

N° 1165

Eve Beglarian

What Justice Looks Like

{in honor of Esther Hobart Morris, the first female judge in the United States}

2016

for solo voice with optional percussion and drone



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What Justice Looks Like was written for Payton Macdonald to perform at South Pass City as part of his Sonic Divide project. Esther Hobart Morris (1814-1902) served as Justice of the Peace there in 1870, during the Gold Rush, right after women were given the vote in Wyoming Territory. After her term was over, she had her husband arrested for assault and battery. She eventually left both him and South Pass City, becoming an activist for women's rights nationally.

Notes to the performer:

I think you want to think of this piece as an intimate invocation to Esther. You'll want to find the transposition that lets both the lowest and the highest notes of the (rangy) vocal line be vulnerable and loving. You are welcome to do the piece slower (or faster) than the marked tempo if you like, and you don't need to stick too precisely to the notated rhythms as long as the phrases stay coherent.

You can do it as a solo vocal piece, or you can invent a rhythmic accompaniment that helps you express the piece, adding extra bars of rest between verses for improvisational flourishes as you prefer. I did not take the time to make an interesting drum part in my demo, so please don't use it as a model. If you like a drone, feel free to use one. For the demo, I used Henry Lowengard's excellent iPhone app, Srutibox, in just intonation mode.

WHAT JUSTICE LOOKS LIKE

(in honor of the first female judge in the United States)

Esther Hobart Morris
doe of the Wyoming dawn
Esther, Esther, milliner and mother,
a consecrated woman standing strong
Esther Hobart Morris
you are my morning star
abolitionist and suffragette
succeeding ugly bigot Justice Barr

Esther, show me justice
Esther, bestow your peace
I'm longing for your wisdom
unfurled from west to east
you're what justice looks like
the justice of my peace
an enacted female standing tall
giving voice unto the least

hey ma'am,
thank you ma'am,
South Pass City is the
real life Suffragette City
South Pass City is the
real life Suffragette City

Esther Hobart Morris
your justice brought you peace
I know your sojourn at the divide
spreads hope that does not cease
married to a brawling drunk
and neither young or pretty
you used the law to take him down
right there in South Pass City

Esther, teach me justice
Esther, bestow your peace
I'm longing for your wisdom
unfurled from west to east
you're what justice looks like
and justice brings me peace
a righteous female standing strong
giving voice unto the least

What Justice Looks Like

Eve Beglarian

$\text{♩} = 112$

Es - ther Ho - bart Mor - ris _____

8

_____ doe of the Wy - o - ming dawn _____ Es - ther,

14

Es - ther, mil - li - ner _____ and mo - ther, a con - se - cra - ted wo - man

19

stand - ing _____ strong _____ Es - ther _____ Ho - bart

25

Mor - ris _____ you are _____ my morn - ing star, _____

31

ab - o - li - tion - ist and suf - fra - gette _____ suc - ceed - ing _____ ug -

36

- ly bi - got Jus - tice _____ Barr _____ Es - ther,

42

show me jus - tice, Es - ther, _____ be - stow _____ your peace, _____

48

_____ I'm long - ing for your wis - dom _____ un - furled _____

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8 from west to east you're what jus - tice looks like,

60 the jus - tice of my peace, an en - act - ed

66 fe - male stand - ing tall, giv-ing

73 voice un-to the least hey ma'am,

80 thank you ma'am, South Pass Ci-ty is the real life Suf-fra-gette Ci - ty

85 South Pass Ci-ty is the real life Suf-fra-gette Ci - ty Es - ther

90 Ho - bart Mor - ris your jus - tice brought you peace

96 I know your so - journ at the di - vide spreads hope,

102 hope that does not cease

109

mar - ried to a brawl - ing drunk, and nei - ther young nor

115

pret - ty, you used the law to take him down right

121

there in South Pass Ci - ty Es - ther, show me

127

jus - tice Es - ther, be - stow your peace I'm

133

long - ing for your wis - dom un - furled from west to

139

east you're what jus - tice looks like, and

145

jus - tice brings me peace a right - eous fe - male

151

stand - ing tall giv - ing voice un - to the

157

least