

# ERRATICS

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for Chamber Choir

Amy Brandon 2018

*Text by David Martin. Written for Vox London Collective*

## Erratics

I awoke, beached in a field,  
tattooed in petroglyphs,  
and tended by children  
within earshot of calving glaciers.

The sun sets a headstone  
behind me on a frayed nap  
of fescue. Sparrows mock:  
I've been shanghaied  
by frozen tides. They trick  
up skeins from my sopping  
dressings, but the moon  
can wax my wounds.

Drawing back the blackouts,  
I rewatch my family fleeing,  
their tears melting a retreat  
from the moraine's tide-line  
to shrivel in the crevasses.

I huddle in a pallid plot,  
slabs shorn by wind swords.  
A capsized osprey breaks  
its back across my brow.

When they realize my stone  
arrows will end the war,  
ice waves will lift my bulk  
like a seed and carry me back  
to the carcass I was pried from.

**Instrumentation.**

SATB chamber choir, unaccompanied, divisi

**Duration.**

~6min

**Notes.**

1. 'Hah' implies an open-mouthed forceful breath sound, like breathing on a frosty windowpane.
2. 'Sss' is a snake-like sound with closed teeth and stretched-back lips
3. Spoken or noise sounds use a crossed notehead, sung notes use a regular notehead.
4. Tap or clap softly the same rhythm as is sung (Altos only).
5. Mutter the poem's text ad. lib. in roughly the areas given.
6. Breathing ad. lib., maintain either a vocal fry sound (gurgling in the back of the throat) OR a buzzing sound. In larger groups, split Bass 1 to sing both.
7. This should sound insect- or cicada-like.

# Erratics

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*With conviction*

♩=56

Note 1: Breath sound, mouth open

Soprano 1

Musical staff for Soprano 1 in G major, 3/4 time. It features a series of eighth notes with a breath sound 'Hah,' followed by 'hah,' and 'hah,' across three measures. The notes are beamed together and have a fermata over the final note of each group. A dynamic marking of *p* is present.

Soprano 2

Musical staff for Soprano 2 in G major, 3/4 time. It features a series of eighth notes with a breath sound 'Hah,' followed by 'hah,' and 'hah,' across three measures. The notes are beamed together and have a fermata over the final note of each group. A dynamic marking of *p* is present.

Alto 1

Musical staff for Alto 1 in G major, 3/4 time. It features a series of eighth notes with a breath sound 'Hah,' followed by 'hah,' and 'hah.' across three measures. The notes are beamed together and have a fermata over the final note of each group. A dynamic marking of *p* is present.

Alto 2

Musical staff for Alto 2 in G major, 3/4 time. It features a series of eighth notes with a breath sound 'Hah,' followed by 'hah,' and 'hah.' across three measures. The notes are beamed together and have a fermata over the final note of each group. A dynamic marking of *p* is present.

Tenor 1

Musical staff for Tenor 1 in G major, 3/4 time. It features a series of eighth notes with a breath sound 'Hah,' followed by 'sss,' and 'sss,' across three measures. The notes are beamed together and have a fermata over the final note of each group. A dynamic marking of *p* is present.

Tenor 2

Musical staff for Tenor 2 in G major, 3/4 time. It features a series of eighth notes with a breath sound 'Hah,' followed by 'sss,' and 'sss.' across three measures. The notes are beamed together and have a fermata over the final note of each group. A dynamic marking of *p* is present. A note labeled 'Note 2: Through closed teeth' is indicated above the staff.

Bass 1

Musical staff for Bass 1 in G major, 3/4 time. It features a series of eighth notes with a breath sound 'Hah,' followed by 'hah.' across three measures. The notes are beamed together and have a fermata over the final note of each group. A dynamic marking of *p* is present. The final two notes are marked with a dynamic of *p* and a fermata.

