



THE SIRENS' SONG

for SATB chorus (divisi) & piano

[2019]

*Commissioned and premiered by
Modern Sound Collective - Kai Leung, artistic director
Toronto ON Canada*

text by

WILLIAM BROWNE

music by

CAROL KAYEE MAK



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ABOUT THE PIECE

This SATB choral piece is set to the poem of the same name, penned in Elizabethan England by William Browne. The story outlines a well-known ancient Greek tale of mythological creatures that seduce and lead sailors to their doom. In this setting of Browne, I chose to utilize the different vocal ranges of the choir as characters in the plot, with high voices embodying the eerie quality of sirens, and low voices acting as the sailors. The two groups call to each other, echoing the other, only converging once the spell has been cast.

MSC Presents

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PRINTING

Choral scores distributed by *MSC Presents* are optimized for 8.5x11 printing.

ABOUT THE COMPOSER

Carol Mak is an artist (alias *Kayee*), producer and composer from Toronto, Canada. Her music has been broadcast on national Canadian radio and television, notably her song "Bruises", which won "Best Lyrics Award" on Fairchild Radio's SongQuest 2020. She received her education studying under prolific Canadian composers Larysa Kuzmenko and Eliot Britton, who both encouraged her to lean into her vocal arrangement prowess and electronic influence. After receiving her Masters from Berklee NYC, Carol moved to LA to be mentored in pop writing and production by early 2000s hit-makers Stargate. In the past year along she has built a catalog of work with artists-to-watch from all over the world, fusing her classical music influence with a modern palette.



[@camakayee](https://www.instagram.com/camakayee)

ORIGINAL TEXT

William Browne (ca. 1590 - ca. 1645)

*STEER, hither steer your winged pines,
All beaten mariners!*

*Here lie Love's undiscover'd mines,
A prey to passengers—*

*Perfumes far sweeter than the best
Which make the Phoenix' urn and nest.*

Fear not your ships,

Nor any oppose you save our lips;

But come on shore,

Where no joy dies till Love hath gotten more.

For swelling waves our panting breasts,

Where never storms arise,

Exchange, and be awhile our guests:

For stars gaze on our eyes.

The compass Love shall hourly sing,

And as he goes about the ring,

We will not miss

To tell each point he nameth with a kiss.

— Then come on shore,

Where no joy dies till Love hath gotten more.

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Floating ♩ = 80 *8va* *loco*

PIANO

con pedale

9 *8va*

Pno.

17 **20** *pp*

S.1

pp

S.2

pp

A.

pp

20 *8va* *loco*

(8) *loco*

Pno.

con pedale...

26

S.1 *mp* *ah* *ah*

S.2 *mp* *ah* *ah*

A. *mp* *oo* *oo* *ah*

Pno. *loco* *sva*

33

S.1 *mf* *f* *mp* *ah* *ah* *ah* *ah*

S.2 *mf* *f* *mp* *ah* *ah*

A. *mf* *f* *mp* *ah* *ah*

Pno. *loco* *sva*

41 Slightly faster, with movement
♩ = 100

S.1 *mf* *p* *ah*

S.2 *mf* *p* *ah*

A. *mf* *p* *ah*

T. *mf* *ah*

B. *mf*

Steer hi - ther steer your wing-ed pines All beat - en

Steer, steer, steer, steer, steer, steer, steer, steer, All beat - en

41 Slightly faster, with movement
♩ = 100

Pno. *mp*

53

T. *p*

B. *p*

mar - i - ners Here lie love's un - dis - cov - ered mines, a prey to

mar - i - ners Here lie love's un - dis - cov - ered, a prey to

53

Pno. *mf lush*

58

S.1 *mp* *mf* *f*
A prey A prey

S.2 *p* *mp* *f*
A prey A prey

A. *pp* *sp* *f*
A prey A prey

T.
pass - en-gers

B.
pass - en-gers

Pno. *p*

67

S. *Ethereal*
pp
Per - fumes far
pp

A. *pp*
Per - fumes far
pp

T. *pp*
Per-fumes far
pp

B. *pp*
Per-fumes far
pp

Pno. *Ethereal*

75

75

76 *More urgently* *mf*

S. sweet - er than the best, which make the Phoe - nix urn and nest, Fear not your ships!

A. sweet - er than the best, which make the Phoe - nix urn and nest, Fear not your ships!

T. sweet - er than the best, which make the Phoe - nix urn and nest, Fear not your ships, Nor

B. sweet - er than the best, which make the Phoe - nix urn and nest, Fear not your ships, Nor

85 *mp*

S. Save our lips; Come on shore.

A. Save our lips; Come on shore.

T. an - y op - pose you But -

B. an - y op - pose you But -

87 *mp*

Pno.

