

# Five American Echoes

For mixed chorus  
*a cappella*



**Joelle Wallach**

# Five American Echoes

## I

Let me go where'er I will  
I hear a sky-born music still:  
Not only in the rose (in roses or birds)  
It is not only in the bird,  
But in the darkest, meanest things  
There always, always something sings.

*Ralph Waldo Emerson*

## II

How they so softly rest,  
All, all the holy dead,  
Unto whose dwelling-place  
Now doth my soul draw near!  
How they so softly rest,  
All in their silent graves,  
Deep....down sinking!

And they no longer weep,  
Here, where complaint is still!  
And they no longer feel,  
Here, where all gladness flies!  
Softly o'ershadowed,  
Until the Angel  
Calls them, they slumber!

*Henry Wadsworth Longfellow*  
From the German of Klopstock

## III

What am I after all but a child, pleas'd  
with the sound of my own name?  
repeating it over and over:  
I stand apart to hear – it never tires me.  
To you your name also?

*Walt Whitman*

## IV

Glory is that bright tragic thing  
That for an instant  
Means Dominion –  
Warms some poor name  
That never felt the Sun,  
Gently replacing  
In oblivion –

*Emily Dickinson*

## V

Alas, what is the *World*? A Sea of Glass.  
Alas, what's *Earth*? It's but an hour-glass.  
The Sea dissolves; the Glass is quickly run:  
Behold, with speed man's Life is quickly done.  
Let me so swim in this Sea, that I may  
With thee live happy in another day.

*Philip Pain*  
(c. 1666)

# Five American Echoes

3

[I may be repeated after V.]

I

for Nelly Vuksic

Joelle Wallach

$\text{♩} = 60-64$ , lilting

first time *mf*  
second time *p*

Let me go 'er I will I hear sky - born mu - sic still

Let 'er I hear a sky - born mu - sic still

Let where - 'er sky - born mu - sic not on-ly in

where - 'er I hear still

sic still or birds al - ways some - thing sings.

sic still ros - es There al-ways, al- ways oh

sic ros - es But in the dark - est, mean-est things

still But in the dark - est, mean-est things

## II

*Dolce*  $\text{♩} = 50$   
*molto p*

How they so soft - ly rest, dead, Un - to whose dwell - ing - place

*dolce*  
*molto p*

How they rest, dead, Un - to whose dwell - ing - place

*mf* *p* *sub. p* *(unis.)* *mf* *p* *mf* *p*

All, all the ho - ly dead, Un - to whose dwell - ing - place

*mf* *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *p*

All, all dead, to whose dwell - ing - place

5

Now doth my soul draw near! How \_\_\_\_\_ they \_\_\_\_\_ so soft - ly rest, All

soul draw near! How \_\_\_\_\_ they rest, All

Now doth my soul draw near! How \_\_\_\_\_ they rest, All

Now near! How \_\_\_\_\_ they rest, All

9

in graves, \_\_\_\_\_ sink - ing! And they no

in their si-lent graves, \_\_\_\_\_ sink - ing! And they \_\_\_\_\_

in graves, \_\_\_\_\_ sink - ing!

in Deep down - sink - ing!

*molto p*

13

long - er weep, still! And they no long - er feel,

\_\_\_\_\_ weep, still! they no long - er feel,

Here, \_\_\_\_\_ where com-plaint is still! And they no long - er feel,

Here, \_\_\_\_\_ where still! long - er feel,

*p*

*mp*

17

Here where all glad - ness flies! Soft - ly o'er-shad-owed, Un - til

where all glad - ness flies! Soft - ly o'er-shad-owed,

all glad - ness flies! Soft - ly o'er-shad-owed, Un - til

Here glad - ness flies! Soft - ly o'er shad-owed,

20

slum - ber!

slum - ber!

— the An - gel calls them, slum - ber!

calls them they slum - ber!

## III

for my own self

♩ = 80 (♩ = 240)

3  
quasi ♩ ♩

largely whispered (stage whispered)

(3+2) *mp* *mf* (12+1) *mf* *f*

What am I af - ter all but a child, pleas'd with the sound of my own name?

