

# AMULET



ERIC SHANFIELD



# AMULET

Eric Shanfield | 2009, rev. 2013 | 7'  
poems by Samuel Menashe  
*for Emilia*

I. Winter

II. Star

III. Water

Mezzo-soprano

Alto Flute in G

Clarinet in B♭

Horn in F

Tenor Trombone

Viola

Violoncello

Score in C.

Grand pauses are always measured.

Samuel Menashe's tart, epigrammatic poems complete yet another entry in the long line of short verse set by Eric Shanfield. Arranged according to theme, I have set a variety of his work for mezzo-soprano with a mixed ensemble focused on a warm mid-range.

The first song begins with a short musical idea, progressively adding one note to the end and then subtracting one note from the beginning until gradually it works its way around to where it began. The second tries a theme before unwinding it into another, while the final song is a kind of miniature song cycle in itself, each poem separated by a brief measured pause. The work ends with a lush, quiet coda just after sunset.

*Amulet* was written for Emilia.

## AMULET | poems by Samuel Menashe

### I. Winter

#### *Winter*

I am entrenched  
Against the snow,  
Visor lowered  
To blunt its blow

I am where I go

#### *The Dead of Winter*

In my coat I sit  
At the window sill  
Wintering with snow  
That did not melt  
It fell long ago  
At night, by stealth  
I was where I am  
When the snow began

#### *(I Lie In Snows)*

I lie in snows  
Drifted so high  
No one knows  
Where I lie

### II. Star

A-  
round  
my neck  
an amu-  
let  
Be-  
tween  
my eyes  
a star  
A  
ring  
in my  
nose  
and a  
gold  
chain  
to  
Keep me  
where  
You  
are

### III. Water

#### *Sheen*

Sun splinters  
In water's skin  
Quivers hundreds  
Of lines to rim  
One radiance  
You within

#### *(A Pot Poured Out)*

A pot poured out  
Fulfills its spout

#### *(The Sea Staves)*

The sea staves  
Concave waves

#### *(A Flock of Little Boats)*

A flock of little boats  
Tethered to the shore  
Drifts in still water  
Prows dip, nibbling

#### *Waterfall*

Water falls  
Apart in air  
Hangs like hair  
Light installs  
Itself in strands  
Of water falling  
The cliff stands

#### *Twilight*

Looking across  
The water we are  
Startled by a star—  
It is not dark yet  
The sun has just set

Looking across  
The water we are  
Alone as that star  
That startled us,  
And as far

*for Emilia*  
**AMULET**

Samuel Menashe

I. WINTER

Eric Shanfield

Musical score for orchestra and choir, page 3.

**Mezzo-soprano:**  $\text{♩} = 132$ , dynamic *mf*. Notes: - (Measure 1), - (Measure 2), - (Measure 3), *I* (Measure 4), *am* (Measure 5), *en-* (Measure 6).

**Alto Flute:**  $\text{♩} = 132$ , dynamic *f*.

**Clarinet in B♭:**  $\text{♩} = 132$ , dynamic *f*.

**Horn in F:**  $\text{♩} = 132$ , dynamic *ff*.

**Tenor Trombone:**  $\text{♩} = 132$ , dynamic *ff*.

**Viola:**  $\text{♩} = 132$ , dynamic *ff* (Measure 1), *f* (Measure 2), *mf* (Measure 3), eighth-note patterns (Measures 4-6).

**Violoncello:**  $\text{♩} = 132$ , dynamic *ff* (Measure 1), *f* (Measure 2), *mf* (Measure 3), eighth-note patterns (Measures 4-6).

**M.-S. (Mezzo-Soprano):**  $\text{♩} = 132$ , key signature changes from  $\text{G major}$  to  $\text{F# minor}$  at bar 7. Notes: *trenched* (Measure 7), *A* (Measure 8), *- against* (Measure 8), *the* (Measure 9), *snow,* (Measure 10).

**A. Fl. (Alto Flute):**  $\text{♩} = 132$ , key signature changes from  $\text{G major}$  to  $\text{F# minor}$  at bar 7.

**Cl. (Clarinet):**  $\text{♩} = 132$ , key signature changes from  $\text{G major}$  to  $\text{F# minor}$  at bar 7.

**Hn. (Horn):**  $\text{♩} = 132$ , key signature changes from  $\text{G major}$  to  $\text{F# minor}$  at bar 7.

**Tbn. (Trombone):**  $\text{♩} = 132$ , key signature changes from  $\text{G major}$  to  $\text{F# minor}$  at bar 7.

**Vla. (Violin):**  $\text{♩} = 132$ , eighth-note patterns (Measures 1-6).

**Vc. (Cello):**  $\text{♩} = 132$ , eighth-note patterns (Measures 1-6).

## I. WINTER

2

12

13

M.-S. — Vi - sor low-ered To blunt its blow  
A. Fl. flt. norm. lip gliss.  
Cl.  
Hn. 3  
Tbn.  
Vla.  
Vc.



17

20

p sub.

M.-S. I am where I go  
A. Fl.  
Cl.  
Hn.  
Tbn.  
Vla.  
Vc.

f p sub.

