

**AN AMERICAN ESSAY**  
(1972)

for Soprano, Mixed Chorus, Piano  
and Percussion

by  
Nancy Van de Vate

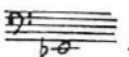
Commissioned by the Knoxville Choral Society

Texts from Leaves of Grass by Walt Whitman

City of Ships  
Long, Too Long, O Land  
Patroling Barnegat  
To the East and to the West  
The Sobbing of the Bells

Duration: 29 minutes

Performance Notes:

1. A small triangle is played once at the end of Long, Too Long, O Land by a member of the chorus. Otherwise, all percussion is played by the percussionist.
2. The bass range extends down to , although the lowest two notes are generally treated as optional and are enclosed in parentheses. If basses are available who can sing them, however, they should do so.
3. Percussion instrumentation: tam tam, suspended cymbal, snare drum, bass drum, xylophone, glockenspiel, triangle, tambourine, timpani

## CITY OF SHIPS

Walt Whitman

Nancy Van de Vate  
1972

$\text{♩} = \text{c. } 160$

Sopranos  
Cit-y of ships! Cit-y of ships!

Altos  
Cit-y of ships! Cit-y of ships!

Tenors  
Cit-y of ships! Cit-y of ships! (O the black ships!)

Basses  
Cit-y of ships! Cit-y of ships! (O the black ships!)

Percussion (one player)  
SUSP. CYM. TIMP. SUSP. CYM.

Piano  
 $\text{♩} = \text{c. } 160$   
f mf

10

S  
mf f  
(O the fierce ships! O the black ships! O the fierce ships! O the beau-ti-ful sharp-bow'd steam ships,

A  
mf f  
(O the fierce ships! O the black ships! O the fierce ships! O the beau-ti-ful sharp-bow'd steam ships,

T  
f  
O the fierce ships! O the black ships! O the fierce ships! O the beau-ti-ful sharp-bow'd steam ships,

B  
f  
O the fierce ships! O the black ships! O the fierce ships! O the beau-ti-ful sharp-bow'd steam ships,

Perc.  
mf

Pfte.  
cresc. mf f

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Score for Soprano (S), Alto (A), Tenor (T), Bass (B), Percussion (Perc.), and Piano/Forte (Pfte.) instruments. The music is in 4/4 time and features a key signature of one flat (B-flat).

**Soprano (S):** *mp* O the beau-ti-ful, — *mf* O the beau-ti-ful sharp-bow'd steam-ships, sharp-bow'd sail ships!

**Alto (A):** *mp* O the beau-ti-ful, — *mf* O the beau-ti-ful sharp-bow'd steam ships, sharp-bow'd sail ships!

**Tenor (T):** *mp* O the beau-ti-ful, — *mf* O the beau-ti-ful sharp-bow'd steam ships, sharp-bow'd sail ships!

**Bass (B):** *mf* sharp-bow'd steam ships, sharp-bow'd sail ships!

**Percussion (Perc.):** *TIMP.* *mp*

**Piano/Forte (Pfte.):** *mp* *mf*

Score for Soprano (S), Alto (A), Tenor (T), Bass (B), Percussion (Perc.), and Piano/Forte (Pfte.) instruments. The music is in 4/4 time and features a key signature of one flat (B-flat).

**Soprano (S):** O the beau-ti-ful sharp-bow'd steam-ships and — sail-ships!) *f* Cit-y of ships! Cit-y of

**Alto (A):** O the beau-ti-ful sharp-bow'd steam-ships and — sail-ships!) *f* cit-y of ships! Cit-y of

**Tenor (T):** O the beau-ti-ful sharp-bow'd steam-ships and — sail-ships!) *f* Cit-y of ships! Cit-y of

**Bass (B):** O the beau-ti-ful sharp-bow'd steam-ships and — sail-ships!) *f* Cit-y of ships! Cit-y of

**Percussion (Perc.):** *f*

**Piano/Forte (Pfte.):** *f*