Bass 2

Musical staff for Bass 2 in G major, 3/4 time. It features a series of eighth notes with a breath sound 'Hah,' followed by 'hah.' across three measures. The notes are beamed together and have a fermata over the final note of each group. A dynamic marking of *p* is present. The final two notes are marked with a dynamic of *p* and a fermata.

**A**

11

S. 1  
hah,

S. 2  
hah,

**Note 4: Tap sung rhythm with two fingers in hand or on body.**  
*pp*  
I ah, a-woke, beach'd in a field, tat - tood in pe - tro - glyphs, I ah, a-woke, beach'd in

**Note 4: Tap sung rhythm with two fingers in hand or on body.**  
*mp*  
I ah, a-woke, beach'd in a field, tat - tood in pe - tro - glyphs, I ah, a-woke, beach'd in a

T. 1  
sss,

T. 2  
ah,

B.  
ah,

14

S. 1  
hah.

S. 2

A. 1  
a field, tat - tood in pe - tro - glyphs, I ah, a-woke, beach'd in a field, tat - tood in pe - tro -

A. 2  
field, tat - tood in pe - tro - glyphs, I ah, a-woke, beach'd in a field, tat - tood in pe - tro - glyphs,

T. 1  
sss,

T. 2  
ah,

B.  
ah,

17 *mf* 3

S. I a - woke, beached

A. 1 *pp*  
glyphs, I ah, a - woke, beach'd in a field, tat - tood in pe - tro - glyphs, I ah, a - woke, beach'd in

A. 2 *mp*  
I ah, a-woke, beach'd in a field, tat - tood in pe - tro - glyphs, I ah, a-woke, beach'd in a

T. 1 *p*  
sss,

T. 2 *p*  
ah, ah,

B. *p*  
ah,



20

S. in a field and, tend - - -

A. 1  
a field, tat - tood in pe - tro - glyphs, I ah, a - woke, beach'd in a field, tat - tood in pe - tro -

A. 2  
field, tat - tood in pe - tro - glyphs, I ah, a-woke, beach'd in a field, tat - tood in pe - tro - glyphs,

T. 1  
sss,

T. 2  
ah,

B.  
ah, ah,

23

S. *mf*  
ed by child - ren, with - - -

A. 1 *pp*  
glyphs, I ah, a - woke, beach'd in a field, tat - tood in pe - tro - glyphs, I ah, a - woke, beach'd in

A. 2 *mp*  
I ah, a-woke, beach'd in a field, tat - tood in pe - tro - glyphs, I ah, a-woke, beach'd in a

T. 1 *p*  
sss.

T. 2 *p*  
ah, ah.

B. *p*  
ah,

26

S. in ear - shot of, calv - - -

A. 1  
a field, tat - tood in pe - tro - glyphs, I ah, a - woke, beach'd in a field, tat - tood in pe - tro -

A. 2  
field, tat - tood in pe - tro - glyphs, I ah, a-woke, beach'd in a field, tat - tood in pe - tro - glyphs,

T. *mf*  
Calv - - - - - ing

B. *mf*  
ah. Calv - - - - - ing

29

S. ing glac - - iers, oo.

A. 1  
glyphs, I ah, a - woke, beach'd in a field, tat - tood in pe - tro - glyphs, I ah, a - woke, beach'd in

A. 2  
I ah, a-woke, beach'd in a field, tat - tood in pe - tro - glyphs, I ah, a-woke, beach'd in a

T.  
gla - - - - - ciers, oo.

B.  
gla - - - - - ciers, oo.

**B**

32

S. *f* The sun sets a head - stone be - hind me on a fray'd

A. 1 *mp* a field, tat - tood in. The sun sets a head - stone be - hind me on a fray'd nap of

A. 2 *mp* field, tat - tood in pe - tro - glyphs. The sun sets a head - stone be - hind me on a fray'd nap of

T. *mp* Sun \_\_\_\_\_ sets, \_\_\_\_\_

B. *mp* Ch, ch, ch, ch, ch, ch, ch, a