(2+3) *p* *mf* *mf*

What am I af - ter all sound of my

(2+3) *p* *mf* (9+1+3) *mf*

What am I af - ter all sound of my

4  
(3+1)

name? re - peat - ing it

(3+1) *mp* *mp cresc.*

name? re - peat - ing it o - ver and o - ver, re -

6

SOLO SOPRANO

*mf* *cresc. poco a poco* - - -

I stand a - part \_\_\_\_\_

SOPRANO, ALTO

*mp* *cresc.* - - -

re - peat - ing it o - ver and o - ver, re - peat - ing it o - ver and

TENOR

*(cresc.)* - - -

o - ver and o - ver and o - ver, re - peat - ing it o - ver and o - ver, re - peat - ing it

BASS *(cresc.)* - - -

peat - ing it o - ver and o - ver, re - peat - ing it o - ver and o - ver, re -

8

to hear - \_\_\_\_\_

*molto**ff*

o - ver, re - peat - ing it o - ver and o - ver, re - peat - ing it o - ver and

*molto**ff*

o - ver and o - ver, re - peat - ing it o - ver and o - ver, re - peat - ing it

*molto**ff*

peat - ing it o - ver and o - ver, re - peat - ing it o - ver and o - ver, re -

10

*whining a little, but warmly*

*mf* *gliss.*

it nev - er tires me.

o - ver

o - ver

*p*

To you your name also?

peat-ing it

*J = 120*

*bright*

*poco* *f*

*IV*

*più f*

*allargando* *unis.*

Glo - ry is that bright tra - gic thing That

Glo - ry bright That

Glo - ry bright That

Glo - ry bright

4

*ff*

*usually* *f* *simply,*

for an in - stant Let me so swim Sea, — that I may

*sensually* *f*

for an Let me swim in this Sea, —

*sensually* *f*

hold, — man's life is quick - ly done. — Let me swim Sea, —

*p* *sensually* *f*

hold, — Let me swim Sea,

15 *legato, senza vibrato*

*molto dolce* *pp*

With thee live hap-py — in an - oth - er day. —

*pp*

oth - er day.

*pp*

in an - oth - er day.

*pp*

day.

## V

for Jerome S. Zurkow

$\text{♩} = 88$   
*poco f*  
 A - las, what \_\_\_\_\_ A - las, what's Earth?  
*poco f*  
 A - las, what is the World? \_\_\_\_\_ Glass. A - las, Earth?  
*poco f*  
 A - las, \_\_\_\_\_ a sea \_\_\_\_\_ of Glass. A - las, \_\_\_\_\_  
*poco f*  
 A - las, \_\_\_\_\_ A - las, \_\_\_\_\_

5  
*poco, mf*  
 \_\_\_\_\_ The Sea dis - solves; \_\_\_\_\_ Be -  
*poco, mf*  
 \_\_\_\_\_ The Sea \_\_\_\_\_ Be -  
*poco, mf*  
 \_\_\_\_\_ The Sea \_\_\_\_\_ The Glass is quick-ly run: \_\_\_\_\_ Be -  
*mp*  
 \_\_\_\_\_ an hour - glass. The Sea \_\_\_\_\_ Be -

10 *p* *sensually* *f* *simply,*

hold, with speed \_\_\_\_\_ Let me so swim Sea, \_\_\_\_\_ that I may

*p* *sensually* *f*

hold, \_\_\_\_\_ Let me swim in this Sea, \_\_\_\_\_

*p* *sensually* *f*

hold, \_\_\_\_\_ man's life is quick - ly done. \_\_\_\_\_ Let me swim Sea, \_\_\_\_\_

*p* *sensually* *f*

hold, \_\_\_\_\_ Let me swim Sea,

15 *legato, senza vibrato* *molto dolce* *pp*

With thee live hap-py \_\_\_\_\_ in an - oth - er day. \_\_\_\_\_

*pp*

oth - er day.

*pp*

in an-oth - er day.

*pp*

day.