

# FRANK TICHELI

## THE SHORE

and other choral works

40 YEARS



John Alexander, conductor  
Pacific Chorale  
Pacific Symphony  
John Alexander Singers

# NOTES and TEXTS:

-- Notes by the composer

## THE SHORE (Symphony No. 3)

-- Poetry by David St. John

1. The Tidepools & the Boy
2. One Shore
3. The Black Gondola
4. Redemption

The four poems comprising the choral symphony, *The Shore*, are linked by their settings: places where land and water meet. Three of the poems are set at a beach, while the third poem is set in Venice with its black gondola as a symbol of death (set musically as a hybrid—part passacaglia, part tarantella). Sea images figure prominently in both the poetry and the music, as well as a rich palette of moods evoked by the sea: playfulness, awe, terror, and ultimately, calm and tranquility. A life journey unfolds, from innocent childhood, through young adulthood and crisis, and finally to redemption.

*The Shore* was commissioned by the Pacific Chorale and Phillip N. and Mary A. Lyons in celebration of Artistic Director John Alexander's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary season.

Please visit the Pacific Chorale's YouTube page for a revealing video concerning *The Shore*, documenting a conversation between the composer, the poet and the conductor: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QmaUX-G2UJFs>.

### 1. The Tidepools & the Boy

The morning grows  
Too far delivered  
To the day  
As the pools  
Of rock & wood run dry

First the tide surprises  
As it slowly rises  
Then the waters  
Of a boy's fears  
Disappear

What is left seems  
Pearled & lit  
The gleaming stones  
& the boy alone  
Sea urchins  
& sea ferns  
& the boy alone  
The boy I was

Hermit crabs alive  
In the water grass  
& the boy alone  
The boy I was

\*

My favorite place  
A place named Moonstone  
For the milky moons  
Awash in the tides

Below the rising dunes  
Like the moon's spies  
Like the fallen eyes of the moon

& even in my pockets  
Walking slowly home  
I knew they could see  
A future only seen  
For me

Seen only for me

## 2. One Shore

Tonight the sands melt  
With oily coils of kelp

Tossed across the sands  
& the dreams of dunes

A young man walks  
The crescent of the bay

By boats aligned like sentinels

\*

Here by the depot  
Of the bay

You can see the way

The shore  
Approximates the dream

How distances  
Repeat their songs

Above these tables  
& panes of water

\*

As climbing the hills  
Above the bay

Up to the lupine drifting  
Among the lichen-masked pines

You can see the way  
The night is pocked

By lamps lit on every boat  
Off shore those galleries

Of floating stars & in  
That dream we share

There is one shore  
Where we look out upon nothing

& the sea our whole lives  
Until turning from those waves

We find one shore one shore  
Where we look out upon nothing

& the earth our whole lives  
Where what is left between shore &  
sky

Is traced in the vague wake of  
-- the stars, the sandpipers whistling --

What we forgive *If you wake soon*  
*Wake me*

### 3. The Black Gondola

As a young man  
I wandered Italy

Looking to be free

Looking to see  
Who I might be

Then one night in Venice  
Almost as penance

For the pleasures

& the lovers  
& the wine

I had a dream of a future  
I knew was my own

A broken moon  
Above the Venetian lagoon

& the night could not hide  
What I saw slowly glide

Across the sky into  
A mandala of moonlight

My black gondola  
My own black gondola

The ghost of my own breath  
A ship of death

The black ghost of my breath  
My gondola & my death

In the dream I walked alone  
Along the fondementa

The taste & weight of stone  
The soul's dementia

& the clock tower struck  
The bells of hell

& I stepped into the silence  
Of the black gondola

Its violet opulence  
Black as the silence

Of the dream  
That carried me away

Into my future  
So far from home

Where a man  
Who fears death

Wishes never  
To roam

Where no alibis survive  
& no love can last

Where even the sea sings  
One octave in the past

#### 4. Redemption (Until The Sea Is Dead)

What the night prepares  
Day gives: this cool  
Green weave to the light

Shading the darker emeralds  
Of the limbs as they descend  
The narrow trunks of pine

