Sanderlings

by Pamela J. Marshall for unaccompanied tuba





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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.



Performance notes:

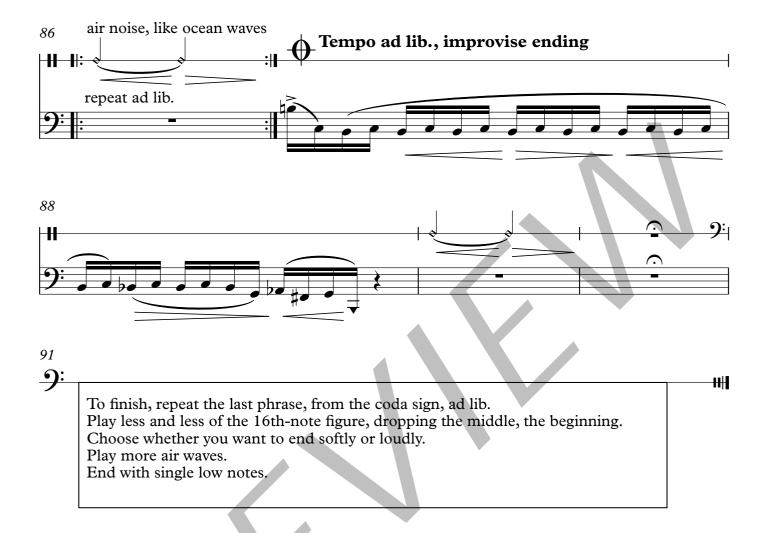
Noteheads: $\diamond = air; \times \otimes = humming; \vee_{\blacktriangle} = lowest or highest note.$

Full-measure fermatas are short pauses, ad lib.



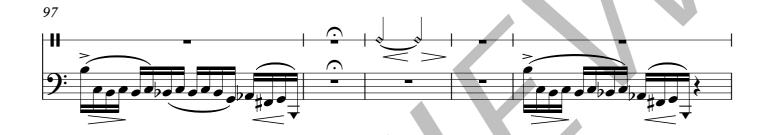






93 Example ending - Improvise your own!











38 Dexter Road Lexington MA 02420-3304 USA www.spindrift.com info@spindrift.com 781-862-0884

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

Soliloguy 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

Examinate 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

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