

ERIC SHANFIELD

Eric Shanfield | 2013 | 6'

poems by Heather Christle

Soprano

2 Violins

Tuba or Contrabass

This is my second Heather Christle setting, and like its predecessor *The Grave Was Too Small So We Had To Take the Horse Out* it features a soprano paired with the lyrical sounds of a violin—two violins instead of two sopranos, this time. And I threw in a tuba too, because why not. (It can also be a bass.)

There are four songs, each using different combinations of the same simple musical material. I wanted the setting to be as straightforward and melodic as possible, allowing Christle's odd and magical poem to take center stage.

What Is Amazing was written on Boxing Day 2013 with pencil on paper in the old-fashioned way and lasts about six minutes.

by Heather Christle

1.

That man thinks he is a man but he is a candle.

Who will tell him? He will be destroyed

and his wife will be on fire. Life is tough for that man especially.

It is also tough for animals who think they are lighting up

a lounge or ballroom when in fact they are eating

and shitting like any other chicken in the rain.

2.

Take two rocks and knock them together.

That will be the new candle. Who said chivalry is easy?

The drawer where they keep flashlights is empty

and the room is full of quivering animals.

Safety is unreachable from here but it is possible to reach one another.

3.

If you laid out your wishes from head to toe

you would be so far from home you would need years just

to measure the distance. Might as well start now

while it's still raining and the governor's

meeting with friends. Some animals

are friendlier than others like roosters

who would destroy your face if they could only remember

which one is you and which one the source of all fire.

4.

Do you know anything about how to stop disaster?

If yes go home and save what little you have.

All of this rain and nowhere to keep it.

You need one dozen buckets and an extra box of candles.

What is amazing is how the animals won't stop sleeping.

It's like sleeping is where they hide their goals.

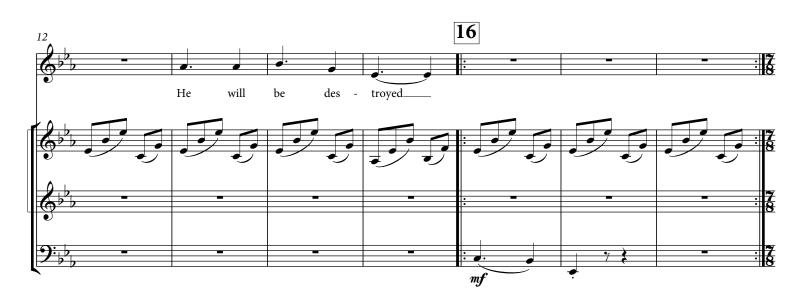
One's goal in life sounds like a match put out in water.

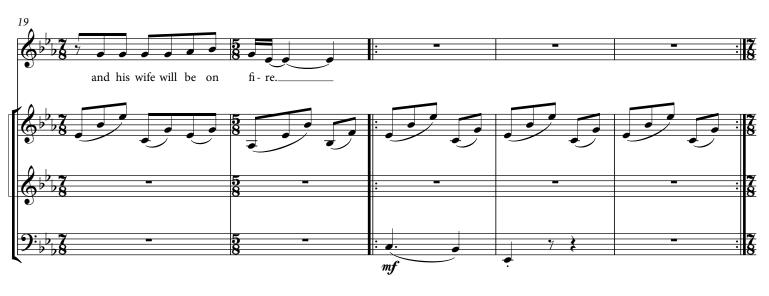
You might not know you've done it but for the sudden lack of light.

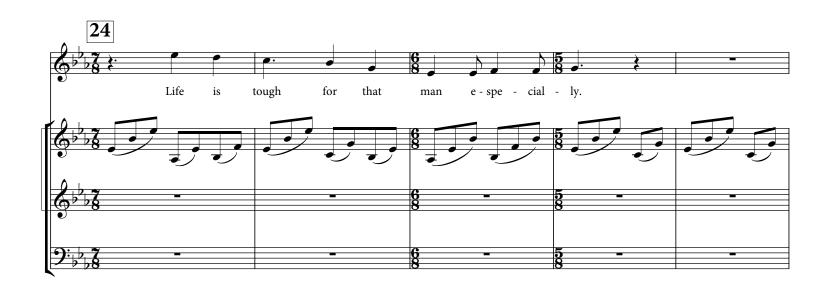
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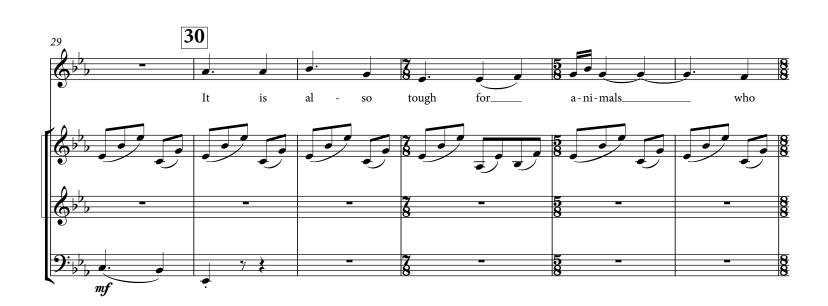