Here the shore cuts like a thin  
Sickle at the fields of black waves  
On a rise above these dunes

I watch the wild oats  
Leaning with the wind as I try  
To imagine what I might sing to you

Now the dunes grow dark  
In this harsh a light the sand burns  
With the same erratic white within

A negative held up against the sun

\*

If you had walked here  
With me  
Or come after to see

What kept me  
Standing in the night

You'd see only what dissolves:

Dark to dawn  
Shore to wave  
Wings to fog  
A branch to light:

This vague design  
That does not come from me  
Yet holds me to it

Just as you might  
Another day

\*

Now I'll say for all of us  
The small prayer  
The song of time

The sea's melody  
Of loves  
Sworn to live

Beyond this night:

*Until the stars run to milk  
Until the earth divides  
Until these waves no longer  
Rake the headland sand*

*Until the sea is dead  
Here is the place I'll stand  
With the moon & the waves  
In each open hand*

*With the moon & the waves  
In my hands ...*

## THE SONG WITHIN

-- Poetry by Frank Ticheli

*The Song Within* is an *a cappella* setting of an original poem whose dramatic flow moves from themes of hope and peace, to crisis, and finally to reconciliation. During the setting of the first two stanzas, the music searches in vain for resolution, traveling restlessly from one tonal area to another before finally resigning itself in the poignant key of B minor. The third stanza represents a crisis of faith. Its first two lines are first announced by a male soloist, and then answered by

the chorus as the mood turns darker. The words from these two lines are repeated over and over among the four families of the choir, juxtaposed upon each other in an extended *agitato* section. Then, after a moment of vulnerability, the poem and the music move towards resolution. Darkness yields to themes of transcendence as the singers discover an inner light.

*The Song Within* was commissioned by the singers of Pacific Chorale in celebration of John Alexander's 30th anniversary season as Artistic Director.

I want to hear the sounds of hope –  
Of big church bells and distant horns,  
Sounds that wash away the wars  
And arouse the human heart.  
A sure harmony gliding over a sea of stillness.

I want to play the sounds of peace—  
Of sighing winds and rustling leaves,  
Sounds that silence troubled thoughts  
And calm the spirit's raging storms.  
A song of serenity from high atop an ancient hill.

But my harp is stilled by voices—  
Children, hungry, crying out.  
Their dreams, windswept,  
My house of wisdom, a web of sorrow.

I only know that I am longing...  
And then...I catch a glimpse—  
An ancient tree...an open gaze,  
Some eternal euphony  
That dances upon the light.  
And for one fleeting moment, I know...

I am the sound of hope,  
The instrument of peace,  
The song within the Song.

## CONSTELLATION

(Three Poems of Sara Teasdale)

1. From the Sea
2. The Falling Star
3. There Will be Stars

*Constellation* is my second choral setting of Sara Teasdale's poetry, the first being *There Will Be Rest* in 1999. Teasdale (1884-1933) cultivated a poetic style that has its roots in the works of Sappho, Christina Rossetti, and Housman – and I have long been drawn to her poems for their gentle lyricism and fragile tone. Haunted by depression in later years, Teasdale took her own life at the age of 48. Many of her poems address the pain that tormented her spir-

it, but to the end she seemed to draw strength from the stars and their undying radiance. Each of the three poems I chose for this cycle thus reflects her recurring preoccupation with stellar imagery as a powerful symbol of eternal beauty and peace. Her words almost set themselves, inspiring natural, flowing melodic lines and vivid sound worlds. Feelings of longing and melancholy – never far from the surface – are poignantly balanced by feelings of hope and an underlying sense of awe and wonder.

*Constellation* was commissioned by the California chapter of the American Choral Directors Association.

## 1. From the Sea

For us no starlight stilled the April fields,  
No birds awoke in darkling trees for us,  
Yet where we walked the city's street that night  
Felt in our feet the singing fire of spring,  
And in our path we left a trail of light  
Soft as the phosphorescence of the sea  
When night submerges in the vessel's wake  
A heaven of unborn evanescent stars.

