

Sanderlings

by Pamela J. Marshall
for unaccompanied tuba



Spindrift
Music Company

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Dedicated to Stephanie Magera, who gave the premiere at Eastman School of Music, Rochester, NY, USA on 31 March 2024.

Notes

After attending tuba evangelist Aaron Hinds' presentation at New Music Gathering in Baltimore in 2016, I was inspired to write Sanderlings. The music pulls the tuba into the sound world of the ocean, via the extended techniques in the tubist's repertoire. Various scampering motives reflect the typical activity of the tiny Sanderling, a small shorebird that runs back and forth on the beach foraging at the edge of the waves.

The piece uses various motivic material: scurrying 16th-note runs, rhythmic unpitched tapping, a lyrical melody, and air noise imitating waves. A meditative quality takes over as we hear more and more waves with shorter and shorter bits of music. The performer controls the pacing at the end by choosing which bits of music to repeat and when to breathe the waves.

The performer can be very free with their interpretation. Play the various effects in a way that you find expressive and adapt them to your skills as needed. The improvised ending is intended to fade away gradually with less and less sound. A sample ending is provided, but it is not a prescription. Be free with it, or ignore it completely and improvise your own.

About the composer

Pamela J. Marshall studied composition at Eastman and Yale Schools of Music. She has written for the Arlington-Belmont Chamber Chorus, International Horn Society, South Beach Chamber Ensemble, Master Singers of Lexington MA, Green Mountain Youth Symphony, Assabet Valley Mastersingers, and several Spindrift Commissioning Guild projects. In 2015, Ravello Records released a CD of her chamber music titled "Through the Mist". Her 2020 electroacoustic CD "Ruminations" is available on Bandcamp. In Massachusetts, Pamela played horn in local orchestras, led improv workshops, recorded chamber music and nature soundscapes, and did web design in Lexington, MA. Since 2023, she lives in Portugal.

About the cover art

The sketch of Sanderlings on the cover is by Catherine Clark (CatherineClarkStudio.com). Catherine is an artist on Cape Cod in Massachusetts and a champion of wildlife conservation.

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Sanderlings

Pamela J. Marshall

Allegro, but very freely ♩ = 110 *scampering*

Tuba

4

8

12

16 tapping or air noises

19 tapping or air noise

24 tapping or air noises

Performance notes:
Noteheads: \diamond = air; $\times \otimes$ = humming; \blacktriangledown \blacktriangle = lowest or highest note.
Full-measure fermatas are short pauses, ad lib.

Sanderlings for Solo Tuba by Pamela J. Marshall

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29 *lyrical*
mp

34 *pp*

36 *f* *f*
(approx. pitches)

38

39 *f* *mp espress.* *cresc. e dim. ad lib.* decay to air

43 *mp* *mp* *rit.*

47

50 *a tempo* *mf playful*

54

57 *f* *mp* decay to air

61

pp

63

A breathe in
p

65

B repeat B figures randomly for 20-30 seconds; insert A 2 or 3 times ad lib.

68

mp *p* *f*

74

pp *mf* *pp*

76

pp *p* *f* *pp*

78

f

80

ff

86 air noise, like ocean waves

repeat ad lib.

Tempo ad lib., improvise ending

88

91

To finish, repeat the last phrase, from the coda sign, ad lib.
 Play less and less of the 16th-note figure, dropping the middle, the beginning.
 Choose whether you want to end softly or loudly.
 Play more air waves.
 End with single low notes.

93 **Example ending - Improvise your own!**

Musical notation for measures 93-96. The top staff contains whole rests. The bottom staff (bass clef) features a complex rhythmic pattern of eighth and sixteenth notes, including slurs and accents.

97

Musical notation for measures 97-101. The top staff contains whole rests. The bottom staff continues the rhythmic pattern from the previous system, with slurs and accents.

102

Musical notation for measures 102-105. The top staff contains whole rests. The bottom staff features a rhythmic pattern with slurs and accents, including repeat signs.

106

Musical notation for measures 106-109. The top staff contains whole rests. The bottom staff features a rhythmic pattern with slurs and accents, including repeat signs.

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Selected Music by Pamela J. Marshall

Strings

Angel Music for violin and piano
Arcanum for violin
Elusive Sleep for cello and piano
Pascal's Theorems for cello and doublebass
Truth Becoming for string quartet
Soliloquy for cello
Quinteto sobre las poemas de Carlos Pintado for violin, viola, cello, doublebass, piano

Winds & Brass

Poetry- and nature-Inspired solos for flute, oboe, clarinet, bassoon, horn
Enchanted for oboe and chamber orchestra or piano
Wanderer for brass quintet
Resonances for alto saxophone, trumpet, 2 trombones, percussion
Waves and Fountains for oboe, horn, piano
"wild horn whose voice the woodland fills" for 8 horns
Black Bear Dance for horn quartet (or choir) and drums
Zoa for flute and harp
Through the Mist for flute, violin, harp or guitar
Focal Point for clarinet, viola, piano
Examine Variations for flute and cello
Anthropology Variations for clarinet, violin, piano

Orchestra

Triptoe Suite (2222-4221, 1pc, timp, strings) in 4 mvts for youth orchestra
Through the Mist (2222-2220, harp, 3pc, timp, strings) in 3 mvts
A chill wind in autumn (solo voice, 2222-4221-3pc, strings)

Chorus

Birding in Winter for SATB
Bee-Song for SATB or SSAA
Deepest Shade for SATB
The Future of Life for SATB chorus, trombone, piano
Refugees for SATB
Songs from a Quaker Heart for SATB chorus, piano
Weaving the World for SATB chorus, oboe, piano
Wordless Prayer for SATB

Solo Voice

Body and Soul Vol.1 for mezzo-soprano and string trio
Body and Soul Vol.2 for soprano, flute, cello, piano
Ariel's Songs for high or medium voice and piano
Remember the Old Songs for high voice and piano
Sky's Mirror for voice and cello
A chill wind in autumn for voice and piano

Holiday

Windshine for SATB and cello
Shepherds and Angels for SATB chorus, violin, harp, tamborine
Traditional Christmas (treble chorus or soloist, 2222-4221, harp, 3pc, timp, strings)
Three Appalachian Carols (2222-4231, harp, 2pc, timp, strings)

Recordings

Through the Mist on Ravello Records: chamber music for winds, strings, harp
Ruminations on Bandcamp: electro-acoustic
Visit www.spindrift.com for complete list. Demos available for many titles

Marshall  Sanderlings