

Sea-Heroes

Music by Katie Kring

Text by H.D.

ABOUT THIS PIECE

“Sea-Heroes,” written in 1920 by poet H.D., is without a doubt the most challenging text I have ever attempted to set. I was drawn to it for its pulsing energy, tonal shifts, and Hellenic imagery. As far as my research has found, the names mentioned in the text are not famous from Greek myth, but either invented or lost to time. This setting seeks to bring forth the pathos and the passion of those who conquered the vast unharvested sea. It is available for both SATB and TTBB choirs with piano.

Crash on crash of the sea,
straining to wreck men; sea-boards, continents,
raging against the world, furious,
stay at last, for against your fury
and your mad fight,
the line of heroes stands, godlike:

Akroneos, Oknolos, Elatreus,
helm-of-boat, loosener-of-helm, dweller-by-sea,
Nauteus, sea-man,
Prumneos, stern-of-ship,
Agchilalos, sea-girt,
Elatreus, oar-shaft:
lover-of-the-sea, lover-of-the-sea-ebb,
lover-of-the-swift-sea,
Ponteus, Proreus, Oöos:
Anabesneos, who breaks to anger
as a wave to froth:
Amphiolos, one caught between
wave-shock and wave-shock:
Eurualos, board sea-wrack,
like Ares, man’s death,
and Naubolidos, best in shape,
of all first in size:
Phaekous, sea’s thunderbolt—
ah, crash on crash of great names—
man-tamer, man’s-help, perfect Laodamos:
and last the sons of great Alkinöos,
Laodamos, Halios, and god-like Clytomeos.

Of all nations, of all cities,
of all continents,
she is favoured above the rest,
for she gives men as great as the sea,
to battle against the elements and evil:
greater even than the sea,
they live beyond wrack and death of cities,
and each god-like name spoken
is as a shrine in a godless place.

But to name you,
we, reverent, are breathless,
weak with pain and old loss,
and exile and despair—
our hearts break but to speak
your name, Oknaleos—
and may we but call you in the feverish wrack
of our storm-strewn beach, Eretmeos,
our hurt is quiet and our hearts tamed,
as the sea may yet be tamed,
and we vow to float great ships,
named for each hero,
and oar-blades, cut of mountain-trees
as such men might have shaped:
Eretmeos, and the sea is swept,
baffled by the lordly shape,
Akroneos has pines for his ship’s keel;
to love, to mate the sea?
Ah there is Ponteos,
the very deep roar,
hailing you dear—
they clamour to Ponteos,
and to Proëos
leap, swift to kiss, to curl, to creep,
lover to mistress.

What wave, what love, what foam,
For Oöos who moves swift as the sea?
Ah stay, my heart, the weight
of lovers, of loneliness
drowns me,
alas that their very names
so press to break my heart
with heart-sick weariness,
what would they be,
the very gods,
rearing their mighty length
beside the unharvested sea?

ABOUT THE COMPOSER

Katie Kring is a choral composer, writer-of-musicals, and baker based in Springfield, MO.



Katie is a prolific choral composer and a passionate advocate for writing good parts for altos. Her piece “The Snow is Deep on the Ground,” (text by Kenneth Patchen), was published by Walton Music in 2015, and is now performed internationally. Katie has been commissioned to write numerous works, including “Dreams” and “I See You” (April 2019) for the Springfield Chamber Chorus, where she has served as Composer-In-

Residence. In 2015, she was commissioned by St. John’s Episcopal Church in Springfield, MO to create a new choral setting of the sung Compline service for men’s choir. Gerrit Scheepers’ Brooklyn Choral Artists commissioned her compositions “At the Hour of Closing” and “Land of Rest” which premiered in Pretoria, South Africa in September 2018.

Katie’s musical theatre works include PEARL (Goodspeed Musicals, CT, 2007), ONWARD (with J. Oconer Navarro, 59E59, New York City, 2009), FARMERS MARKET THE MUSICAL (with Rob Hartmann, Fairmont, WV, 2013), IN THE SWIM and THINK BIG (with Rob Hartmann, Monterey Bay Aquarium, CA, 2013 & 2014), and KELLY THE DESTROYER VS THE SPRINGFIELD COBRAS (with Rob Hartmann, Spokane, WA, 2015 and Springfield, MO, 2019).