## I. WINTER

3

22 *mf*

M.-S. In my coat I sit

A. Fl.

Cl.

Hn.

Tbn.

Vla.

Vc. off the string *mf*

Straight mute

26 *mf*

27

M.-S. At the win-dow sill Win - ter - ing with snow

A. Fl.

Cl.

Hn.

Tbn. via sord.

Vla.

Vc.

## I. WINTER

4

31 **33**

M.-S. That did not melt It fell long a - go At

A. Fl.

Cl.

Hn. Senza sord.

Tbn. *mf*

Vla. pizz.

Vc. *mf*



35

M.-S. night, by stealth I was where I am When the

A. Fl.

Cl.

Hn. *mf*

Tbn.

Vla.

Vc.

## I. WINTER

5

40

M.-S.      A. Fl.      Cl.      Hn.      Tbn.      Vla.      Vc.

snow be-gan

**44**

**45**

M.-S.      A. Fl.      Cl.      Hn.      Tbn.      Vla.      Vc.

I \_\_\_\_\_ lie \_\_\_\_\_ in  
W tr.....

**f**

I. WINTER

52

2

55

57

p

M.-S. *chiff*

A. Fl. *ff*

Cl. *ff*

Hn. *ff*

Tbn. *ff*

Vla. *ff*

Vc. *ff*

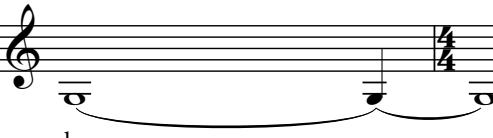
*p* No \_\_\_\_\_ one \_\_\_\_\_

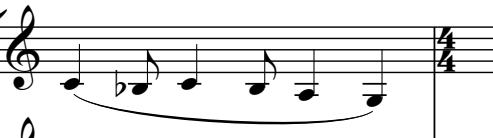
In hat

*p*

## I. WINTER

59

M.-S.   
knows.

A. Fl.   
*Sigh (Lip gliss.)*

Cl. 

Hn. 

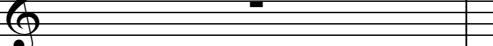
Tbn.   
p

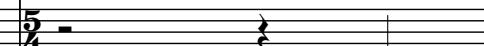
Vla.   
p

Vc. 

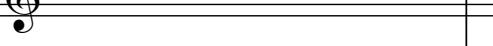
63

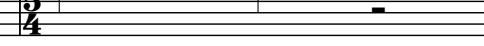
M.-S.   
I lie

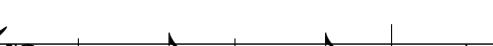
A. Fl.   
  
1/2 tr~~~~~

Cl.   
  
p

Hn.   
  
p

Tbn.   
  
gliss.  
pp

Vla.   


Vc.   


*for Emilia*  
**AMULET**

Samuel Menashe

## II. STAR

Eric Shanfield

## II. STAR

9

9

M.-S. ring in my nose and a gold chain to Keep me where You are

A. Fl.

Cl.

Hn. *sim.*

Tbn. *sim.*

Vla.

Vc.

**14**

M.-S.

A. Fl.

Cl.

Hn.

Tbn.

Vla.

Vc.

## II. STAR

**18**

M.-S.

A. Fl. *mf*

Cl. *mf*

Hn. *mf*

Tbn. *mf*  
off the string

Vla. *mf*  
off the string

Vc. *mf*

M.-S.

A. Fl. *p* *mf*

Cl. *p* *mf*

Hn. + + + + +

Tbn. *p* *f*

Vla. *p* *f*

Vc. *mp* < *f*

for Emilia  
**AMULET**  
III. WATER

Samuel Menashe

Eric Shanfield

**J=104**

Mezzo-soprano      *p*

Alto Flute

Clarinet in B $\flat$       *mp*

Horn in F

Tenor Trombone      *Cup mute*  
                        *mp*  
                        con sord.

Viola      *mp*  
                        pizz. con sord.  
                        damp

Violoncello      *mp*

M.-S.      *mp*

splin-ters In wa - ter's skin Qui - vers

A. Fl.

Cl.

Hn.

Tbn.

Vla.

Vc.

## III. WATER

**10**

M.-S.      hun - dreds Of lines to rim 3

A. Fl. 6 6 6 6

Cl.

Hn.

Tbn. 2:3 2:3 2:3 2:3

Vla. 3:4 3:4 3:4 3:4 II

Vc. 3:4 3:4 3:4 3:4



13

M.-S. — 5 7

A. Fl. 6 6 flt. 5 7

Cl. 5 7

Hn. 5 7

Tbn. 5 7

Vla. 5 7

Vc. 5 7

16 *mf* **17**

M.-S. One ra - di - ance

A. Fl. *mf* **6** **3** **6** **3**

Cl. *mf*

Hn. *mf*

Tbn.

Vla. *pizz.* **mf**

Vc. *mf*

**18**

M.-S. You with in

A. Fl. **6** **3** **6** **3** **6** **6**

Cl. **6** **3** **6** **3** **6** **6**

Hn. **6** **3** **6** **3** **6** **6**

Tbn.