35

S. nap of fes - cue. Spar - rows mock. I've been shang - hai'd by fro -

A. fes - cue. Spar-rows mock. I've been shang - hai'd by fro - zen ti - des. The sun sets a head - stone be -

T. ah, \_\_\_\_\_ ah, \_\_\_\_\_ fro - - - -

B. fray'd nap of fes - cue. Spar - rows mock. Ch, ch, ch, ch,

38

S. zen tides, they trick up skeins, from my sop - ping dress - ings, but the

A. hind me on a fray'd nap of fes - cue. Spar-rows mock. I've been shang - hai'd by fro - zen ti - des.

T. zen, \_\_\_\_\_ ah, \_\_\_\_\_ ah. \_\_\_\_\_

B. ch, ch, ch, ch, from my sop - ping dress - ings, but the moon can wax my,

41

S. moon can wax my wounds. The sun sets a head - stone on a fray'd nap of

A. The sun sets a head - stone be - hind me on a fray'd nap of fes - cue. Spar - rows mock. I've been

T. Ah,

B. ch, ch, ch, ch, ch, ch, ch, ch, a fray'd nap of fes - cue.

44

S. fes - cue. Spar - rows mock. Oh, oh,

A. shang - hai'd by fro - zen ti - ides. Oh, oh, oh,

T. 1. ah.

T. 2. ah.

B. Spar - rows, spar - rows. Oh,

Note 4: Stop tapping

Note 5: Mutter text of poem ad. lib.

I awoke, beached in a field, and tended by children  
tattooed in petroglyphs, within earshot of calving glaciers.

47 **C**

S. oh, oh, oh, oh,

A. 1. Draw - ing back the black-outs I re - watch my fam'ly flee - ing, Draw - ing back the black-outs I re -

A. 2. oh, oh, oh, oh,

The sun sets a headstone behind me on a frayed nap of fescue. Sparrows mock: I've been shanghaied by frozen tides. They trick up skeins from my sopping dressings, but the moon can wax my wounds.

T. 1.

T. 2. oh, oh,

B. oh, oh,



50 *mf* 7

S. 1 oh, oh, oh.

S. 2 oh, oh, oh.

A. 1 watch my fam'ly flee - ing, Draw-ing back the black-outs I re-watch my fam'ly flee - ing.

A. 2 oh, oh, oh,

T. 1 Drawing back the blackouts, their tears melting a retreat from the moraine's tide-line  
I rewatch my family fleeing, to shrivel in the crevasses.

T. 2 oh.

B. oh.

53 *pp*

S. 1 Flee - - - - - ing,

S. 2 *mf* Back, black, I, re - watch, fam' - ly, flee - ing,

A. 1 *mf* Draw - ing back the black-outs I re - watch my fam' - ly flee - ing,

A. 2 *mf* oh, *f* oh,

T. 1 Black - out, I, flee - ing,

T. 2 *mf* The black-outs, re - watch my, flee - ing,

B. 1

B. 2 *pp* Oh,

Note 5: Mutter text of poem ad. lib.

I huddle in a pallid plot, A capsized osprey breaks  
slabs shorn by wind swords. its back across my brow.

D

55

S. 1 *mf*  
their tears, melt - - ing, re - -

S. 2 *mf*  
Back, black, I, re-watch, fam'-ly, flee - ing. Their tears, melt-ing, re - treat,

A. 1 *mf*  
Draw-ing back the black-outs I re-watch my fam'-ly flee - ing. Their tears, melt-ing, re - treat,

A. 2  
oh, oh. Their, re - ,

T. 1  
black - out, I, flee - ing, tears, treat,

T. 2 *mf*  
the black-outs, re-watch my, flee - ing. Their tears, melt-ing, re - treat,

When they realize my stone arrows will end the war, ice waves will lift my bulk like a seed and carry me back to the carcass I was pried from.

