

Graham Hair

# *Divine Visitation*

for Soprano and Harp

This is a Reference Score, in A4 (Portrait) format

A Soprano Score in A4 (Landscape) format  
and a Harp Part in B4 format, are available on request

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This composition was commissioned by Margaret Mackay and John Gerrard to celebrate the sixtieth birthday of Margaret's sister Alison Mackay in 2012. The text, *Divine Visitation*, is by the Canadian poet Elizabeth Brewster and appears in her collection *Burning Bush*, published by Oberon Press in 2000. It is set to music with her generous permission. Elizabeth was born in Chipman, New Brunswick in 1922 and died in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan in 2012.

**Elizabeth Brewster: *Divine Visitation***

Source 'Divine Visitation' in Jacob's Dream, 59–61.

Baucis and Philemon, that good old couple,  
looked out and saw the wayfarers  
(tramps, hobos, perhaps)  
and were ready to offer them  
what hospitality their small hut could afford.

Philemon gave them a basin of water  
to wash their hands from the grime of the road,  
went out to the garden to gather greens  
while Baucis laid the table with a white cloth  
and slipped a tile under one table-leg  
that was shorter than the others.  
The younger man jumped up to help her,  
joked with her, quite like a son, she thought,  
while the older, taller, more serious man  
leaned back in his chair,  
softened the wrinkles of his brow.

There were new-laid eggs for supper  
with the greens and olive oil,  
bread and honey,  
their own rustic wine.  
No great feast,  
but the two men were hungry,  
especially the younger one.

“Another slice of that bread, good Baucis;  
another sip of that excellent wine, Philemon.

Not a crumb left, she thought,  
but the loaf expanded,  
the pitcher refilled itself,  
and the two old people stared  
in awe at their guests.

“Your neighbours in the village  
were not so friendly,”  
the tall one said, becoming taller.  
“They shut their doors on us,  
and one of their dogs nipped  
at my son's heels.”

His voice was full of thunder.

“Never mind,” the young man said,  
“I soon flew away from the brute.”  
And he leaped up to show his winged heels  
and his strange staff with its coiling snakes.

“What reward do you want  
for serving a meal to the gods?”  
the tall one asked.

“Nothing,” they stammered together,  
“only that when we die  
it will be together  
so that neither will see the other's funeral.”

They awoke in the morning  
to see their house transformed  
into a palace or a temple,  
but the village below destroyed,  
a flood rolled over it.  
For many years they lived,  
serving their gods in the temple,  
sometimes visited by ever-young Mercury,  
their favourite god,  
and when they died  
they become two linden trees  
one at each side of the threshold,  
greeting weary travellers  
with gentle whisperings.

Any survivors of the village  
were more wary of gods or angels.



13 14

Soprano  
gave them a ba-sin of hot wa - ter \_\_\_\_\_ to wash their hands from the

Harp  
A<sub>4</sub> C<sub>4</sub>

15 16

Soprano  
grime \_\_\_\_\_ of the road \_\_\_\_\_ went out to the gar-den to ga-ther greens while

Harp  
D<sub>4</sub> A<sub>b</sub> E<sub>b</sub> B<sub>b</sub>

17 18

Soprano  
Bau - cis laid the ta - ble \_\_\_\_\_ with a white \_\_\_\_\_ cloth with and

Harp  
F<sub>4</sub> G<sub>b</sub> G<sub>4</sub> C<sub>4</sub>

19 20

Soprano  
slipped a tile un-der one ta-ble leg \_\_\_\_\_ that was shor - ter \_\_\_\_\_ than the o - thers

Harp  
F<sub>4</sub> A<sub>4</sub> C<sub>4</sub> G<sub>4</sub>

[The younger man.....]

21 22

Soprano

The youn - ger man jumped up to help her \_\_\_\_\_ joked with her

Harp

F# Bb Eb

23 24

Soprano

quite like a son she thought while the ol - - der tal - ler

Harp

Gb Ab Bb Eb F# Db C#

25 26

Soprano

more se - - rious man \_\_\_\_\_ leaned back \_\_\_\_\_ in his

Harp

27

Soprano

chair \_\_\_\_\_

Harp

G#

Soprano

28

sof - - - - - tened the

Harp

Soprano

29

wrin - kles of his brow

Harp

[There were new-laid eggs....]

Soprano

30

31

Harp

*mf*

G<sub>b</sub>

Soprano

32

*mf*

There were new - laid eggs for sup-per

33

with the greens and o - live oil

Harp



Soprano

34 bread and ho-ney

35 their own ru - stic wine

Harp

Soprano

36 bread and ho - ney

Harp

F#

E $\flat$  G# A $\flat$  B $\flat$  G# D $\flat$  C#

Soprano

38 bread and ho - ney

39 their own ru - stic

Harp

G $\flat$  C $\flat$

[No great feast.....]

