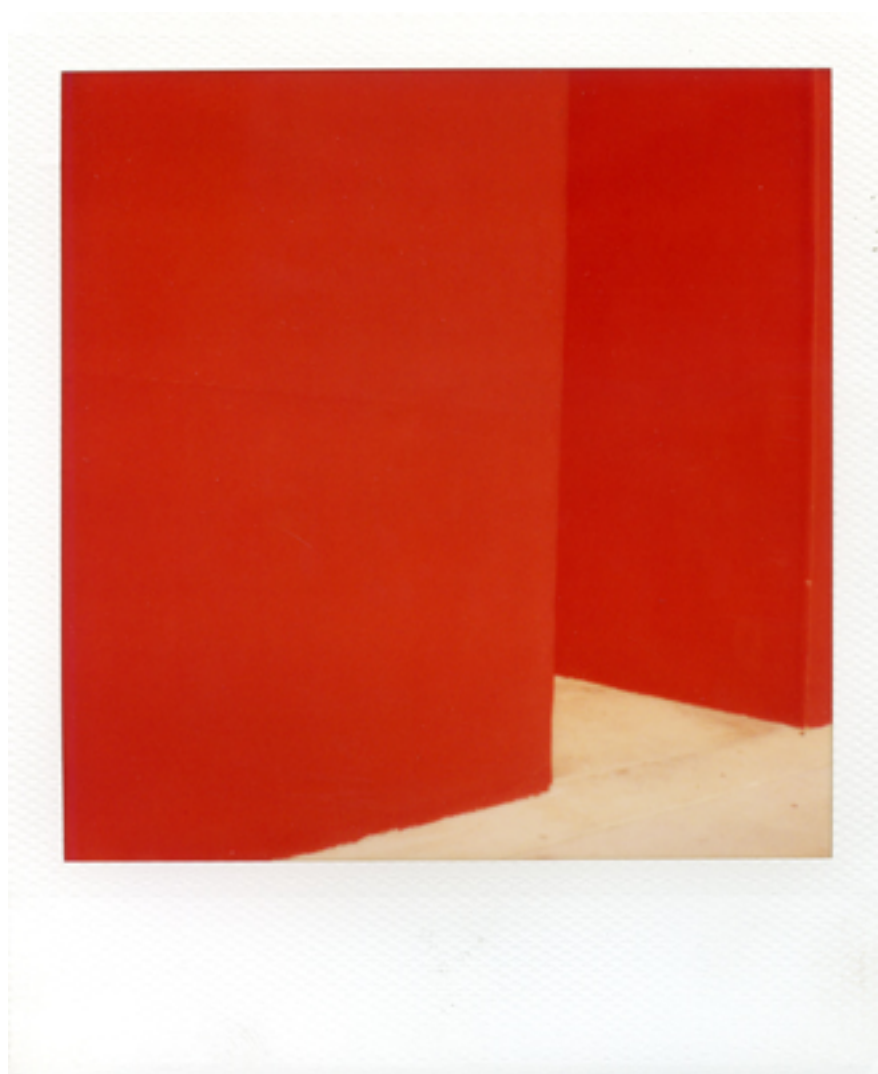


BECAUSE IT IS BITTER, AND  
BECAUSE IT IS MY HEART



ERIC SHANFIELD

## BECAUSE IT IS BITTER, AND BECAUSE IT IS MY HEART

Eric Shanfield | 2007 | 5'

poems by Georges Bataille, Stephen Crane, Michael Fried, Saskia Hamilton,  
Matthea Harvey, Robert Hass, Donald Justice, Bill Knott, and Dean Young

- |                               |                          |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. A Theory of Generations    | 6. Discord               |
| 2. Iowa, January              | 7. Death                 |
| 3. Assassination              | 8. You Have My Eyes      |
| 4. Canal                      | 9. The Black Riders: III |
| 5. On a Picture by Burchfield | 10. Inspiration: No. 10  |

Alto Solo

Percussion (One): Almglocken (C3, E $\flat$ 3, E4, G4), Sleigh Bells, Tam-Tam,  
Triangle, Vibraslap, Woodblock

Mandolin

Cello

The title of each poem to be spoken by the singer immediately preceding all songs.

All grace notes are played before the beat.

Three slashes through stems indicate unmeasured tremolos.

## BECAUSE IT IS BITTER, AND BECAUSE IT IS MY HEART

1. *A Theory Of Generations* (Matthea Harvey, from “Modern Life”)

You're it.

You're it.

You're it.

