

VANISHING POINTS



ERIC SHANFIELD

VANISHING POINTS

Eric Shanfield

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poems by Valerio Magrelli

translated by Jamie McKendrick

Alto (or Mezzo-soprano)

Euphonium

Percussion (see below)

Cello

Percussion specifications:

⇒2 Rattles: One held in each hand, shaken simultaneously.

⇒1 Bass drum. Muffled, each stroke nevertheless sounding clear and defined.

⇒1 Marimba. Bb2 is required.

⇒7 Almglocken: Bb3, C#/Db4, Eb4, F4, F#/Gb4, G4, and G#/Ab4. These should be performed with mallets that provide a warm, rounded sound, not a bright metallic clang.

⇒2 Floor toms. No snares. Pitches should be clearly differentiated, with both low. They need not be floor toms but should be of that approximate size and pitch.

⇒1 Timpani. 32"-30".

⇒1 Tam-tam. Large.

Mallets throughout are suggested, and different solutions may be used to create the desired sound.

VANISHING POINTS

Valerio Magrelli, translated by Jamie McKendrick

1. There's a moment when the body

There's a moment when the body
gathers itself in breathing
and thought stops and hesitates.
Likewise things
tugged by the moon
undergo the influence of
the tidal sigh, the malleable eclipse.
And the boats' planks
swell gently in water.

2. Sleep subtracts much from life.

Sleep subtracts much from life.
The work suspended at the edge of day
gradually sinks into silence.
The mind subtracted from itself
is veiled with eyelids.
And sleep grows within sleep
like a sinister, second body.

3. This rain of ashes

This rain of ashes
on the yellow courtyards
makes the sheets
seem gravestones.
Each pegged cloth a shroud
in the vertical noon.

4. To write as if this

To write as if this were a work of translation,
something already penned in another
language.
The word is freighted and hesitates,
still keeps vibrating
as when on a keyboard the held notes
endure beyond the detachment of touch,
keep sounding on until their silencing.

5. I should like, one day,

I should like, one day,
to be turned to marble,
to be stripped of nerves,
glistening tendons, veins.
Just to be airy enamel,
slaked lime, the striped
tunic of a wind
ground to a halt.

6. You stand on a pier

You stand on a pier
as though on a ruin,
a bridge that gives
onto the waters.

VANISHING POINTS

1. THERE'S A MOMENT WHEN THE BODY

Valerio Magrelli
trans. Jamie McKendrick

Eric Shanfield

Alto $\text{♩} = 112$ *mf*

There's a mo - ment when the

Euphonium *mf*

Rattles *mf*

Violoncello *mf*

8 10 14

bo - dy ga - thers it - self in breath - ing

Euph. *mf*

Rat. *mf*

Vc. *mf*

16 21

and thought stops and he - si-tates.

Euph. *mf*

Rat. *mf*

Vc. *mf*

VANISHING POINTS - 1. THERE'S A MOMENT WHEN THE BODY

23 26 28

Like - wise things tugged by the moon un-der - go the in-flu-ence of the

Euph.

Rat.

Vc.

30 36

ti - dal sigh, the mall - ea - ble e - clipse.

Euph.

Rat.

Vc.

37 39 41

mp *molto rit.*

And the boats' planks swell gent - ly in wa - ter.

Euph.

Rat.

Vc.

VANISHING POINTS

2. SLEEP SUBTRACTS MUCH FROM LIFE.

Valerio Magrelli
trans. Jamie McKendrick

Eric Shanfield

♩=96 7

Alto *mf*
Sleep sub - tracts much from life.

Euphonium *mf*
Muffled; soft beaters; always *l.v.*

Bass Drum *mf*

Violoncello *mf*

8 10 *mf*

Euph. The work sus - pen - ded at the edge of day_

B. D.

Vc.

14 18 20

Euph. gra - du - al - ly sinks in - to si - lence_

B. D. *f*

Vc. *f* sul pont. norm. *f*

VANISHING POINTS - 2. SLEEP SUBTRACTS MUCH FROM LIFE.

21 24 26

f

The mind sub-tract-ed from it - self is veiled with eye-lids. —

Euph.

B. D.

Vc.

28 *mf*

And sleep grows with-in

Euph.

B. D.

Vc.

mf

mf

mf

2nd x

2nd x

2nd x

35 38 *p* *pp* sotto voce

sleep like a sin - is - ter, se - cond bo - dy.

Euph.

