

To Erick Lichte
Midnight Sea

Charles M. Scammon (1825-1911)

Robert C. Rival

With mystery, drama and wonder: like a ballad ♩ = c. 66-72

p with palour

T. 1 The mid - night sea quite

T. 2 The mid - night sea was quite

B. 1 The mid - night was quite

B. 2

6

f smooth, *p* The mid - night

T. 1

f smooth, *p* The mid - night

T. 2

f smooth, *p* The mid - night

B. 1

f smooth, *p* The mid - night

B. 2

smooth, *p* The mid - night

11

f sea quite smooth, smooth,

T. 1

f sea as quite smooth, smooth,

T. 2

sea was quite smooth, smooth, *p unis. excitedly* And

B. 1

f sea was quite smooth, smooth, *fp*

B. 2

sea was smooth,

PERUSAL SCORE ONLY - PLEASE DO NOT COPY

A

molto più mosso ♩ = c. 112

T. 1 *excitedly* **p** And not a breath of wind stir -

T. 2 *forced exhale, like a gust* **p** was stir - ring, stir - ring,

B. 1 *forced exhale, like a gust* not a breath of wind was stir - ring, stir - ring. *sim.* stir - ring.

B. 2 *stagger breathe* [oo]

B **tempo primo** ♩ = c. 66-72

T. 1 *with nervous excitement* **f** - ring. At first harsh rust - ling sound, *p* well articulated rust - ling, rust - ling,

T. 2 *with nervous excitement* **f** _ ring. heard a harsh rust - ling sound, *p* well articulated rust - ling, rust - ling,

B. 1 stir -

B. 2 stir -

T. 1 rust - ling, rust - ling, rust - ling, rust - ling, rust - ling,

T. 2 rust - ling, rust - ling, rust - ling, rust - ling, rust - ling, rust - ling,

B. 1 *with nervous excitement* At first we heard a harsh rust - ling sound, *with force, almost marcato* **f** As if a heav - y

B. 2 *f* with nervous excitement At first we heard a harsh rust - ling sound, *p* well articulated rust - ling, rust - ling, rust - ling,