96

mf

S.1 Where no joy — dies till Love hath got - ten more.

mf

S.2 Where no joy — dies till Love hath got - ten more.

mf

A. Where no joy — dies till Love hath got - ten more.

mf

T. Where no joy — dies till Love hath got - ten more.

mf

B. Where no joy — dies till Love hath got - ten more.

96

Pno. *mp*

104

105

S.1 For swell - ing waves our pant-ing

mf

S.2 For swell - ing waves our pant-ing

mf

T. For swell - ing waves our pant-ing

p *mf*

No joy — For swell - ing

(tutti) *mf*

B. No joy — For swell - ing

p

No joy — For swell - ing

105

Pno. *p*

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117

111

S.1
breasts, Where ne - ver storms a - rise, _____

S.2
breasts, Where ne - ver storms a - rise, _____ Ex -

A.
breasts, Where ne - ver storms a - rise, _____ Ex -

T.
waves our pant-ing breasts, storms a - rise, _____ The swell - ing

B.
waves our pant-ing breasts, storms a - rise, _____ The

Pno.

mf

117

118

S.1
and be our guests, guests, For stars gaze on our eyes, our

S.2
-change and be our guests, guests, For stars gaze on our eyes, our

A.
-chang and be our guests, guests, For stars gaze on our eyes, our

T.
waves, and stars gaze, a - while we'll be your guests. _____

B.
swell - ing waves, stars gaze, a - while we'll be your guests. _____

Pno.

f

127 **Tempo Primo** *rall.* ♩ = 64

S.1 eyes, our eyes.

S.2 eyes, our eyes.

A. eyes, our eyes.

T. -

B. -

p The com-pass Love...

127 **Tempo Primo** *rall.* ♩ = 64

Pno. *p*

132

S.1 *p* About the ring, *mf* We will not miss to

S.2 *p* And as he goes. *mf* We will not miss to

A. *p* Shall hour - ly sing. *mf* We will not miss to

T. *p* Shall hour - ly sing. *mf* We will not miss to

B. *mf* We will not miss to

137

Pno. *mf*

139

S.1 tell each point he na-meth with a kiss, Come on shore

S.2 tell he na - meth with a kiss, Come on shore *grad. cresc.*

A. tell a kiss, Come on shore

T. tell he na-meth with a kiss, Then come Where no joy *pp*

B. tell point he na-meth with a kiss, Then come - Where no joy *pp*

Pno. *mf*

145 *grad. cresc.* *mf* (emphasize "sh")

S.1 Shore hath got - ten more.

S.2 *mf* (emphasize "sh") Shore hath got - ten more.

A. *mf* (emphasize "sh") *grad. cresc.* Shore hath got - ten more.

T. dies till Love hath got - ten, hath got - ten more.

B. *mf* dies till Love hath got - ten, hath got - ten more.



MSC presents

CATALOG

Choral Works Available **January 15th 2024**
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VOICINGS INDICATE MAXIMUM DIVISI SPLITS WITHIN EACH WORK

Mixed / SAB / SATB / SSAATTBB

<u><i>The Affable Enigma</i></u>	SSSAAATTTBB a cappella	Danial Sheibani	Rūmī	3 min	2021	MSC0009
<u><i>Lying Awake, Waiting</i></u>	SSAATTBB a cappella	Sami Anguaya	Tom Robinson & Sami Anguaya	4 min	2022	MSC0001
<u><i>May This Place</i></u>	SSAATB a cappella	Nicholas Wanstall	Nicholas Wanstall	3 min	2018	MSC0006
<u><i>Remember</i></u>	SSAATTBB a cappella	Madox Terrell	Christina Rossetti	2.5 min	2020	MSC0010
<u><i>The Sirens' Song</i></u>	SSATBB & piano	Carol Kayee Mak	William Browne	5 min	2019	MSC0008
<u><i>Spring and Fall</i></u>	SSAATTBB a cappella	Elizabeth Legierski	Gerard Manley Hopkins	3 min	2018	MSC0007
<u><i>Too Still for Dreams</i></u>	SSAATTBB & piano	E.K.R. Hammell	A.E. Wetherald	4.5 min	2022	MSC0003
<u><i>Twilight</i></u>	SSAATTBB & piano	Francesca Hauser	Sara Teasdale	3.5 min	2022	MSC0004
<u><i>When David Heard</i></u>	SSAATTBB a cappella	Kai Leung	2 Samuel 18:33	3 min	2022	MSC0005

Treble / SA / SSA / SSAA

<u><i>Somewhere in Space</i></u>	SSAA & percussion trio	Emily Green	Edith Södergran	3.5 min	2023	MSC0002
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