## 2. The Falling Star

I saw a star slide down the sky,  
Blinding the north as it went by,  
Too burning and too quick to hold,  
Too lovely to be bought or sold,  
Good only to make wishes on  
And then forever to be gone.

## 3. There Will be Stars

There will be stars over the place forever;  
Though the house we loved and the  
street we loved are lost,  
Every time the earth circles her orbit  
On the night the autumn equinox is crossed,  
Two stars we knew, poised on the peak of  
midnight  
Will reach their zenith; stillness will be deep;  
There will be stars over the place forever;  
There will be stars forever, while we sleep.

## HERE TAKE THIS LOVELY FLOWER

-- Traditional Shaker melody, arr. Ticheli

Singing was a vital component of Shaker worship and everyday life. Over 8,000 songs in some 800 songbooks were created in Shaker communities throughout New England, most of them during the 1830's to 1860's.



“Here Take This Lovely Flower” is what Shakers refer to as a *gift song*, claimed by them to have been received from spirits. It was intended as a lullaby for children. Although Shakers practiced celibacy, there were many children in their communities, including offspring of recent converts and orphans whom they took in. Like many Shaker songs, this lullaby embodies the Shakers’ ideal of childlike simplicity.

Here take this lovely flower  
Thy mother sent to thee,  
Cull’d from her lovely bower  
Of sweet simplicity.

O place it near thy bosom  
And keep it pure and bright,  
For in such lovely flowers  
The angels take delight.

## EARTH SONG

-- Poetry by Frank Ticheli

*Earth Song*, for a cappella SATB chorus, was composed partly out of a desire to meet a very specific personal creative challenge: to create a poem that would fit pre-existing music. The music, borrowed from a section of my wind ensem-

ble work, *Sanctuary*, seemed ideal for a choral adaptation, its lyrical quality and poignant expression practically crying out for words. Actually *doing* this was not so easy – usually the music comes after the words – but the process was genuine fun, and I never could have written the poem as it now stands without the benefit of having the music first. I am very pleased with the results. *Earth Song* occupies a completely different musical universe from its parent work, one that can only be reached through the marriage of words and music.

Sing, Be, Live, See...

This dark stormy hour,  
The wind, it stirs.  
The scorched earth  
Cries out in vain:

O war and power,  
You blind and blur.  
The torn heart  
Cries out in pain.

But music and singing  
Have been my refuge,  
And music and singing  
Shall be my light.

A light of song  
Shining strong: Alleluia!  
Through darkness, pain and strife, I'll  
Sing, Be, Live, See...

*Peace.*

## THERE WILL BE REST

-- Poetry by Sara Teasdale

*There Will Be Rest*, like *Constellation*, was inspired by my long-standing love for the poetry of Sara Teasdale. "There Will Be Rest," one of her last poems, is a perfect summary of her lifelong reverence for the stars and their eternal promise of peace. I have striven to capture the poem's purity of spirit in this delicately lyrical choral setting.

The work was commissioned by The Pacific Chorale; it is dedicated to the memory of Cole Carsan St.Clair, the son of my dear friends, Carl and Susan St.Clair.

There will be rest, and sure stars shining  
Over the roof-tops crowned with snow,  
A reign of rest, serene forgetting,  
The music of stillness, holy and low.

I will make this world of my devising,  
Out of a dream in my lonely mind,  
I shall find the crystal of peace—above me,  
Stars I shall find.

## BIOGRAPHIES:

**ABOUT FRANK TICHELI:** Frank Ticheli's music has been described as "optimistic and thoughtful" (*Los Angeles Times*), "lean and muscular" (*New York Times*), "brilliantly effective" (*Miami Herald*) and "powerful, deeply felt crafted with impressive flair and an ear for striking instrumental colors" (*South Florida Sun-Sentinel*). Ticheli (b. 1958) joined the faculty of the University of Southern California's Thornton School of Music in 1991, where he is Professor of Composition. From 1991 to 1998, Ticheli was Composer in Residence of the Pacific Symphony.

