

DT0118 | TRUMBORE
MEASURED SANDS | SATB CHORUS, HARP, CELLO & PIANO

MEASURED SANDS

SATB Chorus, Harp, Cello & Piano

CHORUS & PIANO REDUCTION

daletrumbore
c o m p o s e r

MEASURED SANDS

Still afraid to touch down
in murky waters, I return
to the place that reveals me
to myself.

We were children saying
*someday we'll be here
with our children.*

Our desire to come back
was barnacled with wanting
as the rock by which
we measured the tide.

Younger, we dug for clams
on sandbars, found the sand
was greyer, yielding, darker,
only when we dug deeper.

I imagined, here, I'd hold
a daughter. Now, my brother
swims with his son.

The water level's higher
in the bay, the ocean
hardly covering the rock.

This place holds every tide,
the daughter she lost.
It offers up each empty shell,

each immutable stone,
the memories we buried
in the sand, greyer, yielding,
darker the deeper we dig.

Dale Trumbore

PERFORMANCE NOTES

All

- *sh* → *ff* represents spoken, unpitched white noise. For the full duration of the arrow, transform an unpitched “sh” sound into “ff” slowly over several beats. Visit daletrumbore.com/measured-sands for a reference recording.
- x noteheads = unpitched vocables

Singers

- A dotted line indicated the illusion of a continued line (no audible breath), with the consonant cutoff landing on rest
- Parentheses () indicate that a note can be omitted if out of range

Piano

- Grey rests indicate duration of beats, not silence
- Boxed notes should be played first as written, then in any order, rippling quickly, ebbing and flowing gently in speed, approximately between the speed of 16th notes and 8th notes.

PROGRAM NOTE

Measured Sands was commissioned by the Green Lake Festival of Music Composer Residency (John C. Hughes, conductor).

CHORUS & PIANO

Commissioned by the Green Lake Festival of Music Composer Residency
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Measured Sands

SATB Chorus & Piano

Dale Trumbore

Brightly; ♩ = 50

PIANO
(For rehearsal only)



The piano introduction is in 3/2 time, marked 'Brightly' with a tempo of ♩ = 50. It begins with a whole rest in the right hand and a quarter rest in the left hand. The music then flows with a melody in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand, marked *mf*.

Pno.



The piano accompaniment continues from the introduction. It features a triplet of eighth notes in the right hand and a steady bass line in the left hand. A box highlights a specific melodic phrase in the right hand, marked with an asterisk (*). The dynamics range from *pp* to *ff*. A 'Red.' line is present at the end of the section.

*Notes within boxes should be played first as written, then in any order, rippling quickly, ebbing and flowing gently in speed, approximately between the speed of 16th notes and 8th notes.

A

7 *mf* *pp*

S. Still a-fraid to touch down, Still a-fraid to touch

A. Still a-fraid to touch down, Still a-fraid to touch

T. Still a-fraid to touch

B. Still a-fraid to touch

Pno. *mf* sub. *p*



The chorus begins with a vocal entry marked *mf* and a piano accompaniment marked *mf*. The vocal parts (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) enter with the lyrics 'Still a-fraid to touch down, Still a-fraid to touch'. The piano accompaniment provides harmonic support. The dynamics shift to *pp* for the vocal parts. A 'sub.' line is present at the end of the section.

Measured Sands
Chorus & Piano

10

S. *f*
down in murk - y wa - ters, I re - turn to the place that re-

A. *f*
down in murk - y wa - ters, I re - turn to the place that re-

T. *f*
down in murk - y wa - ters, I re - turn to the place that re-

B. *f*
down in murk - y wa - ters, I re - turn re-

Pno. *mf* *p* *f*

15

S. *p* *f* *pp*
veals me to my - self. sh

A. *p* *pp* *mf* *ff*
veals me sh

T. *p* *f*
veals me to my - self.

B. *p* *f*
veals me to my - self.

Pno. *p* *mf*

B

19

S. *mf* *ff* *pp* *sh*

A. *pp* *sh*

T. *pp* *mf* *sh* *ff*

B. *pp* *mf* *sh* *ff*

Pno. *pp* *pp* until m. 33 *sh* *ff*

24

S. *mf* *pp* *mf* *ff* *sh* *ff*

A. *mf* *mp* I re - turn to my -

T. *pp* *mf* *p* *sh* *ff* to my -

B. *pp* *mf* *pp* *sh* *ff* *sh*

Pno. *pp* *3*

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41 *pp* *poco accel.* *f* $\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 44$

