

DIVIDE THESE



ERIC SHANFIELD

DIVIDE THESE

Eric Shanfield

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for Matt Evans

Soprano

Vibraphone

1. Not Known

2. Canal

More than a decade after I put these poems aside for setting, *Divide These* was suddenly written one autumn afternoon.

DIVIDE THESE
poems by Saskia Hamilton

1. Not Known

Seventy lakes below.
The snow.
Houses at the edges.
The small airplane inches forward.
Salt on my fingers; a child waking one seat
back. Lakes have given way to fields.
No, not water; snow on the fields,
little squares and rectangles,
light glinting off the plane,
glinting off small rivers, traveling
forward like the rest of us from matter
to the account of matter. The boy
protests; he won't stop now until we land.

2. Canal

The visitors chatted about old cooks and
dogs.
The figure on the bed in the front room:
the mouth ajar: the window ajar:
the drawbridge raised for the barge.

Canal

So: the bridge was too low, which meant
this length was not for trade.
Your passengers must crouch in the center
of the hull. And your boat goes under
at the speed of walking.

Canal

Shoulders bowed round like the hull of the
boat.
If the spine were to hold, you would float,
you would move toward the mouth,
you would not scuttle.

for Matt Evans
DIVIDE THESE
1. NOT KNOWN

Saskia Hamilton

Eric Shanfield

♩=72

Soprano

mp 3

Se-ven-ty lakes be- low.

Vibraphone

mp

4

Sop.

The snow.

6

7

Vib.

16

7

Sop.

Hous-es at the edg - es.

10

Vib.

12

Sop.

The small air - plane inch - es for - ward.

17

5

Vib.

16

DIVIDE THESE - 1. NOT KNOWN

18

Sop. Salt on my fin -

Vib.

25

Sop. gers; a child wak - ing one

Vib.

32

35

Sop. seat back. Lakes have

Vib.

39

43

Sop. gi - ven way to fields.

Vib.

45 48

Sop. *mf*
No, not wa - ter;

Vib. *mf* *mp*

49 52

Sop. *mf*
Snow on the fields,

Vib. *mf* *mp*

54 *mf*

Sop. *mf*
lit - tle square and rec - tan - gles, light glint - ing off the plane,

Vib. *mf*

60 64

Sop. *f*
glint - ing off small ri - vers,

Vib. *f*

Ped.

DIVIDE THESE - 1. NOT KNOWN

66 *f*

Sop. *f*
travel - ing for - ward like the rest of us.

Vib.

70

Sop. *f*
from mat - ter

Vib. *ped.*

74 76

Sop. *f*
to the ac - count of mat - ter.

Vib.

77 78

Sop. *mp*
The boy pro tests;

Vib. *mp*

DIVIDE THESE - 1. NOT KNOWN

80

Sop. *mf*

he won't stop now un - til we land.

Vib. *mf* *mp* *pp*

Ped.

The image shows a musical score for Soprano (Sop.) and Vibraphone (Vib.). The Soprano part begins at measure 80 with the lyrics "he won't stop now un - til we land." and a dynamic marking of *mf*. The Vibraphone part starts with a *mf* dynamic, followed by a *mp* section and a *pp* section. A *Ped.* (pedal) marking is present under the *mp* section. The score is divided into measures with time signatures of 6/16 and 4/4.

for Matt Evans
DIVIDE THESE
2. CANAL

Saskia Hamilton

Eric Shanfield

♩=116

Soprano *p* *mp*

The vi - si-tors chat-ted a -

Vibraphone *p* *mp* *f*

5

Sop. *f* *mp*

bout old cooks and dogs. The

Vib. *mp* *f* *p*

9

Sop. *f* *p*

fi - gure on the bed in the front room:

Vib. *mp* *f* *p*

13

14

Sop. *p*

the

Vib. *mp* *p*

Ped. *mp* *p*

16 *mf*

Sop. mouth a - jar: the win - dow a - jar: the

Vib. *mf*

Ped. *mf*

20 *p* **22** *p*

Sop. draw - bridge raised for the barge. So: the bridge

Vib. *p*

Ped. *p*

24 *mp* **26** *mp*

Sop. was too low, which meant

Vib. *mp*

28 *f* **30** *f*

Sop. this length was not for trade.

Vib. *f*

32 35

Sop.

Vib.

36 *mf* *f*

Sop.

Your pas - sen - gers. must crouch in the cen - ter of the

Vib.

40 *mf* *f* *mf* 43

Sop.

hull. And your boat goes un - der

Vib.

44 *mp*

Sop.

at the speed of walk - ing.

Vib.

48 51

Sop.

Vib.

p *p*

53

Sop.

Vib.

Shoul - ders bowed round like the hull_ of the

p 3

57 60

Sop.

Vib.

boat. If the spine were to

3

61

Sop.

Vib.

hold, you would

65

Sop. float,

Vib. *f* *pp*

69

Sop. *pp* *f*
you would move toward the mouth,

Vib. *f* *pp* *f* *pp*

72

Sop. *pp* *f* *pp*
you would not scut - tle.

Vib. *f* *pp* *f* *pp*

75

Sop.

Vib. *f* *pp* *pp* *pp* *pp*
with fingers
pp *pp* *pp*
Red. *no Red.*