His orchestral works have received considerable recognition in the U.S. and Europe, and many of his works for concert band have become standards in the repertoire. In addition to composing, he has appeared as guest conductor of his music at Carnegie Hall, at many Ameri-

can universities and music festivals, and in cities throughout the world. Ticheli is the recipient of a 2012 “Arts and Letters Award” from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, his third award from that prestigious organization. His Symphony No. 2 was named winner of the 2006 NBA/William D. Revelli Memorial Band Composition Contest. Other awards include the Walter Beeler Memorial Prize and First Prize awards in the Texas Sesquicentennial Orchestral Composition Competition, Britten-on-the-Bay Choral Composition Contest, and Virginia CBDNA Symposium for New Band Music.

Ticheli was awarded national honorary membership to Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia, “bestowed to individuals who have significantly contributed to the cause of music in America,” and the A. Austin Harding Award by the American School Band Directors Association, “given to individuals who have made exceptional contributions to the school band movement in America.” At USC, he has received the Virginia Ramo Award for excellence in teaching, and the Dean’s Award for Professional Achievement.

Frank Ticheli received his doctoral and masters degrees in composition from The University of Michigan. His works are published by Manhattan Beach, Southern, Hinshaw, and Encore Music, and are recorded on the Albany, Chandos, Clarion, Delos, Equilibrium, Klavier, Koch International, Mark, Naxos, and Reference labels.

**ABOUT JOHN ALEXANDER:** Artistic Director of Pacific Chorale since 1972, John Alexander has received consistent acclaim for his inspired leadership, both on the podium and as an advocate for the advancement of the arts; he is also well known as a composer. In his long and distinguished career, he has conducted hundreds of performances of choirs and orchestras in 27 countries around the globe. Noted as a specialist in conducting the choral/orchestral masterworks, he is also a strong proponent of American music, programming groundbreaking works by California composers and bringing many West Coast and world premieres to Southern California performance halls.

Choruses prepared by John Alexan-

der have performed under many of the most renowned conductors on the world stage, including Zubin Mehta, Pierre Boulez, Seiji Ozawa, Michael Tilson Thomas, Leonard Slatkin, Esa-Pekka Salonen, Gustavo Dudamel, Lukas Foss, Max Rudolf, Carl St.Clair, Gerard Schwarz, Marin Alsop, John Mauceri, John Williams, and Keith Lockhart.

**ABOUT PACIFIC CHORALE:** Founded in 1968, the 140-voice Pacific Chorale is internationally recognized for exceptional artistic expression, stimulating American-focused programming, and influential education programs. Pacific Chorale presents a significant performance season of its own at the Segerstrom Center for the Arts and is sought regularly to perform with the nation's leading symphonies. Under the inspired guidance of Artistic Director John Alexander, Pacific Chorale has infused an Old World art form with California's hallmark innovation and cultural independence.

In addition to its long-standing partnership with Pacific Symphony, the Chorale has performed with the Los

Angeles Philharmonic in Disney Hall on numerous occasions. Other noted collaborations include the Hollywood Bowl Orchestra, the Boston Symphony, the National Symphony, and the Long Beach, Pasadena, Riverside and San Diego symphonies. John Alexander and the Chorale have toured extensively in Europe, South America and Asia.

**ABOUT JOHN ALEXANDER SINGERS:** The John Alexander Singers, Pacific Chorale's professional chamber choir, is a 24-voice ensemble of outstanding choral musicians from throughout Southern California. While most of these singers also serve as part of the Pacific Chorale's professional core, their work focuses on specialized repertoire appropriate for a professional chamber chorus.

