

*Sea Change*

You are no more, but sunken in a sea  
Sheer into dream, then thousand leagues, you fell;  
And now you lie green-golden, while a bell  
Swings with the tide, my heart; and all is well  
Till I look down, and wavering, the spell—  
Your loveliness—returns. There in the sea,  
Where you lie amber-pale and coral-cool,  
You are most loved, most lost, most beautiful.

—Genevieve Taggard (1894–1948)

“‘Sea-change’ is a poetic term meaning a striking change or a gradual transformation in which the form is retained but the substance is replaced. The expression is Shakespeare’s, taken from the song in *The Tempest* when Ariel sings about transformation brought about by the sea.

This work is from a series of pieces called ‘...from the edges of the earth,’ based on images, text of sea, sea nymphs, and sirens. The other works from this collection are: *The Singing of the Waves* for three flutes, piano and spoken voice (commissioned and premiered by Jane Rigler, Anne LaBerge, John Fonville, flutists and Lisa Moore, pianist/spoken voice); *The Living Sea* for flute, electronics, and film (commissioned by Claire Chase, flutist, International Contemporary Ensemble with IMAX filmmaker Greg MacGillivray); and *Sunk Lyonesse* for piano trio (written for Trio Solisti).”

—Pamela Madsen

The world premiere of *Sea-Change I* was on October 30, 2009 in the Meng Concert Hall of the Joseph Clayes III Performing Arts Center at the University of California-Fullerton, Fullerton, California.

Pamela Madsen is a composer, sound artist, performer, and curator of new music. From her massive landscape inspired projects and intimate chamber music creations to her multi-media collaborations, and organization of new music events, she has created a body of work with a profound breadth of vision. With a PhD in Composition from UCSD, doctoral studies in music theory at Yale University, post-doctoral studies in music technology at IRCAM in Paris, and deep listening with Pauline Oliveros, her work encompasses a vast sphere of interest. Her multi-media operas/music dramas, and site-specific environmental works have been commissioned and premiered by such new music performers and ensembles as: soundSCAPE, Zeitgeist, Ethel, Tony Arnold, Aiyun Huang, Jane Rigler, Trio Solisti, ICE flutist Claire Chase, New York New Music Ensemble, California Ear Unit, JACK, and Arditti String Quartet. Multi-media collaborations have been with IMAX filmmaker Greg MacGillivray, TED Fellow photographer Camille Seaman, video artist Quintan Ana Wikswo, and visual artist Judy Chicago. Selected as an Alpert Award Panelist for 2010, she is a frequent guest lecturer, performer, and invited scholar at festivals and universities world-wide. She is curator of the Annual New Music Festival, World Electro-Acoustic Listening Room Project, and Film as Collaborative Art Series at Cal State Fullerton where she is Professor of Music Composition.