B. D.

Vc.

pp

pp

flautando

pp

VANISHING POINTS

3. THIS RAIN OF ASHES

Valerio Magrelli
trans. Jamie McKendrick

Eric Shanfield

Alto $\text{♩} = 104$ *mp* 5

This rain of ash - es. on the yel - low

Euphonium *mp*
rubber mallets

Marimba *mp*

Violoncello *mp*

8

7 court - yards makes the sheets

Euph. *p* 3 3 3 *mf*

Mar. *mf* *p*

Vc. *mf*

12 14 *mp*

seem grave - stones.

Euph. *mp*

Mar. *mf* *p* 5 *mp* 6 5 *p* 3

Vc. *mp*

18

17 *mf*
 Each pegged cloth a

Euph. *mf*

Mar. *mf*

Vc. *mf*

24

22 *mp*
 shroud in the

Euph. *mp*

Mar. *mp*

Vc. *mp* pizz.

27

27 ver - ti - cal noon.

Euph. *sub. ff* *p* *ff* *p* *ff* ft.

Mar. *sub. ff*

Vc. *ff*

VANISHING POINTS

4. TO WRITE AS IF THIS

Valerio Magrelli
trans. Jamie McKendrick

Eric Shanfield

♩=126

5

mf

Alto

Euphonium

Almglocken

Violoncello

mf *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *p*

soft rubber mallets

To write

7

10

mp

Euph.

Alm.

Vc.

mf *p* *mf* *mp* *mp* *mp*

as if this were a work

13

Euph.

Alm.

Vc.

of trans - la - - tion,

19

mf

some - thing al - rea - - dy panned in a - no - ther

Euph.

mf *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *p*

Alm.

mf

Vc.

mf

25

29

mp

lan - uage.

Euph.

mp *mf* *sub. pp*

Alm.

mp *sub. pp*

Vc.

mf *mp* *sub. pp*

33

31

f

The word is freight - ed

Euph.

f *f*

Alm.

f *f*

Vc.

f *f*

38

36

mp

and he - si - tates, still keeps vi - bra - ting

Euph.

Alm.

Vc.

mp

mp

espress.

mp

42

45

mf

as when on a key - board the held notes en - dure be - yond the de -

Euph.

Alm.

Vc.

mf

mf

mf

49

47

dolce

tach - ment of touch, keep sound - ing on un - til their si - lenc - ing.

Euph.

Alm.

Vc.

VANISHING POINTS

5. I SHOULD LIKE, ONE DAY,

Valerio Magrelli
trans. Jamie McKendrick

Eric Shanfield

♩ = 120 4

Alto *p*

Euphonium *p*
medium-soft mallets

Floor Toms *p*
col legno

Violoncello *p*

I should like, — one day, to be turned to

6 8

Euph. *p*

Toms *p*

Vc. *p*

mar - ble, to be stripped of nerves,

11 12

Euph. *p*

Toms *p*

Vc. *p*
jeté

— glist - en - ing ten - - dons,

16

veins _____ veins. _____

Euph.

Toms

Vc.

20

22

mp 3 3 3 3

mp *ppp* *mp* *ppp* *mp* *ppp*

arco sul pont.

mp

Euph.

Toms

Vc.

24

mp

Just to be air - - y e -

Euph.

Vc.

30 32

na - mel, slaked lime, the striped

Euph.

Toms

Vc.

mp

to norm. →

36 rit. al fine

tu - nic of a wind

Euph.

Toms

Vc.

norm.

42

groud to a halt.

Euph.

Toms

Vc.

f

f

f

VANISHING POINTS

6. YOU STAND ON A PIER

Valerio Magrelli
trans. Jamie McKendrick

music by Eric Shanfield
poems by Valerio Magrelli
translated by Jamie McKendrick

Alto $\text{♩} = 80$
mp

You stand on a

Euphonium *mp*

Percussion
timpani mallets (all insts.)
tr
mp
pizz.

Violoncello *mp*

5

Alto *mf*

pier as though on a

Euph. *mf*

Timp. *mp* *E → Eb* *Bass Drum* *mf*

Vc. *mf*

9

Alto

ru - in,

Euph. *mp*

B. D. *Timpani* *tr*

Vc. *mp*

13

f

a bridge

Euph.

Bass Drum

B. D.

mf

Timpani

f

Vc.

f

17

18

that gives on - to the wa - ters.

Euph.

Timp.

mf

tr $E_b \rightarrow G_b$

arco

espress.

Vc.

mf

21

Euph.

Timp.

mp

Tam-tam

warm

p

Vc.

mp