Note 6: Vocal fry or buzz ad. lib.

B. 1  
(from.) ugh,

B. 2 *mf*  
oh, oh, oh,

60

S. 1  
treat, mor - - aine's, the cre - -

S. 2  
from the, mor - aine's, tide - line, shri - vel, in the,

A. 1  
from the, mor - aine's, tide - line, shri - vel, in the,

A. 2  
mor - , shri -

T. 1  
aines, vel,

T. 2  
from the, mor - aine's, tide - line, shri - vel, in the,

B. 1  
(ugh)

B. 2  
oh, oh,

65 Note 7: Cicida-like

*mp* 9

S. 1 vasse. Tk - a tk - a tk - a tk - a tk - a tk - a tk - a tk - a tk -

S. 2 cre - vasse. Tk - a tk - a tk - a tk - a tk - a tk - a tk - a tk -

A. 1 cre - vasse.

A. 2 cre -

T. 1 *mf* Oh, I hud -

T. 2 *mf* Oh, I hud -

B. 1 *mf* Oh,

B. 2 *mf* Oh,

(ugh.)

oh.

68

S. 1 a, tk - a tk - a tk - a tk - a tk - a tk - a tk - a tk -

S. 2 a, tk - a tk - a tk - a tk - a tk - a tk - a tk - a tk -

A. Tk - a tk - a tk - a tk - a tk - a tk - a tk - a tk - a,

T. dle, in

B. oh,

70 *mf*

S. 1 a. Slabs

S. 2 a, tk - a tk - a tk - a tk - a tk - a tk - a tk -

A. tk - a tk - a tk - a tk - a tk - a tk - a tk - a,

T. a pal - lid plot, slabs

B. oh,

73

S. 1  
shorn by wind swords.

S. 2  
a, tk - a tk - a tk - a tk - a tk - a tk - a tk - a tk -

A. 1 *mf*  
Shorn by wind swords,

A. 2  
tk - a tk - a tk - a tk - a tk - a tk - a tk - a tk - a,

T.  
shorn by wind swords.

B.  
oh,

75

S. 1  
Ah, ah, ah.

S. 2  
a, ah, ah.

A. 1  
ah, ah, ah,

A. 2  
tk - a tk - a tk - a tk - a tk - a tk - a tk - a tk - a, ah,

T.  
A cap - - sized os -

B.  
oh.

77 *mf*

S.  
Cap - - sized, os - - - prey.

A. *mf*  
ah, ah, ah, ah, ah.

T.  
prey breaks a - cross my brow.

B. *mf*  
Cap - - sized, os - - - prey.

**E**

83

11

S.

A. 1 **Spoken at pitch**  
*f*  
When they re - a - (ah) - lize my stone ar - rows will end the war, When they re - a - (ah) - lize my

A. 2 **Spoken at pitch**  
*f*  
When they re - a - (ah) - lize my stone ar - rows will end the war, When they re - a - (ah) - lize my

T.

B. 1 **Spoken at pitch**  
*f*  
When they re - a - (ah) - lize my

B. 2 **Spoken at pitch**  
*f*  
When they re - a - (ah) - lize my

B.



86

S. *f*  
Ice wa - ves

A. 1  
stone ar - rows will end the war, When they re - a - (ah) - lize my stone ar - rows will end the war,

A. 2  
stone ar - rows will end the war, When they re - a - (ah) - lize my stone ar - rows will end the war,

T.

