

WHAT IS AMAZING



ERIC SHANFIELD

WHAT IS AMAZING

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.

WHAT IS AMAZING

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.

WHAT IS AMAZING

1

Heather Christle

Eric Shanfield

$\text{♩} = 104$ Unhurried

mf **5**

Soprano

That man_____

Violin 1

mf

Violin 2

Tuba or Bass

7

thinks he is a man but he is a can - dle... Who will tell him?_

12

16

He will be des - troyed_____

mf

19

and his wife will be on fi-re.

mf

24

Life is tough for that man e-spe-cial-ly.

29

30

It is al-so tough for a-ni-mals who

mf

35

think they are light - ing up a lounge or ball - room when in

40

fact they are eat - ing and shit - ting

45

like a - ny o - ther chi - cken in the rain.

WHAT IS AMAZING

2

Heather Christie

Eric Shanfield

♩=100

3

p

Soprano

Take two rocks and knock them to - ge - ther.____ That will be

Violin 1

Violin 2

pizz.

p

8

the new can-dle_____ Who said chi - val-ry was ea - sy?

17

p **22**

The drawer where they keep flash-lights is

pizz.

mp

mp

p

25 31

emp-ty and the room is full of qui-ver-ing a-ni-mals.

arco
mf

33

mf

Safe - ty is un-reach - a-ble from here but it is pos - si-ble to

(arco)
mf

41

p *f*

reach one a - no - ther.

p *f*

arco

WHAT IS AMAZING

3

Heather Christle

Eric Shanfield

p $\text{♩} = 126$ *mp* *mf*

Soprano

If you laid out your wish-es _____ from head to toe _____ you would be so

Tuba or Bass

p *cresc.* *mp* *mf*

9 *f*

far from home _____ you would need years just to mea - sure the dis - tance.

f

17 *p* *mp* *mf*

Might as well start now _____ while it's still rain - ing _____ and the

p *mp*

26 31 *f*

go - ver - nor's meet - ing with friends. Some a - ni - mals are

mf *f* *f*

34 *p* *f* G.P.

friend - li - er than o - thers like roos - ters who would de - stroy your face

p *f* *p* *f*

43 *p* *mp* *mf*

if they could on - ly re - mem - ber which one is you and

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

51 *f*

which one the source of all fire.

f

WHAT IS AMAZING

4

Heather Christle

Eric Shanfield

6
♩=104 As at first *mf*

Soprano
Do you know_____

Violin 1
mf con sord.

Violin 2
mf con sord.

Tuba or Bass
mf 8^{vb}

8

a - ny-thing a - bout_____ how to stop dis - as - ter?_____

14

13

If yes go home and save what lit - tle you have._____

mf 8^{vb}

19

f.

All of this rain and no - where to

f

f

8^{va}

26

27

mf

keep it. You need one do-zen buck - ets and an

mf

mf

32

34

p

ex - tra box of can - dles. What is a - ma - zing

p sub.

p sub.

38 41

What is a - ma - zing is how the

p *mf* *mf* *8vb*

44 47 *mp mezzo voce*

a - ni - mals won't stop sleep - ing. It's like sleep - ing is where they hide their goals. One's

mp *mp* *mp*

51 *mf norm.* 55

goal in life sounds like a match put out in wa - ter.

mf *mf* *mf* *mf*

60

58 *mp*
You might not know You might not know you've

66

65 *rit.*
done it but for the sud - den lack of

71 *a tempo*

p
light.