

# Of Wind & Waves



LISA NEHER, mezzo-soprano & composer  
ROSE BISHOP, flute & piccolo

# Of Wind & Waves

vocal & instrumental solos about the currents that surround us

## **Reach Out**

*Reach Out* is about yearning for human connection. It is about the need to be heard, to be seen, to be touched, to be understood. Large ascending leaps in the melody represent that longing, while expressive arpeggios up and down paint a picture of waves of emotion, surges of happiness, grief, anxiety, and relief. We need one another. Reach Out.

*Reach Out* was written for and premiered by Ray Furuta in 2020 as part of the Gabriela Lena Frank Creative Academy of Music's #GLFCAMGigThruCOVID initiative, a project to support performers struggling with income loss due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

## **American Waters**

*American Waters* explores bodies of water as literal and metaphorical barriers between us and the places and people we know and love. This piece digs into the emotional toll of these barriers through the lens of water. When I perform the piece, I think of my great-great grandfather, Bernard Harvey, who emigrated to the US from Ireland, leaving family and friends behind, not knowing if he'd ever be able to go back.

*American Waters* was born out of a music and film course I took in graduate school. I composed it to accompany a montage of early black and white footage of rivers, waterfalls, and ocean surf from the Library of Congress. The piece can be performed with or without this film montage.

I created the text for this piece by stitching together fragments of folk songs from the U.S. and the United Kingdom. These fragments are like hints of memories from the past which are reinvented with new melodic lines. Whispered sounds emulate the noises of splashing surf and crashing waves.

## **Lyrics:**

My Bonnie

Away you rolling river

I cannot cross

Build me a boat

I cannot cross o're you rolling river

Down by the river

Down the sea

Over

Away

I'm bound away

Bound gently down

Across

Over the ocean

## **Night Song for Moths**

I am finding more and more how vitally important it is for me to step away from my indoor work, to-do lists, and strategic planning, and immerse myself in nature. When I take the time to do this, my pulse slows, my mind clears, and what really matters to me in life comes into focus. I am comforted by the cycles of the moon, the rain, and by the lives of animals and plants, going about their own business, regardless of the anxieties of human society.

In this piece, I invite you into stillness, reflection, and connection with whatever you are feeling in this moment that needs some attention. You will hear the gentle rising of the moon, beginning in the haunting low register of the piccolo, the fluttering wings and unpredictable movements of moths, expressed by fast ascending and descending motives and quivering trills, and the steady motion of rippling water, expressed by a series of arpeggiated chords. The moon motive returns in the high register about halfway through the piece, representing the brilliant light of the moon as it reaches its apex. At the end of the piece, the motive descends, representing moonset as dawn approaches. This piece was commissioned by and is dedicated to my dear friend Rose Bishop.



Lisa Neher, Mezzo-Soprano & Composer  
Photo by Alisabeth von Presley



Rose Bishop, Flute & Piccolo  
Photo by Omni Photography

### **Lisa Neher, Mezzo-Soprano & Composer**

New music powerhouse Lisa Neher is a mezzo-soprano, composer, and actress on a mission to transform audiences through story, sound, and open heartedness. Described by *Oregon ArtsWatch* as “a small woman with a very big voice” and “especially alive,” Neher captivates audiences with her electrifying dramatic commitment and unforgettable vocal colors. She was recently heard with Third Angle New Music, the Resonance Ensemble, New Music Gathering, Queer Opera, the International Saxophone Symposium, Opera Theatre Oregon, and Cascadia Composers. Lisa premiered the leading role of Jennifer in Rita Ueda’s chamber opera *One Thousand White Paper Cranes for Japan* with the Singaporean ensemble Chamber Sounds. She is the curator of the One Voice Project, which champions unaccompanied solo vocal performance.

Lisa’s compositions explore stories, places, and living things. She is inspired by female athleticism, the tender love of family and friends, the ambiguities of life and death, the joyous bubbling of streams, and the eerie mystery of deep ocean life. Her opera *Sense of Self*, with a libretto by Kendra Preston Leonard, will be premiered virtually by Opera Elect as part of their 2020-2021 season. Other recent commissioners and collaborators include Third Angle New Music, Delgani String Quartet, Rhymes With Opera, Choral Arts Ensemble of Portland, and University of Michigan Saxophone Ensemble.

In addition to her creative work, Lisa is a technique and acting teacher for singers and a vocal composition coach. She is a fellow of the Gabriela Lena Frank Creative Academy of Music. For more information, visit her website, [www.lisanehermusic.com](http://www.lisanehermusic.com).

### **Rose Bishop, Flute and Piccolo**

Rose Bishop is a Trevor James Alto Flute Artist, soloist, orchestral musician and teacher based in Iowa City, Iowa. She is the Instructor of Flute at Coe College, Cornell College, Kirkwood Community College and Mount Mercy University, and is a member of the National Flute Association's Career and Artistic Development Committee. Additionally, she serves as Principal Flute of the Southeast Iowa Symphony and Second Flute and Piccolo with the Quincy and Ottumwa Symphonies. She has been a featured soloist with the Southeast Iowa Symphony, Kansas Wesleyan University, Culver-Stockton College and Monmouth College Wind Ensembles, and the Burlington and Washington Municipal Bands, and has performed with the Battle Creek and Muscatine Symphonies and Orchestra Iowa.

She has also been a guest artist at the Iowa Flute Festival, the Wisconsin Flute Festival, the Central Iowa Flute Workshop, the St. Louis Flute Fair, and the the Upper Midwest Flute Association Flute Fest and has presented masterclasses and recitals at universities across the country. She is the founder and Artistic Director of the Eastern Iowa Flute Workshop, the Cornell College Flute and Clarinet Summer Camp, and has been published in Flute Talk Magazine and the Flute Examiner. She is co-author of A Flutist's Guide to the Voxman Etudes with Lizzy Darling, a new performance guide in conjunction with Himie Voxman's Selected Studies for Flute. For more information, visit [www.rosebishopflute.com](http://www.rosebishopflute.com).

# Of Wind & Waves

vocal & instrumental solos about the currents that surround us

## **Reach Out**

Rose Bishop, Flute

## **American Waters**

Lisa Neher, Mezzo-Soprano

## **Night Song for Moths**

Rose Bishop, Piccolo

All works composed and copyright by Lisa Neher

Scores available for purchase at [www.lisanehermusic.com](http://www.lisanehermusic.com)

Carter Broszeit, Audio Recording, Editing and Mixing Engineer; Videographer and Editor, Cedar Rapids, IA

Album art by Lisa Neher with digital editing assistance from Mike Newman

Distributed by Odd Pop [Records], [www.facebook.com/oddpoprecords/](http://www.facebook.com/oddpoprecords/)

Released Jan 31, 2021