The Pacific Chorale regularly presents the John Alexander Singers in concert venues throughout Southern California. The Singers have collaborated extensively with The Pacific Symphony, the Los Angeles Philharmonic and other orchestras and period ensembles; they have also worked with leading chamber

ensembles and dance companies. The ensemble has served as the resident chorus for several arts festivals sponsored by the California State University system, and has been featured at the American Choral Directors Association conference in Los Angeles in 2000 as well as other notable conferences. The John Alexander Singers made its European debut in 2012, performing in Paris, France. The group has made two recordings: *Sweet Harmony*, featuring music by Frank Ticheli and John Alexander, among others; their follow-up CD – *Shenandoah: Songs of the American Spirit* – is available on the Gothic label.

## PERFORMER LISTS

### PACIFIC CHORALE and JOHN ALEXANDER SINGERS

**John Alexander**, Artistic Director

**Dr. Robert Istad**, Assistant Conductor

**Dr. David Clemensen**, Accompanist

#### SOPRANO

Susanne Aultz

Judith Bohlen

Rhonda Bright

Lauren Buckley \*

Jennifer Fromius

Anastasia Glasheen

Amanda Sumner Harris

Karen F. Henderson

Susan Jacobs

Sinae Kang

Kathy Kerstein

Kellee King \*

Barbara Kingsbury

Randi Larsen

Susan Lew

Susan Lindley

Mary A. Lyons

Rita Major

Jennifer Mancini

Lenora Meister

Donna Morse

Maria Cristina Navarro \*

Kris Oca

Sophia Park

Deborah Pasarow

Linda Williams Pearce

Melanie Pedro

Dana Ramos

Chikayo Rattee

Meri Rogoff

Sandy Rosales \*

Katharin Rundus \*

Heidi Clarice Stephen

Janice Strength

Sarah Thompson

Ruthanne Walker

Lorraine Joy Welling \*

Linda Wells-Sholik

**ALTO**

Judie Bertolino  
Mary Breuer  
Janelle Burris  
Julie Campen  
Tina Chen  
Heather Clausen  
Sister Paulette Deters  
Denean Dyson  
Harriet Edwards  
Tiffany Fernandez  
I-Chin Feinblatt \*  
Marilyn Forsstrom  
Claire Fortier  
Mary Galloway  
Kathryn Gibson  
Sandy Grim  
Maya Guerrero \*  
Laura Harrison \*  
Anne Henley  
Marin Jacobson  
Nancy Lanpher  
Kaii Lee  
Jeanette Moon  
Michele M. Mulidor  
Pat Newton  
Kathleen Preston \*  
Bonnie Pridonoff  
Loraine Reed  
Joan Severa  
Jane Shepherd  
Jane Shim \*  
Jean Turrell-Wright  
Yilin Hsu Wentlandt \*

Martha Wetzel

Julia Wood

**TENOR**

Daniel Coy Babcock \*  
Carl Porter  
Michael Ben-Yehuda  
Steven M. Clausen  
Joseph Cruz \*  
Craig Davis  
James C. Edwards  
Phil Enns  
David Evered  
David Exline  
Jason Francisco \*  
Vincent Hans  
Jose Luis Hernandez  
Steven M. Hoffman  
Chang H. Lee  
Christopher Lindley  
Gerald McMillan  
Aaron Mosley  
Aaron Palmer  
Nicholas Preston \*  
Ray Quiett  
Gabriel Ratinoﬀ  
David Rigsby  
Sean Saclolo  
Kevin St. Clair  
John St. Marie \*  
Gregorio Taniguchi \*  
Ben Wallace  
Faulkner White

## **BASS**

Karl Forsstrom  
Jim Anderson  
Aram Barsamian \*  
Herve Blanquart  
Mac Bright  
Carver Cossey \*  
James Dunning  
Thomas Enders  
Michael Gallup  
Larry Gates  
Peter Hahn  
Tom Henley  
John Hoganson  
Michael Jacobs  
Steve Kubick  
Gordon La Cross \*  
Ricardo McKillips \*  
Martin Minnich  
Emmanuel Miranda \*  
Seth Peelle  
Carl Pike  
John Boone Pooler  
Ryan Ratcliff  
George Reiss  
Robert Rife  
Thomas Ringland \*  
Paul Rojo  
Jim Spivey  
Joshua Stansfield  
David Svoboda  
Roger Swibold  
Joseph Tillotson  
Steve Webb

