

Joseph Karasek

12 TONES

1

on silent prairies, when there is no wind, you can hear
the longings gone.

the sheep do not sing back. the goat horns do not sound.

2

burst of blue wind, too late, to the windblare,
silent now, in a mind's face.

an empty chair, draped,
washed out in the fever of moments.

3

white day. waits, falcon-like, scooped, kissed
into being, quelled in a gale of stars.

4

into a cluster of harmony, snakes, persists, dies,
waits again to be born, wide-eyed,

tumbles into a pile of abandoned ears.

5

the musicians have all gone home.
a barrelful of noise. discarded candy wrappers.

6

the sea waits, hidden in sea-horn. a sister shape, the human ears,
a circle narrowing down.

long drift. into the hollows.

7

shapes. a pool of darkness. narcissus hears only echo,
above the river.

the river shudders.

8

loose cords, hiding in inward, naked.

wrapped in convoluted conch,
the terrible ear of memory.

9

scorched-sighs of time forgotten—
the deep flight of vertebrae.

10

dumb tone. numb. number. thus spake Pythagorus.
In the air. a breath.

11

shofar. so far, far away. morning mist.

auricle. equilibrium. discord.
sea-conch.

12

fiddle peg. creak in the fiddlehead.

awkward gambol into daylight. stumbles.
at-one with.

alone. forgiven.