Katie is also the owner of B+B Boulangerie & Bakery and Lead Instructor of KatieMade Baking & Cooking School. She received her MFA in Musical Theatre Writing at NYU and her BFA in music at the University of Michigan.

Sea-Heroes

SSAA

Music by Katie Krings

Text by H. D.

Moderato (♩ = c. 90)

ff

Soprano

Crash on crash of the sea, Strain-ing to wreck men; sea - boards, con - ti - nents,

Alto

Crash on crash of the sea, Strain-ing to wreck men; sea - boards, con - ti - nents,

Foot Stomps

ff

Piano

ff

S

Rag-ing a-gainst the world, fu-ri-ous, — stay at last, for a-gainst your fu-ry —

A

Crash crash crash crash wreck men; sea - boardscon-ti-nents, Crash crash crash crash

Stomp

Pno.

3

Sea-Heroes

2

S
6
and your mad fight, the line of he-roes stands, god-like:

A
6
wreck men; sea - boards, con-ti - nents, — the line of he-roes stands, god-like: A -

Stomp
6
wreck men; sea - boards, con-ti - nents, — the line of he-roes stands, god-like: A -

Pno.
6
mp p mp

S
10
helm - of - boat, loose - ner - of - helm, —

A
10
kro - ne - os, Ok - no - los, El - a - tre - us, A - kro - ne - os, Ok - no - los, El - a - tre - us, — A - kro - ne - os, Ok - no - los,

Pno.
10
mp

Sea-Heroes

15

S
 dwell - er - by - sea, _____ *f* sea - man, stern - of - ship, Ag - *mp*
 dwell - er - by - sea, _____ *f* sea - man, stern - of - ship, Ag - *mp*

A
 El - a - tre - us, — A - kro - ne - os, Ok - no - los, El - a - tre - us, *f* Nau - te - us, Prum - ne - os,
 El - a - tre - us, — A - kro - ne - os, Ok - no - los, El - a - tre - us, *f* Nau - te - us, Prum - ne - os,

Pno.

20

S
 chi - la - los, El - a - tre - us, *f* Lov - er - of - the - sea, lov - er - of - the - sea - ebb,
 chi - la - los, El - a - tre - us, *f* Lov - er - of - the - sea, lov - er - of - the - sea - ebb,

A
 sea - girt, oar - shaft: *mf* Lov - er - Pon - te - us, Pro - re - *f*
 sea - girt, oar - shaft: *mf* Lov - er - Pon - te - us, Pro - re - *f*

Pno.

Sea-Heroes

4

24 *ff* *mp*

S Lov-er-of-the-swift - sea, who breaks to an-ger as a wave to froth: one

24 *ff* *mp*

S Lov-er-of-the-swift - sea, who breaks to an-ger as a wave to froth: one

24 *ff* *mp* *mf*

A us, O - ö - os: An - a - bes-ne-os, Am - phi-o - los,

24 *ff* *mp* *mf*

A us, O - ö - os: An - a - bes-ne-os, Am - phi-o - los,

Pno.

30 *mf* *p* *mf*

S caught be-tween wave-shock and wave-shock: board sea-wrack, man's death, Phae-

30 *mf* *p* *mf*

S caught be-tween wave-shock and wave-shock: board sea-wrack, man's death, Phae-

30 *p* *mf*

A Eu - ru-a-los, like A - res, and Nau-bo-li - dos,

30 *p* *mf*

A Eu - ru-a-los, like A - res, and Nau-bo-li - dos,

Pno.