2. *Iowa, January* (Robert Hass, from “Time And Materials”)

In the long winter nights, a farmer's dreams are narrow.

Over and over, he enters the furrow.

3. *Assassination* (Michael Fried, from “To The Center Of The Earth”)

Black now as frozen lakes

The tall buildings of New York

Make awkward mourners.

4. *Canal* (Saskia Hamilton, from “Divide These”)

The sluice opened, then closed.

The shipping was halted.

The muscle resists; you cannot move it.

5. *On A Picture By Burchfield* (Donald Justice, from “New and Selected Poems”)

Writhe no more, little flowers. Art keeps long hours.

Already your agony has outlasted ours.

6. *Discord* (Georges Bataille, from “The Impossible”)

Ten hundred houses fall

a hundred then a thousand dead

at the window of the clouds.

7. *Death* (Bill Knott, from “The Naomi Poems”)

Going to sleep, I cross my hands on my chest.  
They will place my hands like this.  
It will look as though I am flying into myself.

8. *You Have My Eyes* (Matthea Harvey, from “Modern Life”)

Give them back.

9. *The Black Riders: III* (Stephen Crane from “The Black Riders and Other Lines”)

In the desert  
I saw a creature, naked, bestial  
Who, squatting upon the ground,  
Held his heart in his hands,  
And ate of it.  
I said, “Is it good, friend?”  
“It is bitter—bitter,” he answered;  
“But I like it  
“Because it is bitter,  
“And because it is my heart.”

10. *Inspiration: No. 10* (Dean Young, from “Embryoyo”)

You are in your pajamas  
eating cold pizza  
when you decide to make a coyote.  
Now all you need is a pregnant coyote.

# BECAUSE IT IS BITTER, AND BECAUSE IT IS MY HEART

## 1. A THEORY OF GENERATIONS

Matthea Harvey

Eric Shanfield

The musical score is for the piece "Because It is Bitter, and Because It is My Heart" (1. A Theory of Generations) by Matthea Harvey and Eric Shanfield. It is written in 3/4 time with a tempo of quarter note = 63. The score includes four parts: Alto, Percussion, Mandolin, and Violoncello. The Alto part has lyrics: "You're it. You're it. You're it." The Percussion part features a triangle and dynamic markings of *f* and *ff*. The Mandolin part starts with a *f* dynamic and includes a *pizz.* (pizzicato) instruction. The Violoncello part starts with a *f* dynamic and includes an *arco* instruction. The score concludes with the instruction "TO ALMGLOCKEN".

Alto

*f*

You're it. You're it. You're it.

Percussion

TRIANGLE

*f*

*ff*

TO ALMGLOCKEN

Mandolin

*f*

*pizz.*

Violoncello

*f*

*arco*

*ff*

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## 2. IOWA, JANUARY

Robert Hass

Eric Shanfield

*♩* = 100

*mf*

Alto

In the long win-ter nights, \_\_\_\_\_ a far-mer's dreams are

Perc. **ALMGLOCKEN**  
soft mallets  
*mf*

Mand.

con sord.

Vc. *mf*

6

Alto

nar-row. \_\_\_\_\_ O-ver and o-ver, he en-ters the fur-row.

Perc. *l.v.* **TO VIBRASLAP**

Mand.

*p*

Vc. *via sord.*

# BECAUSE IT IS BITTER, AND BECAUSE IT IS MY HEART

## 3. ASSASSINATION

Michael Fried

Eric Shanfield

**♩=126**

**f**

Alto  
Black now\_ as fro-zen lakes The tall buil - dings of New York\_ Make

Perc. **VIBRASLAP**

**f**

Mand. **f**

Vc. pizz. **f**

**5**

Alto  
awk - ward mour - ners.

Perc. **TO SLEIGH BELLS**

**f**

Mand.

Vc.

# BECAUSE IT IS BITTER, AND BECAUSE IT IS MY HEART

## 4. CANAL

Saskia Hamilton

Eric Shanfield

*♩=126*

*mf*

Alto

The sluice o-pened, then closed.

Perc.

**SLEIGH BELLS**

*mf*

Mand.

*mf* *sim.*

Vc.

*col legno*

*mf*

6

*non cresc.*

Alto

The ship-ping was halt-ed. The mus-cle re-sists. You can-not move it.

Perc.

*mf* *mf* *f*

**TO ALMGLOCKEN**

Mand.

*mf* *f*

Vc.

