

# Sailors' song

by [Paula Bohince](#) in the [April 17, 2007](#) issue

The sea tunnels forward as a hymn  
with nothing in it  
but *alleluia*,

word lifted and lowered over eleven notes  
as though the sound  
were a wooden boat upon a real sea,

true boat tossed mightily  
until it slips into utter senselessness,  
becomes lulled into pure vowel,

timbre of the singers gone sugary and soft,  
rosy as the daily wash  
of pale pinks and mauves upon the shore:

reflected colors of the sailors' sky,  
chorus breaking upon the watery edge,  
sailors singing of the world.