Scott Ziemann

*\* members of the John Alexander Singers*

## **PACIFIC SYMPHONY – Carl St.Clair,** Music Director

### **FIRST VIOLIN**

Raymond Kobler, *Concertmaster*  
Paul Manaster, *Associate Concertmaster*  
Jeanne Skrocki, *Assistant Concertmaster*  
Nancy Coade Eldridge  
Christine Frank  
Kimiyo Takeya  
Ayako Sugaya  
Ann Shiau Tenney  
Maia Jasper  
Robert Schumitzky  
Agnes Gottschewski  
Dana Freeman  
Grace Oh  
Jean Kim  
Angel Liu  
Marisa Sorajja

### **SECOND VIOLIN**

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Jessica Guideri \*\*  
Yen-Ping Lai  
Yu-Tong Sharp  
Ako Kojian  
Ovsep Ketendjian  
Linda Owen  
Phil Luna  
MarlaJoy Weisshaar

Robin Sandusky  
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Shelly Shi  
Limor Toren-Immerman†

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Meredith Crawford\*\*  
Carolyn Riley  
John Acevedo  
Erik Rynearson  
Luke Maurer  
Julia Staudhammer  
Joseph Wen-Xiang Zhang  
Pamela Jacobson  
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Cheryl Gates  
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Kevin Plunkett\*\*  
John Acosta  
Robert Vos  
Lázló Mezö  
Ian McKinnell  
M. Andrew Honea  
Waldemar de Almeida  
Jennifer Goss  
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David Parmeter  
Paul Zibits  
David Black  
Andrew Bumatay  
Constance Deeter

## **FLUTE**

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Sharon O'Connor  
Cynthia Ellis

## **PICCOLO**

Cynthia Ellis

## **OBOE**

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Deborah Shidler

## **ENGLISH HORN**

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David Chang

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Joshua Ranz

## **BASSOON**

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Elliot Moreau  
Andrew Klein  
Allen Savedoff



**CONTRABASSOON**

Allen Savedoff

**FRENCH HORN**

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Mark Adams

James Taylor\*\*

Russell Dicey

**TRUMPET**

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Tony Ellis

David Wailes

**TROMBONE**

Michael Hoffman\*

David Stetson

**BASS TROMBONE**

Robert Sanders

**TUBA**

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Doug Tornquist†

**TIMPANI**

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\* *Principal*

\*\* *Assistant Principal*

† *Guest Musician*

*The musicians of Pacific Symphony are members of the American Federation of Musicians, Local 7*

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*This recording is dedicated to the memory of Dr. Edward Shanbrom.*

# FRANK TICHELI

	<b>THE SHORE</b> (Symphony No. 3)* ‡	<b>(34:32)</b>
1.	The Tidepools & the Boy	6:14
2.	One Shore	10:13
3.	The Black Gondola	6:16
4.	Redemption	11:49
5.	<b>THE SONG WITHIN**</b>	8:20
	<b>CONSTELLATION</b> (Three Poems of Sara Teasdale)**	<b>(9:10)</b>
6.	From the Sea	3:37
7.	The Falling Star	1:36
8.	There Will Be Stars	3:57
9.	<b>HERE TAKE THIS LOVELY FLOWER**</b>	3:05
10.	<b>EARTH SONG*</b>	3:49
11.	<b>THERE WILL BE REST*</b>	6:23
	Total time:	65:58

## Soloists:

Track 4: Aram Barsamian, baritone

Track 5: John St. Marie, tenor

Track 6: Kellee King, soprano

Track 9: Lorraine Joy Welling, soprano

John Alexander, conductor

Pacific Chorale\* • Pacific Symphony‡ • John Alexander Singers\*\*

Tracks 1-4, 10 and 11 recorded live in concert