Vla. **6** **3** **6** **3** **6** **6**

Vc. **6** **3** **6** **3** **6** **6**

## III. WATER

24

M.-S.

A. Fl.

Cl.

Hn.

Tbn.

Vla.

Vc.

(Cup mute)

p  
mp

p  
mp



29

M.-S.

A. Fl.

Cl.

Hn.

Tbn.

Vla.

Vc.

mf  
f

mf  
f

mf  
f

via sord.

arco  
p

f  
arco  
8va

p

30

M.-S. :||: :||: 23  
A. Fl. :||: :||: 16

Cl. :||: :||: 23  
Hn. :||: :||: 16

Tbn. :||: :||: 23  
Vla. :||: :||: 16

Vc. :||: :||: 23  
mf f 16

32

M.-S.

A. Fl.

Cl.

Hn.

Tbn.

Vla.

Vc.

33

12/8

flt.

12/8

1/2

tr.

12/8

mf

Straight mute

gliss.

12/8

mf

pp

pizz. norm.

via sord.

mp

12/8

mf

## III. WATER

34 *mf*

M.-S. A pot poured out Ful - fills its spout | ***g*** - ***16***

A. Fl.

Cl.

Hn.

Tbn. (Straight mute) via sord. | ***g*** - ***16***

Vla. (pizz.) | ***g*** - ***16***

Vc. | ***g*** - ***16*** *mf*

==

37 *mf*

M.-S. The sea staves | ***16***

A. Fl. *mf* *mf* *sim.*

Cl. ***16*** | *p*

Hn. | Senza sord.

Tbn. | *p*

Vla. norm. | ***16*** *mf*

Vc. | ***16***

M.-S. *ff*

A. Fl. *ff*

Cl. *ff*

Hn. *ff*

Tbn. *ff*

Vla. *ff* arco

Vc. *ff*

Con - - - cave - - - waves - - -



46

50

M.-S.

A. Fl.

Cl.

Hn.

Tbn.

Vla.

Vc.

## III. WATER

54

M.-S. *p*

A flock of lit-tle boats.

A. Fl.

Cl.

Hn.

Tbn.

Vla. *mp*

Vc. *p*      4      *mp* pizz.

56 *mp*

M.-S. Te - thered to the shore.

A. Fl. *tr* *tr* *tr* *tr* *tr*

Cl. *mp*

Hn.

Tbn.

Vla.

Vc.

*6* *8*

*6* *8*

*6* *8*

*6* *8*

*6* *8*

*6* *8*

M.-S. *mf*

Drifts in still wa - ter \_\_\_\_\_ Prows dip

A. Fl.

Cl.

Hn. *mf*

Tbn. *p* *mf* *p*

Vla. *mf* arco (not slurred)

Vc. *mf*

This section of the score begins with a vocal line from the soprano (M.-S.) and continues with woodwind and brass instruments. The vocal line consists of eighth-note patterns. The woodwinds provide harmonic support, and the brass instrument (Tbn.) has a rhythmic pattern marked 'mf'. The strings (Vla. and Vc.) play eighth-note patterns marked 'mf' with the instruction 'arco (not slurred)'.

64

M.-S. nib - bl - ing \_\_\_\_\_

A. Fl.

Cl.

Hn.

Tbn. *mf* *p* *f*

Vla. *f*

Vc. *f*

This section begins with a vocal line from the soprano (M.-S.) followed by woodwind entries. The woodwinds play eighth-note patterns, and the brass instrument (Tbn.) has a rhythmic pattern marked 'mf' followed by 'p' and 'f'. The strings (Vla. and Vc.) play eighth-note patterns marked 'f'.

## III. WATER

**68**

M.-S. 

**71**

M.-S. 

74

M.-S. *ff*

A. Fl.

Cl.

Hn. *ff*

Tbn. *ff*

Vla. *ff*

Vc. *ff*

Light in - stalls It - self in strands Of

77

M.-S. *mf*

A. Fl.

Cl.

Hn. *p*

Tbn. *p*

Vla.

Vc.

wa - ter fall - ing

## III. WATER

*mp* > ***p*****83**

M.-S. 80

The cliff stands

A. Fl.

Cl.

Hn.

Tbn.

Vla. pizz.

Vc. *p* pizz.

85

M.-S.

Look-ing a - cross The wa-ter we are Star-tled by a star

A. Fl.

Cl.

Hn.

Tbn.

Vla.

Vc.

90

M.-S. It is not dark yet The sun has just set

A. Fl.

Cl.

Hn. *warm*

Tbn. *p* *warm*

Vla.

Vc.



96

M.-S. 10 8 Look-ing a-cross The wa - ter we are A-

A. Fl.

Cl.

Hn. *p*

Tbn.

Vla. arco con sord.

Vc. *p*

## III. WATER

102

99

M.-S. lone as that star That star-tled us,— And as

A. Fl.

Cl.

Hn.

Tbn.

Vla. *p*

Vc. *p*

*arco con sord.*



104

M.-S. far

A. Fl. *pp*

Cl.

Hn.

Tbn.

Vla.

Vc. *p*