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meno mosso ♩ = c. 52

29

T. 1 *p dolce*
rust - ling, rust - ling, rust - ling, Was sweep - ing the tran - quil

T. 2 *p dolce*
rust - ling, rust - ling, rust - ling, Was swer er the tran - quil

B. 1 *p dolce*
squall of wind, ac - com - pan - nied by hail, ng ov - er the tran - quil

B. 2
rust - ling, rust - ling, rust as sweep - ing ov - er the tran - quil

34 *molto cresc. f* tempo prir

T. 1 *f*
sea, sea. The moon burst through the cloud - ed

T. 2 *f*
sea, sea. The moon burst through the cloud - ed

B. 1 *f*
sea, sea. And, as the moon burst through the cloud - ed

B. 2 *f*
sea, se - And, as the moon burst through the cloud - ed

40

T. 1
sky, And, as the moon burst through the cloud - ed

T. 2
And, as the moon burst through the cloud - ed

B. 1
sky, And, as the moon burst through the cloud - ed

B. 2 *f*
sky, And, as the moon burst through the cloud - ed

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45 *pp* **C** *misterioso*

T. 1 sky, We saw sheet

T. 2 sky, We saw sheet

B. 1 sky, We a sheet

B. 2 sky, a sheet

52 *mp* *p* *p* *cresc. poco a poco*

T. 1 of foam and sr surg - ing to -

T. 2 of foam surg - ing to -

B. 1 of foam and spray surg - ing to -

B. 2 of foam and spray surg - ing to -

58 *f* *f* *f* *f*

T. 1 ward, to-ward, surg - ing, surg-ing to - ward us.

T. 2 surg - ing to-ward, surg - ing, surg-ing to - ward us.

B. 1 ward, surg - ing to-ward, surg - ing, surg-ing to - ward us.

B. 2 ward, surg-ing to - ward, surg-ing, surg-ing to - ward us.

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D

65 *f*

T. 1 In a few mo - ments the ves - sel was sur - round - ed by myr - iads myr - iads of

T. 2 In a few mo - ments the ves - sel was sur - round - ed by r / myr - iads of

B. 1 In a few mo - ments the ves - sel was sur - round - e iads, by myr - iads

B. 2 In a few mo - ments the ves - sel was sur - r y myr - iads, by myr - iads

71 *f sempre*

T. 1 white - sid - ed dol - - - phins, e sid - ed dol - - -

T. 2 white - sid - ed dol - - - white sid - ed dol - phins,

B. 1 white sid - ed dol - phins, white sid - ed dol - phins,

B. 2 white sid - ed - phins, dol - - - phins, dol - phins, dol -

78 *p* *pp* *p dolce*

T. 1 phins,

T. 2 phins,

B. 1 dol - - - phins,

B. 2 phins, dol - phins, - dol - phins, dol - phins, dol - phins, Which, in their play - ful

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E ♩ = ♩

84 *p dolce* *f energetically*

T. 1 in their play-ful move-ments, play-ful move - ments, lob-tail - ing,

T. 2 in their play-ful move-ments, play-ful move - ments, ing,

B. 1 in their play-ful move-ments, play-ful move - ments, ing,

B. 2 move - ments, move-ments, play-ful move - ments, oling,.

90 ♩ = ♩

T. 1 lob-tail- ing, Dart-ing

T. 2 arch - ing, Dart - ing

B. 1 fin - ning, . - bling, fin - ing, Dart - ing

B. 2 plung - ing, leap ing, plung-ing, plung ing, Dart - ing

96 *ff*

T. 1 high side - wise, with a spite - ful splash and re - port, Dart-ing

T. 2 high and fall - ing side - wise, with a spite - ful splash and re - port, Dart-ing

B. 1 high and fall - ing side - wise, with a spite - ful splash and re - port, Dart-ing

B. 2 high and fall - ing side - wise, with a spite - ful splash and re - port,

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100

T. 1 high and fall - ing side - wise, fall - ing,

T. 2 high and fall - ing side - wise, fall - ing,

B. 1 high and fall - ing side - wise, with a spite - ful splas' fall - ing,

B. 2 *ff* Dart-ing high and fall - ing side - wise, with a spite fall - ing,

F

105 *pp* For the space of one hour, a space of one hour, Whi - tened, *espress.*

T. 2 *pp* For the space of one for the space of one hour,

B. 1 *pp* For the space , for the space of one hour, *p*

B. 2 *pp* For the sp one hour, for the space of one hour, *p*

111 *p sempre* Whi - tened, whi - tened,

T. 2 *p sempre* Whi - tened, whi - tened, whi - tened,

B. 1 *espress.* Whi - tened the sea all a - round as far *f with intensity*

B. 2 *espress.* Whi - tened, whi-tened the sea all a - round as far *f with intensity*

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G meno mosso ♩ = c. 52

115

T. 1
whi - tened, whi - tened the sea, _____ Wher al - most

T. 2
_____ whi - tened the sea, _____ y al - most

B. 1
as the eye could see, _____ the sea, _____

B. 2
as the eye could see, _____

121

T. 1
ins - tant - ly dis - ap - peared, _____ wher - ap - - - - peared,

T. 2
ins - tant - ly dis - ap - peared, _____ y dis - ap - - - - peared,

B. 1
_____ al - most ins - tant - ly dis - ap - peared,

B. 2
they al - most ins - tant - ly dis - ap - peared,

H tempo primo ♩ = c. 66-72

127

T. 1
pp ap - peared. The mid - night sea _____ was _____ quite

T. 2
_____ ap - peared. The mid - night sea _____ was _____ quite

B. 1
pp dis - ap - peared. The mid - night sea _____ was _____ quite

B. 2
pp dis - ap - peared. The mid - night sea _____ was _____

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133 **molto più mosso** ♩ = c. 112 *excitedly*
p

T. 1 smooth, smooth, And

T. 2 smooth, smooth, stir - ring,

B. 1 smooth, smooth, And not abre / ind was stir - ring,

B. 2 smooth, [oo] stagger breathe

unis. excitedly
p

forced exhale, like a gust

137 **I tempo primo** ♩ = c. 66-72

T. 1 *forced exhale, like a gust* not a breath of wind - ring.

T. 2 stir - ring, ring.

B. 1 stir - rin' stir - ring.

B. 2 [oo]

sim.

142

T. 1

T. 2 *p* The mid - night sea,

B. 1 *p* The mid - night sea,

B. 2 *p* The mid - night sea, stagger breathe

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molto allargando ♩ = c. 40

147

T. 1
T. 2
B. 1
B. 2

The mid - night sea.
the mid - night sea.
the mid - night sea.
the mid - night sea.

Text adapted by the composer from Charles M. Scammon
Marine Mammals of the North-Western Coast of North America,
 ch. 9, "The Dolphins", p. 98.

The midnight sea was quite smooth,
 And not a breath of wind was stirring.

At first we heard a harsh rustling sound,
 As if a heavy squall of wind, accompanied
 Was sweeping over the tranquil sea;
 And, as the moon burst through the
 We saw a sheet of foam and spray

In a few moments the vessel was
 Which, in their playful movements
 Tumbling, leaping, arching,
 Darting high and falling—
 For the space of one hour
 Whitened the sea all

When they almost appeared.

In 1874, **Charles M. Scammon**, captain of the U.S. Revenue Marine,
 published *Marine Mammals of the North-Western Coast of North America*,
 a thick volume documenting his experience as a whaler on the American west coast.

What Scammon's observations have come to be regarded, rightfully, as cruel and unsavoury.
 Yet his curiosity was such that he made many valuable observations
 of great value, his contributions recognized by marine biologists today.
 In the chapter on the Pacific white-sided dolphin (which frequents the B.C. coast),
 Scammon describes a stunning encounter on the open sea between his ship
 and a large group of dolphins.

The captain's words speak simply and eloquently, tracing an attractive musical arc,
 like a wave that surges excitedly, then recedes.

Composed in 2020, **Midnight Sea** was a finalist in Vancouver's Chor Leoni's
 C/4 Canadian Choral Composition Competition (2020).