*arco*



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## 5. ON A PICTURE BY BURCHFIELD

Donald Justice

Eric Shanfield

$\text{♩} = 108$

*mf*

Alto

Writhe no more, lit - tle flow - ers. — Art keeps long ho - urs. — Al - rea - dy your

Perc. **ALMGLOCKEN**

Mand. *mf* *f* *chop*

Vc. *f*

6

Alto

a - go - ny — has out - last - ed ours.

Perc. *mp* **harder sticks** **TO TAM-TAM**

Mand. *mp sub.*

Vc. *mp* IV

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## 6. DISCORD

Georges Bataille

Eric Shanfield

Alto  $\text{♩} = 88$   
*p* ten hun - dred hous - es fall *mp* a hun - dred then a thou sand dead *mf*

Perc. soft beaters *p* *l.v.*

Mand. *mf*

Vc. *p* *mp*

Alto *mf* at the win - dow of the clouds. *mp*

Perc. damp *pp* *mp* TO ALMGLOCKEN *l.v.*

Mand. non arp. *mp*

Vc. *mf* sul pont. non trem. *mp*

# BECAUSE IT IS BITTER, AND BECAUSE IT IS MY HEART

## 7. DEATH

Bill Knott

Eric Shanfield

Alto  $\text{♩} = 100$  *mf*

Mand.

Vc. *norm.* *mf*

Go-ing to sleep, I cross my hands on my chest.

Alto

Mand.

Vc.

They will place my hands like this. It will look as

Alto *mp* *rit.*

Mand. *mp* *pizz.*

Vc. *mp*

though I am fly-ing in-to my-self.

# BECAUSE IT IS BITTER, AND BECAUSE IT IS MY HEART

## 8. YOU HAVE MY EYES

Matthea Harvey

Eric Shanfield

$\text{♩} = 108$

Alto *p* *sotto voce*  
You Have My Eyes Give them back.

Perc. ALMGLOCKEN soft mallets *ppp* TO WOODBLOCK *p*

Mand. *p*

Vc. arco *p* pizz.

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a tempo of 108 beats per minute. The Alto part begins with a piano (*p*) dynamic and a *sotto voce* instruction. The lyrics are: "You Have My Eyes Give them back." The Percussion part features two sections: "ALMGLOCKEN" (played with soft mallets at *ppp*) and "TO WOODBLOCK" (played at *p*). The Mandolin part has a piano (*p*) dynamic. The Violin part is marked *arco* and *p*, with a *pizz.* instruction at the end.

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## 9. THE BLACK RIDERS: III

Stephen Crane

Eric Shanfield

♩=100

Alto

Perc.

Mand.

Vc.

*p*

In the de-sert I

*p < mf* *sim.*

6

Alto

Perc.

Mand.

Vc.

*mf* *p*

saw a crea - ture na-ked, be-sti-al Who, squat-ting u-pon the ground

10

Alto

Perc.

Mand.

Vc.

*mezzo voce*

Held his heart in his hands And ate of it.

15

Alto *mp norm.*  
I said, "Is it good, friend?"

Perc.

Mand. *damp* *sim.*  
*mp*

Vc.

21

Alto *mp*  
"It is bit-ter - bit-ter," he an - swered;

Perc.

Mand.

Vc.

27

Alto

Perc.

Mand. *p*

Vc. *p < mf* *sim.*

32

Alto *pp* *sotto voce*  
"But I like it Be -

WOODBLOCK  
med. rubber mallet  
*pp*

Mand. *pp*

Vc. *pp* molto sul pont.

37

Alto *mezzo voce*  
cause it is bit - ter, And be - cause it is my heart."

Perc. 5:6

Mand.

Vc. *p* *mf* *sim.*

40

Alto

Perc. *pp* *mf* *p*

Mand. *pp* *mf* *p*

Vc. *p* *mf*

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## 10. INSPIRATION: NO. 10

Dean Young

Eric Shanfield

♩=126 *f*

Alto  
You are in your pa - ja - mas eat - ing cold piz - za when you de -

Perc.  $\frac{2}{4}$   $\frac{4}{4}$   $\frac{2}{4}$   $\frac{4}{4}$

Mand. *chop*  
*f*

Vc. *pizz.*  
*f*

5 *f*

Alto  
cide to make a coy - o - te. Now all you need is a

Perc.  $\frac{4}{4}$   $\frac{3}{4}$   $\frac{4}{4}$   $\frac{7}{8}$

Mand. *strum* *chop*  
*p* *f*

Vc. *arco* *off the string* *on the string*  
*p* *f*

9

Alto  
preg - nant coy - o - te.

Perc. TAM-TAM *f* *l.v.*

Mand. *strum*

Vc.