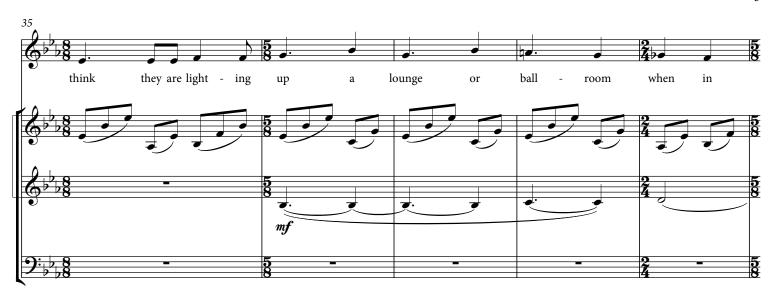




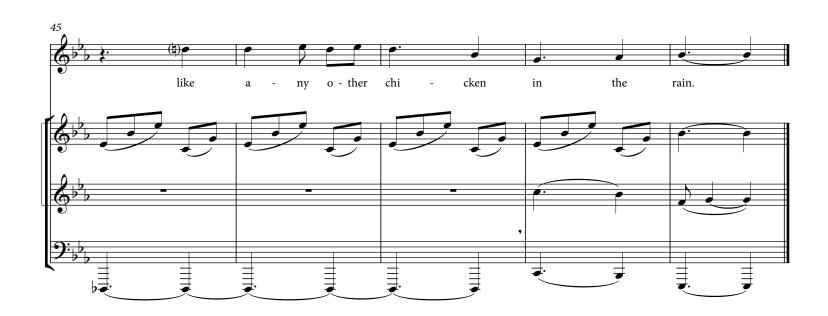




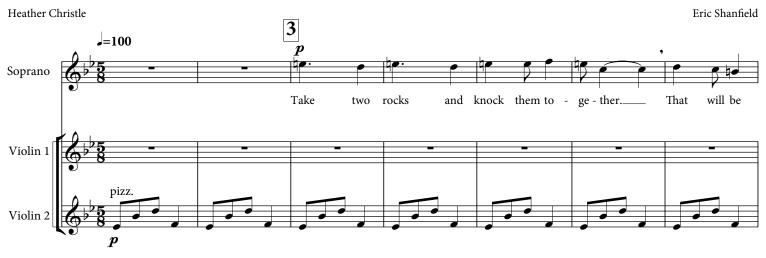


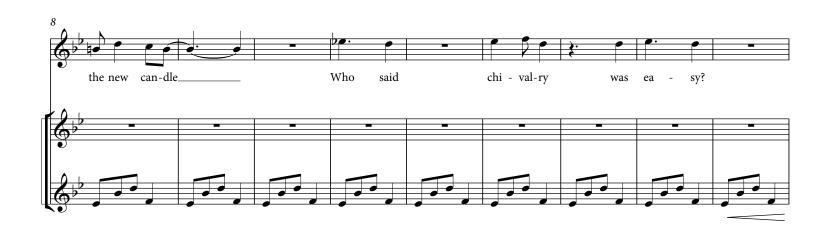






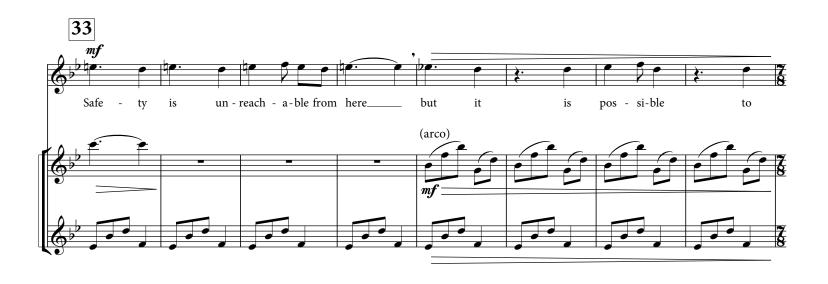
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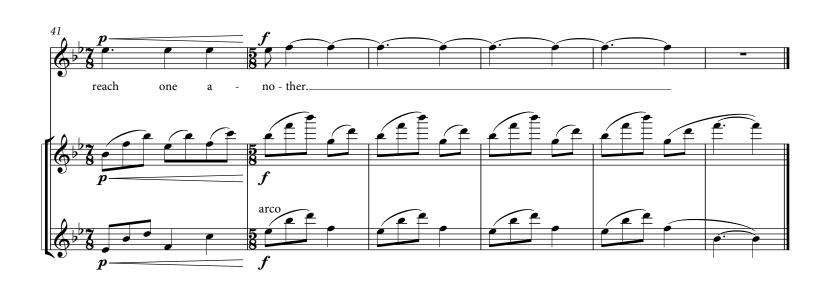












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