Soprano

40 wine

41 No great feast

42 but the

Harp

F $\flat$

Soprano 43 44  
two men were hun - gry es - pe - cial - ly the youn - ger one

Harp F# G# C#

Soprano 45 46  
"A - no - ther slice of that bread good Bau - cis;

Harp D#

Soprano 47 48 49  
a - no - ther sip of that ex - cel - lent wine, Phi - le - mon

Harp G# D# C#

[Not a crumb....]

Soprano 50 51

Harp

52

Soprano

Not a crumb left she thought but the loaf the loaf ex -

Harp

D $\flat$

E $\flat$

B $\flat$

54

Soprano

pan - - - ded the pit-cher re-newed it - self and the

Harp

F $\sharp$

A $\flat$

G $\flat$

56

Soprano

two old peo - ple stared in awe in

Harp

F $\sharp$

58

Soprano

awe

Harp

A $\sharp$

B $\sharp$

G $\sharp$

D $\sharp$

G $\sharp$ F $\sharp$



72 73 74 75

Soprano voice his voice was full of Thun - - - der His voice was full of

Harp A $\flat$  gliss. A $\flat$  D $\sharp$  gliss. G $\flat$  gliss. gliss.

76 77 78 79

Soprano Thun - der Thun - - - der Thun - - -

Harp F $\flat$  gliss. gliss. gliss. D $\flat$ C $\flat$  gliss. G $\sharp$  gliss. A $\sharp$  B $\sharp$  gliss.

["Never mind".....]

80 81 **f** 82

Soprano - - der Ne-ver mind the young man said

Harp F $\sharp$ A $\flat$  gliss. E $\sharp$  C $\sharp$  **f** G $\flat$  D $\sharp$

83 84

Soprano I soon got a - way from that brute

Harp E $\flat$  D $\flat$  D $\sharp$

Soprano

85 And he leapt up to show his winged heels and his strange staff with its

Harp

E<sub>4</sub>  
D<sub>b</sub>

E<sub>b</sub>

Soprano

88 coi - - - - - 89 ling snakes.

Harp

E<sub>4</sub>

E<sub>b</sub>  
B<sub>b</sub>

["What reward".....]

Soprano

90 91 92

Harp

f F<sub>b</sub>  
C<sub>b</sub>

Soprano

93 *f* What re-ward do you want 94 for ser - ving a

Harp

F<sub>4</sub>

F<sub>b</sub>

Soprano 95 meal to the gods 96 a meal to the gods to the

Harp B $\flat$  E $\flat$  G $\flat$  D $\flat$  A $\flat$  F $\flat$  C $\flat$

Soprano 98 gods 99 the tall one asked 100

Harp C $\sharp$  C $\flat$  B $\flat$

["Nothing".....]

Soprano 101 *mf* No-thing No-thing 102 No-thing No-thing they stam-mered to - ge - ther\_ 103

Harp *mf* B $\flat$

Soprano 104 On - ly that when we die 105 it will be to - ge - ther 106 So that nei\_ ther\_ will\_

Harp F $\sharp$  G $\sharp$  C $\sharp$





116  
Soprano troyed des - troyed a flood  
Harp  
F<sub>b</sub> D<sub>4</sub>  
3 3 3 3

[For many years....]

119 120 121  
Soprano rolled o-ver it a flood rolled o - ver it  
Harp  
F<sub>4</sub> G<sub>4</sub> C<sub>4</sub> D<sub>b</sub> D<sub>4</sub> D<sub>b</sub> D<sub>b</sub> D<sub>b</sub>  
mf pp  
gliss.

122 123 124  
Soprano For ma - ny years For ma-ny years For ma - ny  
Harp  
C<sub>b</sub> G<sub>b</sub>  
3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3

125 126  
Soprano years they lived ser - ving the gods in the tem - ple  
Harp  
G<sub>4</sub> C<sub>4</sub> D<sub>4</sub>  
3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3

127 128

Soprano

Some-times vi - si- ted by e-ver - young

Harp

G $\flat$   
D $\flat$

129 130 131

Soprano

Mer - cu-ry their fa-vour-ite god

Harp

A $\natural$  B $\natural$   
*mf*

132 *p* 133 134 135

Soprano

and when they died they be-came two lin-den trees two lin-den trees

Harp

F $\sharp$  E $\natural$  C $\sharp$   
G $\natural$  D $\natural$   
G $\sharp$  G $\natural$

136 137 138 139

Soprano

one on each side of the thre-shold gree-ting wea-ry tra-vel- lers with gen-tle whis - per-ings

Harp

C $\natural$

Soprano

140 141 *pp* 142 143

A - ny sur - vi - vors A - ny sur - vi - vors of the vil - lage

Harp

*pp* C#

Soprano

144 145 146 147

were more wa - ry of gods of gods

Harp

Bb F# C#

Soprano

148 149 150 150A 150B

or an - - - gels

Harp

*Meno mosso* D# Ab