Sea-Heroes

35

S kous, Phae - kous, sea's thun-der - bolt— ah, crash on crash of great names— La - o - da-mos, Ha - li - os, and

A best in shape, of all — first in size: ah, crash on crash of great names— crash on crash of great names—

Pno. best in shape, of all — first in size: ah, crash on crash of great names— crash on crash of great names—

ff *ff* *ff* *mp* *ff* *mp* *ff*

40

S god-like Cly-to-me-os. La-o-da-mos, Ha-li - os, and god-like Cly-to - me-os. La-o-da-mos, Ha-li - os, and god-like

A god-like Cly-to-me-os. *f* man - tam - er, man's - help, per - fect La - o -

Pno. god-like Cly-to-me-os. man - tam - er, man's - help, per - fect La - o -

p *p* *f* *mf*

Sea-Heroes

6

45

S Cly - to - me - os. and last the sons _____ of great Al - kin -

45

A Cly - to - me - os. La - o - da - mos, Ha - li - os, and god - like Cly - to - me - os. La - o - da - mos, Ha - li -

45

A da - mos: and last the sons _____ of great Al - kin -

45

A da - mos: and last the sons _____ of great Al - kin -

Pno.

48

S ö - os, _____ god-like Of all na-tions, of all cit-ies,

48

A os, and god-like Cly-to-me-os. _____ god-like Of all na-tions, of all cit-ies,

48

A ö os, _____ god-like Of all na-tions, of all cit-ies,

48

A ö - os, _____ god-like god-like Of all na-tions, of all cit-ies,

Pno.

53 *ff*
 S of all con-ti-nents, she is fav-oured a-bove the rest, — for she gives men as great as the
 53 *ff*
 of all con-ti-nents, she is fav-oured a-bove the rest, — for she gives men as great as the
 53 *f*
 A of all con-ti-nents, she is fav - oured of all con-ti-nents,
 53 *f*
 of all con-ti-nents, she is fav - oured of all con-ti-nents,
 53
 Stomp of all con-ti-nents, she is fav - oured of all con-ti-nents,
 53
 Pno.

57 *p*
 S sea, to bat-tle a-gainst the el-e-ments bat-tle a-gainst the el-e-ments
 57 *p*
 sea, to bat-tle a-gainst the el-e-ments bat-tle a-gainst the el-e-ments
 57 *mp*
 A of all con-ti-nents, and e-vil: — and e-vil:
 57 *mp*
 of all con-ti-nents, and e-vil: — and e-vil:
 57
 Stomp of all con-ti-nents, and e-vil: — and e-vil:
 57
 Pno.

ff

S
bat-tle a-against the el-e-ments and e-vil: great-er e-ven than the sea,

A
bat-tle a-against the el-e-ments and e-vil: great-er e-ven than the sea,

Pno.

S
they live be-yond wrack and death of cit-ies, _____ and each

A
they live be-yond wrack and death of cit-ies, _____ and each

Stomp

Pno.

66 *mf* god-like name spok-en is as a shrine in a god-less place. *p* But to

66 *mf* god-like name spok-en is as a shrine in a god-less place. *p* But to

66 *mf* god-like name spok-en is as a shrine in a god-less place. *p* But to

66 *mf* god-like name spok-en is as a shrine in a god-less place. *p* But to

66 god-like name spok-en is as a shrine in a god-less place. But to

Pno.

71 name you, we, rev-'rent, are breath-less, weak with pain and old loss, and e-xile and des-pair—

71 name you, we, rev-'rent, are breath-less, weak with pain and old loss, and e-xile and des-pair—

71 name you, we, rev-'rent, are breath-less, weak with pain and old loss, and e-xile and des-pair— our

71 name you, we, rev-'rent, are breath-less, weak with pain and old loss, and e-xile and des-pair— our

Pno.

78 *pp* Ok - na - le - os —

78 *pp* Ok - na - le - os —

78 *pp* hearts break but to speak your name, _____ and may we but call you in the fe-ver-ish wrack of our

78 *pp* hearts break but to speak your name, _____ and may we but call you in the fe-ver-ish wrack of our

78 hearts break but to speak your name, _____ and may we but call you in the fe-ver-ish wrack of our

Pno.

83 Er - et - me - os, our hurt is qui-et and our hearts tamed, as the

83 Er - et - me - os, our hurt is qui-et and our hearts tamed, as the

83 storm-strewn beach, _____ our hurt is qui-et and our hearts tamed, as the

83 storm-strewn beach, _____ our hurt is qui-et and our hearts tamed, as the

83

Pno.

