



Learning to Sing

by Susan Spaeth Cherry

I stand in the sand
at the edge of a sea
inviting and frightening
as brand-new love.
I tiptoe in, feel the tickle
of tide on my toes,
then inch into vast cerulean.
I cannot swim,
but the waves are gentle.
Lie down, they say,
and try to breathe.
I thrash on my back,
first a little, then a lot,
determined not to be deterred
by splashes of brine
in my nose and mouth.
And little by little,
I sync with the surf,
then linger, linger,
awash in wholeness.

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Poet Susan Spaeth Cherry is a first time adult voice student in Evanston, Illinois. She is discovering her singing voice with NATS member Meredith Colby.