S. say - ing some - day we'll be here with our chil - dren.

A. say - ing some - day we'll be here with our chil - dren.

T. say - ing some - day we'll be here with our chil - dren.

B. say - ing some - day we'll be here with our chil - dren.

Pno. *p* *mf*

46 **D** *mp*

S. Our de - sire to come

A. Our de - sire to come

T. Our de - sire to come

B. Our de - sire to come

Pno. *f* *mp*

Measured Sands
Chorus & Piano

50

S. back was as bar - na-cled with want - ing as the

A. back was as bar - na-cled with want - ing as the

T. back was as bar - na-cled with want - ing as the

B. back was as bar - na-cled with want - ing as the

Pno.

53

S. rock by which we meas-ured the tide. *f*

A. rock by which we meas-ured the tide. *f*

T. rock by which we meas-ured the tide. *f*

B. rock by which we meas-ured the tide. *f*

Pno. *mf* 3 3

Measured Sands
Chorus & Piano

56 rit. $\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 72$

S. *pp* *mf*
sh \rightarrow *ff*

A. *pp* *mf*
sh \rightarrow *ff*

T. *pp*
sh \rightarrow

B. *pp* *mf*
sh \rightarrow *ff*

Pno. *mf* *p*

61 **E** *mp*

S. *mp*
Young - er, we dug for clams on sand - bars,

A. *mp* *pp*
Young - er, we dug for clams on sand - bars, found the sand was grey - er,

T. *mf* *pp*
ff we dug for clams on sand - bars, found the sand was grey - er,

B. *mp* *pp*
Young - er, we dug for clams on sand - bars, found the sand was grey - er,

Pno.

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77 *mf*

S. Now, my bro-ther swims with his son.

A. Now, my bro-ther swims with his son.

T. Now, my bro-ther swims with his son.

B. Now, my bro-ther swims with his son.

Pno. *mf*

81

S.

A.

T.

B.

Pno. *f*

Measured Sands
Chorus & Piano

G Pushing forward

S. *pp* *mf* *pp* *mf* *pp*
sh *ff* *sh* *ff* the

A. *mp* *pp*
The wa-ter lev-el's high-er in the bay, the

T. *mp* *pp*
The wa-ter lev-el's high-er in the bay, the

B. *pp* *mf* *pp*
sh *ff* the

Pno. *p* *pp*

S. *f*
o-cean hard-ly cov-er - ing the rock.

A. *f*
o-cean hard-ly cov-er - ing the rock.

T. *f*
o-cean hard-ly cov-er - ing the rock.

B. *f*
o-cean hard-ly cov-er - ing the rock.

Pno. *no cresc.* *rippling slows* *mf* *f*

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Measured Sands
Chorus & Piano

104

S. *mp* *pp*
each im - mu - ta - ble stone, the mem - o - ries we

A. *mp* *pp*
each im - mu - ta - ble stone, the mem - o - ries we

T. *mp* *pp*
each im - mu - ta - ble stone, the mem - o - ries we

B. *mp* *pp*
each im - mu - ta - ble stone, the mem - o - ries we

Pno. *mf* *p* *mp* *p*

109

S. *rit.* *mf*
bur - ied in the sand,

A. *mf*
bur - ied in the sand,

T. *mf*
bur - ied in the sand,

B. *mf*
bur - ied in the sand,

Pno. *Spoken: pp* *mf* *Spoken: pp*
sh *ff* sh

In time (♩ = ca. 44)

114 **J** poco a poco rit. *mp* **Slow** *pp*

S. yield - ing, dark - er the deep - er we

A. yield - ing, dark - er the deep - er we

T. grey - er, dark - er the deep - er we

B. grey - er, dark - er the deep - er we

Pno. *ppp* *mp* *pp*

118 *mf* *ppp* *barely perceptible* **rit.** *p* *ff*

S. dig. sh → ff

A. dig. sh → ff

T. dig. sh → ff

B. dig. sh → ff

Pno. *mf* *ppp* *barely perceptible* *p* *ff*

rippling gradually slows to a stop