

**Timothy Kramer**

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***Shipwreck***

2020

### Performance Notes:

- The opening vowel is simply sung as “oo” as in moon.
- While written in the key of f minor for the ease of reading, this piece relies entirely on an altered scale -F,G,Ab,B,C,Db,E,F - that uses only B-natural and E-natural. Accidentals have been added to the music and carry through the measure.
- The original text uses dashes that, in this setting, are replaced by commas, and most nouns have been changed to have all lower-case letters. Finally, the word *stept* (in m. 57) is the archaic past tense of *step* (*stepped*).

### Text:

It tossed - and tossed -  
A little Brig I knew - o'ertook by Blast -  
It spun - and spun -  
And groped delirious, for Morn -

It slipped - and slipped -  
As One that drunken - *stept* -  
Its white foot tripped -  
Then dropped from sight -

Ah, Brig – Good Night  
To Crew and You -  
The Ocean's Heart too smooth - too Blue -  
To break for You -  
- Emily Dickinson

**Duration: 4 minutes**

### Program Notes:

*Shipwreck* was commissioned by the San Francisco Choral Artists for a program in June of 2020 titled “Boats & Trains & Flying Machines.” Rather than writing a work that celebrates transportation, I chose to set a poem by Emily Dickinson that tells us about a ship that does not make it home. I was attracted to this poem by its strong imagery and for its use of assonance, for example, on the words *crew*, *you*, *smooth*, and *blue*. The poem gives us a sense of the power of the ocean, so I framed the text with a haunting melody in 6/8 meter - a kind of song of the sea or siren song - that accompanies this poor ship on its fateful journey.

# Shipwreck

Emily Dickinson

Written for the San Francisco Choral Artists  
Magen Solomon, Artistic Director

Timothy Kramer

Floating ♩. = 58

Soprano

Alto

Tenor *mp*

Bass *mp*

6

9 *mp*

S

A

T

B

# Shipwreck

*accel.* ----- (♩. = 88)

*cresc.* ----- *f* (♩. = ♩)

12

S  
ah ah ah ah It

A  
ah ah ah ah It

T  
ah ah ah ah It

B  
oo ah ah ah It

17 **Swaying** ♩ = 88

S  
tossed and tossed and tossed and tossed, and tossed and tossed and tossed and tossed, A

A  
tossed and tossed and tossed and tossed, and tossed and tossed and tossed and tossed, A

T  
tossed and tossed and tossed and tossed, and tossed and tossed and tossed and tossed, A

B  
tossed and tossed and tossed and tossed, and tossed and tossed and tossed and tossed, A

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21 23 *ff* *mf* *f*

S lit - tle brig I knew, o'er - took by blast, It spun<sup>3</sup> and spun, it spun<sup>3</sup> and spun, and

A lit - tle brig I knew, o'er - took by blast, *ff* *mf* It spun<sup>3</sup> and spun<sup>3</sup> and

T lit - tle brig I knew, o'er - took by blast, *ff* *mf* It spun<sup>3</sup> and spun<sup>3</sup> and

B lit - tle brig I knew, o'er - took by blast, *ff* *mf* and spun<sup>3</sup> and

27 29 *mf* *f* *mf*

S spun<sup>3</sup> and spun<sup>3</sup> and spun<sup>3</sup> and spun, And groped — de - lir - i - ous, for morn, and

A spun, *f* *mf* and spun<sup>3</sup> and spun, And groped — and

T spun, *f* *mf* and spun<sup>3</sup> and spun, And groped — for morn,

B spun, *f* *mf* and spun<sup>3</sup> and spun, And groped — for morn, —

Slowing ♩ = 74 rit.

Shipwreck

32 **Heavy** ♩ = 48 *rit.* ----- **35 Floating** ♩ = 58

S  
groped de - lir - i - ous, for morn. oo oo

A  
groped de - lir - i - ous, for morn. oo oo

T  
groped de - lir - i - ous, for morn. oo oo

B  
groped de - lir - i - ous, for morn. oo oo

39

S  
oo oo

A  
oo oo

T  
oo oo oo oo

B  
oo oo oo oo oo

Shipwreck

46 *accel.* (♩. = 88) *cresc.* *f* (♩. = ♩.)

S oo ah ah ah ah It

A oo ah ah ah ah It

T oo ah ah ah ah It

B oo oo ah ah ah ah It

52 **Swaying** ♩ = 88

S slipped and slipped and slipped and slipped, and slipped and slipped and slipped and slipped, As

A slipped and slipped and slipped and slipped, and slipped and slipped and slipped and slipped, As

T slipped and slipped and slipped and slipped, and slipped and slipped and slipped and slipped, As

B slipped and slipped and slipped and slipped, and slipped and slipped and slipped and slipped, As

Shipwreck

Slowing More

56 **58** **61** ♩ = 66 **f**

S one that drunk - en stept; Its white foot tripped, it tripped, Then

A one that drunk - en stept; Its white foot tripped, it tripped,

T 8 one that drunk - en stept; Its white foot tripped,

B one that drunk - en stept; Its white foot tripped,

*rit.* **65** Heavy ♩ = 48

S dropped, — then dropped — from sight, then dropped from sight.

A **f** **mf** **mf** **mp**  
Then dropped — then dropped from sight.

T 8 **mf** **mp**  
Then dropped — from sight, then

B **mf** **mp**  
Then dropped, — then dropped from sight, then



Shipwreck

66 *rit.* ----- *calando* 70 Sinking ♩. = 48 *p* *solo*

S

A

T  
8  
*p*  
dropped from sight.

B  
*p* *pp* *p*  
dropped from sight, then dropped from sight. Hmm

72

S

A  
*solo p*  
oo

T  
*solo p*  
oo

B  
*solo*  
oo

78 **Reverently**  $\text{♩} = 48$  **83**

*tutti* *p* *mp* *mf* *f*

S Ah, brig, good - night to crew and you; The o - cean's

A Ah, brig, good - night to crew and you; The o - cean's

T Ah, brig, good - night to crew and you; The o -

B Ah, brig, good - night to crew and you; The

84

S heart, the o - cean's heart too smooth, too blue,

A heart, the o - cean's heart too smooth, too blue,

T - cean's heart, the o - cean's heart too smooth, too blue,

B o - cean's heart, the o - cean's heart too smooth, too smooth, too blue, too

90 *mf* *mp* **94** Calmly ♩. = 44

S  
to break for you.

A  
to break for you.

T  
to break for you. *p*

B  
blue, to break for you. *p*

97 *mp* *mp*

S  
00

A  
00

T  
00 00 00

B  
00 00 00

103

S *p* *poco rit.*

A *p*

T

B

Jacksonville, IL  
March 1, 2020

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