

# **THE AIRY SEA**

**MARINE MEDITATION**  
**INSPIRED by RACHEL CARSON**  
**For Voice and Piano**

**Music by**  
**BRUCE TRINKLEY**

**Lyrics by**  
**JASON CHARNESKY**

## The Airy Sea

The clouds are capacious pillars of water vapor  
like massy marble doors.  
Open and the sun comes in.  
Shut and the sky is shuttered out.

Open, shut, open.  
Open, shut, open,  
the ocean of air.

The air is a sea with waves of wind,  
and billows of the tempest asking  
Yes - shall I take you in my arms?  
No - shall I leave you grounded there?

Yes, no, yes  
Yes, no, yes  
the ocean of air.

The ocean stream and the earth and the stars  
are viewed through the glassy sea of air  
where the monarch butterfly hold her courts  
and the millions of birds fly free.

|           |          |             |
|-----------|----------|-------------|
| Fly free! | Yes! No! | Open! Shut! |
| Fly free! | Yes! No! | Open! Shut! |

Through the ocean of air.

**Rachel Carson (1907-1964) was an American marine biologist who is today remembered as a founder of the modern environmental movement. Her seminal book, *Silent Spring* (1962), exposed the environmental catastrophe caused by pesticides. She also did extensive research into the interrelationships between the natural elements of the earth and wrote several books inspired by her love of the earth and its resources. *The Sea Around Us* (Oxford University Press, 1951) presents the philosophy and science of Rachel Carson at her most lyrical, recounting the 5 billion year history of water on earth. Her writing inspired the lyrics to this choral work.**

# The Airy Sea

For Voice and Piano

Jason Charnesky

Bruce Trinkley

**Light, airy and fluid**  $\text{♩} = 48$  ( $\text{♩} = 144$ ) *p* *sempre legatissimo*

Voice

The clouds are ca-pa-cious

Piano

*p*

*con pedale*

*poco cresc.*

6

pil - lars of wa - ter va - por like mass - y mar - ble doors.

*mp* *p*

12

O - pen and the sky comes in. Shut and the sky is shut - tered

17 *cresc. poco a poco*

out. \_\_\_\_\_ O - pen, shut, \_\_\_\_\_ o - pen. O - pen, shut, \_\_\_\_\_ o - pen, the

17 *cresc. poco a poco*

23 *f* *dim.* *p sempre*

o - cean \_\_\_\_\_ of air. \_\_\_\_\_ The

23 *f* *mf* *dim.*

29 *non cresc.* *p sempre* *non cresc.*

air is a sea with waves of wind, and bil - lows of the tem - pest

29 *non cresc.* *p sempre* *non cresc.*

35 *mf* *sub. p*

ask - ing Yes, shall I take you in \_\_\_\_\_ my arms! No, shall I

35 *8va* *mf* *sub. p*

41 *molto cresc.*

leave you ground - ed there! Yes, no, yes. Yes, no, yes, the

(8va)

41 *molto cresc.*

47 *f* o - cean of air. *mf* *p* The

47 *f* *sonore* *dim.*

53 *cresc. poco a poco* o - cean stream and the earth and the stars are viewed through the glass - y

53 *p* *cresc. poco a poco* *mf*

59 *f* sea of air where the mon - arch but - ter - fly holds her court and the

59 *f*

65 *poco rit.*  
mil - lions of birds fly free.

65 *poco rit.*  
Fly free, fly free, Fly free,

69 *a tempo mp* *mf*  
Fly free, fly free, Fly free,

74 *f*  
fly free. Yes, no, yes.

79  
O - pen, shut, through the o - cean of air,

84 *piu f* with abandon *mf* decresc. poco a poco

through the o - cean of air,

84 *piu f* with abandon *mf* decresc. poco a poco

89 of air,

94 *p* *ten.* of *ten.* *pp*

99 *rit. e dim.* air. *rit. e dim.*