90 *ff*

S sea may yet be tamed, and we vow to float great ships,

90 *ff*

A sea may yet be tamed, and we vow to float great ships,

90 *ff*

Pno. sea may yet be tamed, and we vow to float great ships,

95

S named for each he-ro, and oar-blades, cut of moun-tain-trees as

95

A named for each he-ro, and oar-blades, cut of moun-tain-trees as

95

Pno. named for each he-ro, and oar-blades, cut of moun-tain-trees as

Sea-Heroes

12

99

S

such men might have shaped: Er - et - me - os, and the

99

such men might have shaped:

A

99

such men might have shaped: *p*

99

such men might have shaped: *p*

Pno.

mp

103

S

sea is swept, Baff-led by the lord-ly shape, A - kro-ne-os has pines — for his ship's keel; to

103

Er - et - me - os, and the sea is swept, Baff-led by the lord-ly shape, for his ship's keel; to

103

A

Er - et - me - os, and the sea is swept, Baff-led by the lord-ly shape, *mp*

103

Er - et - me - os, and the sea is swept, Baff-led by the lord-ly shape,

Pno.

S
love, _____ to mate the sea? to love, _____

A
love, _____ to mate the sea? to love, _____

to _____ love, _____ to mate the sea? _____ love, _____

to _____ love, _____ to mate the sea? _____ love, _____

Pno. *mf*

S
Ah there is Pon-te-os, the ve - ry deep roar, _____

A
Ah there is Pon-te-os, _____

Ah the ve - ry deep roar, _____

Ah _____ roar, _____

Pno. *p* *mp*

mf *mp*

S hail - ing you dear— And to Pro - e - os

A hail - ing you dear— they clam - our to Pon - te - os, And to Pro - e - os

Pno.

Allegro (M.M. ♩. = c. 54)

S leap, swift to kiss, to curl, to creep, lov - er to mis - tress. lov - er to mis - tress. What

A leap, swift to kiss, to curl, to creep, lov - er to mis - tress. lov - er to mis - tress. What

Pno.

138 *mf*

S wave, what love, what foam, For O - ö - os who moves swift as the sea? Ah

138 *mf*

wave, what love, what foam, For O - ö - os who moves swift as the sea? Ah

A 138 *mf*

wave, what love, what foam, For O - os who moves swift as the sea? Ah

138 *mf*

wave, what love, what foam, For O - os who moves swift as the sea? Ah

Pno. *mf*

146 *mp* *rubato* *ppp* 3

S stay, my heart, the weight of lov-ers, drowns me, a-las that their ve-ry names so press to break my heart

146 *mp* *ppp* 3

stay, my heart, the weight of lov-ers, drowns me, a-las that their ve-ry names so press to break my heart

A 146 *mp* *ppp* 3

stay, my heart, the weight of lone-li-ness drowns me, a-las that their ve-ry names so press to break my heart

146 *mp* *ppp* 3

stay, my heart, the weight of lone-li-ness drowns me, a-las that their ve-ry names so press to break my heart

Pno. *mp* *ppp*

Maestros *mp*

sffz

S

155 what would they be, the ve - ry gods,

155 what would they be, the ve - ry gods,

A

155 with heart-sick wear-i-ness, what would they be, the ve - ry gods,

155 with heart-sick wear-i-ness, what would they be, the ve - ry gods,

Pno.

155 with heart-sick wear-i-ness, what would they be, the ve - ry gods,

S

160 rear-ing their might - y length be - side the un-har-vest-ed sea?

160 rear-ing their might - y length be - side the un-har-vest-ed sea?

A

160 rear-ing their might - y length be - side the un-har-vest-ed sea?

160 rear-ing their might - y length be - side the un-har-vest-ed sea?

Stomp

160 rear-ing their might - y length be - side the un-har-vest-ed sea?

Pno.

160 rear-ing their might - y length be - side the un-har-vest-ed sea?