THEREFORE

“Therefore” is one of Joelle Wallach’s *Spiritual Speculations*, a series of short works for chamber choir or vocal quartet which probe the puzzles of living with conscience in a profoundly flawed world. As the words encourage engagement in the only world we have, the interwoven, wordless sighs lament a loss of illusory ideal. As “Therefore” ends, those sighs subsume the words; the voices veer toward and away from one another, yearning for and mourning the ruined world, yet meanwhile creating their own accord.

Performance Suggestions by Harold Rosenbaum:
Use a gentle, meditative tone quality, gathering listeners into a world of imagination, as the poem suggests. Even after negative thoughts darken the mood, and accents and sudden surges jolt the listener, this soothing timbre should always return. *Poco forte* should always be quieter than *mezzo-forte*.

The homophonic (chordal) style presents ample opportunity to convey the text clearly; so strive to achieve exquisite diction. In m. 1, allow time for all consonants to sound. Throughout, make sure the stressed syllables receive more weight than the weak ones (eg. when the first syllable in the word “exists” is higher in pitch than its second syllable.) Make certain that all words beginning with vowels are approached with glottal stops.

In m. 49, it is up to the discretion of the conductor exactly where the *glissandos* begin; however, they should commence approximately where the diagonal lines first appear.

Duration: ca. 4:00.

Joelle Wallach composes music for orchestra, chamber ensembles, solo voices and choruses. Her *String Quartet 1995* was the American Composers Alliance nominee for the 1997 Pulitzer Prize in Music. The New York Philharmonic Ensembles premiered her octet, *From the Forest of Chimneys*, written to celebrate their 10th anniversary; and the New York Choral Society commissioned her secular oratorio, *Toward a Time of Renewal*, for 200 voices and orchestra to commemorate their 35th Anniversary Season in Carnegie Hall. Wallach’s ballet, *Glancing Below*, a 1999 Juilliard Dance Theater showcase production originally commissioned by the Carlisle Project, was premiered in Philadelphia during the summer of 1994, entered the repertory of the Hartford Ballet in February 1995, and received its New York City premiere that June. As early as 1980 her choral work, *On the Beach at Night Alone*, won first prize in the Inter-American Music Awards.

Wallach grew up in Morocco, but makes her home in New York City, where she was born. Her early training in piano, voice, theory, bassoon and violin included study at the Juilliard Preparatory Division, and she earned bachelors and masters degrees at Sarah Lawrence College and Columbia University respectively. In 1984 the Manhattan School of Music, where she studied with John Corigliano, granted her its first doctorate in composition.

A pre-concert lecturer for the New York Philharmonic for several subscription series, Ms. Wallach speaks on a broad range of musical subjects, bringing fresh insights to familiar works and opening doors to modern ones and to those less frequently heard.
No-thing ex-ists, no-thing ex-ists, ah, that is not marred,
ists that is not marred; ah,

ists that is not marred, that is not marred; ah,

that is not marred, ah,

that is not marred; ah,

that is not marred; ah,

that is not marred; ah,

we are obliged to imagine

therefore we are obliged to imagine

therefore we are obliged, are obliged to imagine

therefore we are obliged, are obliged to imagine

THEREFORE
things as they might be: the sea at its uttermost

things as they might be: the sea at its uttermost

things, ah, as they might be: the sea, the sea,

things, ah, as they might be: the sea, the sea,

green, the shore, white before it was

green, exists white before it was

nothing exists, the shore, white before it was

nothing exists white before it was

THEREFORE
THEREFORE

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checked and clouded by its spent debris.

No-thing exists, exists, exists that does not end, ah, ah, ah, No-thing, ah, no-thing ex-

ists that does not end, ah, ah, ah, No-thing, ah, no-thing ex-
THEREFORE
mur-mur-ing that you will not go, when you will go, prom-is-ing
mur-mur-ing that you will not go, when you will go, prom-is-ing,
mur-mur-ing that you will not go, when you will go, prom-is-ing,
go, when you will go,

_to do al-ways_ what you can-not do: hold the sun stead-y and the sky new.
al-ways_ what you can-not do: hold the sun stead-y and the sky new.
ah, al-ways_ what you can-not do: oh, hold the sun stead-y and the sky new.
ah, to do al-ways what you can-not do: hold stead-y and the sky new.

THEREFORE
No one exists that can be loved the same by
dolciss.

No one exists that can be loved the same by
dolciss.

No one exists that can be loved the same.

No one exists that can be loved the same.
we know, we know his face, as if we knew even half his true name.

we know, we know his face, as if we knew even half his true name.

we know, we know his face, as if we knew even half his true name.

we know, we know his face, as if we knew even half his true name.

we know, we know his face, as if we knew even half his true name.

we know, we know his face, as if we knew even half his true name.

we know, we know his face, as if we knew even half his true name.

No thing exists that is not marred; ah,

No thing exists that is not marred; ah.

Ah, that is not marred; ah,

Ah, that is not marred; ah,

Ah, that is not marred; ah,

Ah,