

VICTORIAN WOMEN

To seat the calm is o'er

Florence A. Marshall

(1843-1922)

Florence Ashton Marshall, née Thomas, (1843-1922) was born in Rome, Italy, and studied music at the Royal Academy of Music with William Sterndale Bennett, John Goss and George A. Macfarren. In 1864 she married businessman, writer, and music collector Julian Marshall. She and her husband both contributed to Grove's Dictionary of Music and Musicians. She was elected an associate of the Philharmonic Society and conducted the South Hampstead Orchestra. She and her husband were also founding members of the Musical Association. She published a biography of Handel and the book *Life and Letters of Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley* (1889). Florence Marshall composed solo songs, part songs, educational pieces, and operettas. Selected works including the operettas *The Masked Shepherd* (1879) and *Prince Sprite* (1897).

Composer's Note: Although described as being in five parts, this piece demands a double choir for its adequate performance, as the effect of the whole depends greatly on the occasional sub-division of Soprano and Tenor.

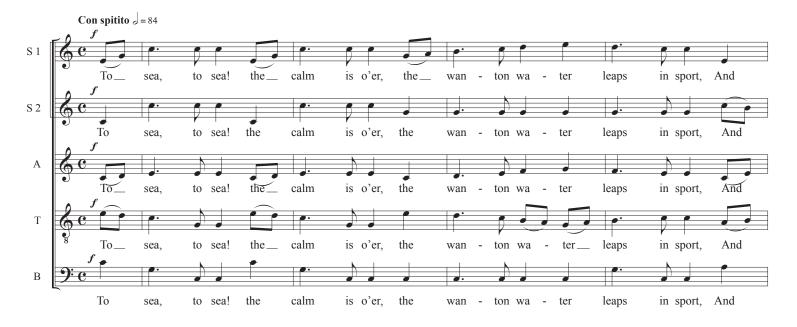
Composer's Note: The "Mermaid's Song" should be vocalized with the utmost possible smoothness, and *mezza voce*, so as to sound, as it were at a distance. In the *ritenuto* of its last bars the degree of the slackening of *tempo* must be arranged to suit the convenience of the *Soprani* and *Alti;* but, once settled, the time must be given by the Tenors and Basses.

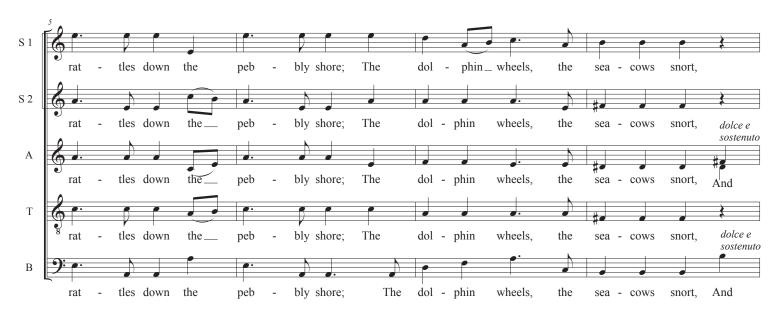
To sea, to sea! the calm is o'er,
The wanton water leaps in sport,
And rattles down the pebbly shore;
The dolphin wheels, the seacows snort,
And unseen mermaid's pearly song
Comes bubbling up the weeds among.
Fling broad the sail, dip deep the oar;
To sea, to sea! the calm is o'er!
To sea, to sea! our wide-wing'd bark
Shall billowy cleave its sunny way,
And with its shadow fleet and dark,
Break the caved Triton's azure day.
The anchor heaves, the ship swings free,
The sails swell full, To sea, to sea!

from "The Fool's Tragedy" ("Death's Jest-Book") Thomas Lovell Beddoes (1803-1849)

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