B. 1 **Sung.**  
stone ar - rows will end the war, Ice wa - ves

B. 2  
stone ar - rows will end the war, When they re - a - (ah) - lize my stone ar - rows will end the war,

89

S. 12  
S. will lift my bulk like,

A. 1 Ice waves will lift my bulk like a seed and car - ry me back, Ice waves will lift my bulk like

A. 2 Ice waves will lift my bulk like a seed and car - ry me back, Ice waves will lift my bulk like

T. - - -

B. 1 will lift my bulk like,

B. 2 When they re - a - (ah) - lize my stone ar - rows will end the war, Ice waves will lift my bulk like

92

S. 1 a seed, *ff*

S. 2 a seed and car - ry

A. 1 a seed and car - ry me back, Ice waves will lift my bulk, like a seed and car - ry me back,

A. 2 a seed and car - ry me back, Ice waves will lift my bulk, like a seed and car - ry me back,

T. *f* A seed and, me, Ice waves will, bulk, a seed and, me,

B. 1 a seed and car - ry

B. 2 a seed and car - ry me back, Ice waves will lift my bulk like a seed and car - ry me back,



14 <sup>100</sup>

S. *ff*  
was pried

A. 1 *Sung.*  
the war, ice waves will lift my bulk like a seed and car - ry me back to the car - cass I was pried *Sung.*

A. 2 *Sung.*  
the war, ice waves will lift my bulk like a seed and car - ry me back to the car - cass I was pried

T. *ff*  
from.

B. 1 *ff*  
was pried

B. 2 *ff*  
from.

<sup>102</sup>

S. *ff*  
from. The sun sets a head - stone be - hind me on a fray'd

Note 4: Clap sung rhythm with two fingers in hand or on body.

A. 1 *ff*  
from. The sun sets a head - stone be - hind me on a fray'd nap

Note 4: Clap sung rhythm with two fingers in hand or on body.

A. 2 *ff*  
from. The sun sets a head - stone be - hind me on a fray'd nap of

T. 1 *ff*  
Sun sets,

T. 2 *ff*  
Sun sets,

B. 1 *ff*  
from. Ah, ah, ah, ah, ah, ah, ah, a

B. 2 *ff*  
Ah, ah, ah, ah, ah, ah, ah, a



105 15

S.   
 A. 1   
 A. 2   
 T. 1   
 T. 2   
 B. 1   
 B. 2

108

S.   
 A. 1   
 A. 2   
 T. 1   
 T. 2   
 B. 1   
 B. 2

111

S. moon can wax my wounds. The sun sets a head - stone on a fray'd nap of

A. 1 *ff* des. The sun sets a head - stone be - hind me on a fray'd nap of fes - cue. Spar - rows mock. I've

A. 2 The sun sets a head - stone be - hind me on a fray'd nap of fes - cue. Spar - rows mock. I've been

T. 1 Sun \_\_\_\_\_ sets \_\_\_\_\_ ah, \_\_\_\_\_

T. 2 Sun \_\_\_\_\_ sets \_\_\_\_\_ ah, \_\_\_\_\_

B. 1 oo, oo, oo, oo, oo, oo, oo, oo, a fray'd nap of fes - cue.

B. 2 oo, oo, oo, oo, oo, oo, oo, oo, a fray'd nap of fes - cue.

114

S. fes - cue. Spar - rows mock. Oh, oh,

A. 1 *mf* been shang - hai'd by fro - zen tides. Oh, oh, \_\_\_\_\_ oh.

A. 2 *mf* shang - hai'd by fro - zen ti - des. Oh, oh, \_\_\_\_\_ oh,

T. 1 ah. \_\_\_\_\_ *mf* Oh,

T. 2 ah. \_\_\_\_\_ *mf* Oh,

B. 1 Spar - - rows, spar - - rows. \_\_\_\_\_ Oh,

B. 2 Spar - - rows, spar - - rows. \_\_\_\_\_ Oh,

Note 3: Stop tapping

117 17

S. oh, oh, oh,

A. 1 Draw - ing back the black-outs I re - watch my fam' - ly flee - ing,

A. 2 oh, oh, oh,

T. 1 oh,

T. 2 oh,

B. oh,



119

S. oh, oh.

A. 1 Draw - ing back the black-outs I re - watch my fam' - ly flee - ing.

A. 2 oh, oh.

T. 1 oh.

T. 2 oh.

B. oh.