

5-2013

## mayH2013

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**Wherever we go**

**nothing but testimony**

**and then the sky was blue**

**what could we do**

**I have sung so many arias**

**arias without operas**

**tragedies without stories**

**glory of grief**

**I call the sky to witness**

**the things you've seen**

**are what I meant**

**and that's an aria too**

**one more high C**

**on the ice floe drifting north.**

**27 May 2013**

=====

**Could you take a dislike to a man  
from the shape of the numbers he writes?**

**Can you take the auspices of the day  
from the sound of the coffeepot perking?**

**Will all these trees crowding in around me  
finally agree?**

**27 May 2013**

=====

**I demand of myself  
a certain number of mistakes,  
a choir singing away  
long after the Mass has ended.**

**27 May 2013**

=====

**It has no past**

**no more than a flute**

**wind out there breath in here**

**is there a difference?**

**27 May 2013**

=====

**Wait, wait again**

**be a tree for me**

**or a star, a star**

**over there far,**

**far, distance is all.**

**Distance is all.**

**How far is a tree.**

**How long have you traveled**

**to be so far.**

**This far. This tree.**

**This tree to me.**

**28 May 2013**

## **IF I LET MYSELF LISTEN TO MUSIC**

**But I don't listen**

**I write against it**

**always, *stumm***

***stumm* but setting**

**words against tones,**

**sentences against such**

**tunes or even daring**

**audibly to pose**

**a seventh voice to the**

**ricecare's fugue,**

**I write so much I can't hear.**

**I write so I don't hear.**

**Or I would perish from the sound alone.**

**28 May 2013**



## **EVERY POEM IS A DUET**

**Come to the window**

**and see the house outside**

**coming closer**

**to surround us with its quiet**

**order, tree after tree.**

**28 May 2013**

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**The night between cold and hot**

**is where the living lives.**

**Her collage of the white lion**

**leaping out of the black trees**

**opens my lips. I speak**

**I hear the bottom of the sea.**

**Her roar.**

**28 May 2013 (Rhinebeck)**

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1.

**Leaden light full of angeling**

**the metal lead is when the light**

**busies itself with matter**

**so deep it sinks in**

**among the common elements**

**iron in the blood**

2.

**The temperature reads us.**

**We trust in numbers**

**we created them**

**our fertile daughters, sons.**

**Or they created us.**

**3.**

**Listen to the colors**

**if you really want to know**

**full of matter lacrimae rerum**

**even the cloud is sad**

**the quiet things around us**

**heal all they can.**

**4,**

**You came in the night**

**to shine my leaves.**

**Then the pale inspiration**

**crept up the sky.**

**Put me to sleep**

**better to remember**

**mistletoe swived up the oak**

**Chaucer at Gravesend measured the tide**

for no purpose but his curiosity

his playful reverence maybe

for the wet hem of God.

And then all this was just a tree.

5.

Sometimes the sun comes out and lifts the wind

a man could lean on his fence in such weather

eager it might be for a woman to pass

her shape distant against the greenery

something must come of all this what is your name?

6.

So any random day

though none is random

rehearses the stages

of the alchemic work.

Goes through the colors—

a sacred day starts

**with the dusk before  
ends with luminous sunset  
gold sun fat on horizon—  
the colors show you how to shunt your mind  
through all the phases of the Opus  
some of them violent, wipe-out,  
white from above,  
a pure white cloud abates your grief.**

**Listen to the colors I said  
and knew not what I meant  
and then the colors told me  
until I talked too much to listen.  
A tidal river first home of humankind.**

**29 May 2013**

=====

**Local amazements**

**ring around the neck**

**six Saxons clambering through the surf**

**women-ones, not boy warriors,**

**blond bashers anyhow**

**out of the green sea.**

**onto the greener shore**

**pricked with pink flowers**

**the way late spring does**

**a month or more of me**

**makes me a preacher.**

**29 May 2013**

