lent si - lence \_\_\_\_\_ to si - lent si - lence \_\_\_\_\_

Pno. \_\_\_\_\_

96

S. \_\_\_\_\_

S. \_\_\_\_\_  
*pp*  
can dry in - to si - lence

A. \_\_\_\_\_  
whisper *pp*  
can dry in - to si - lence

A. \_\_\_\_\_  
*pp*  
si - lence can dry in - to si - lence

Pno. \_\_\_\_\_  
whisper *pp*