

In Memoriam  
Those Who Have Lost Their  
Lives to the Humber Estuary

*For Accordion and Electronics*

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Tom Armitage

# In Memoriam Those Who Have Lost Their Lives to the Humber Estuary

By Tom Armitage

Duration: c. 4'

*For Accordion and Electronics*

This piece is dedicated to all who have lost their lives to the Humber, whether by their own desire to leave this world, or by setting sail for the North Sea, never to return.

Based on a folk song from Hull, this piece recounts the tragic tale of Betsy Watson, a 19th-century Hullensian. Upon discovering her husband's infidelity, she made the heartbreaking decision to drown herself and her unborn child in the Humber. As the legend goes, before wading into the water, Betsy left her renowned poem on the banks of the Humber.

The electronic track for this piece is simply an atmospheric recording, taken on site at the Humber Bridge, capturing the sound of the wind and the waves. This track can be recreated by anyone, however, for reasons of authenticity, it should be created specifically on site.

*“Betsy Watson is my name,  
I brought myself to grief and shame  
By loving one who ne'er loved me,  
With sorrow that I plainly see.*

*To his fond tales I did give way,  
And from the paths of virtue stray:  
By his fond tales I was beguiled,  
And then to him I prove with child.*

*My grief and shame I cannot bear,  
I am degraded everywhere;  
Like a blooming flower I am cut down,  
And now my love on me doth frown.*

*I did propose on Sunday night  
To meet once more my heart's delight.  
On the Humber banks where the billows roar,  
We parted there to meet no more.*

*As token that I die for love  
There will be seen a milk-white dove  
Over my wat'ry tomb to fly,  
And there you'll find my body lie.”*

# In Memoriam Those Who Have Lost Their Lives to the Humber Estuary

Start playing 60 seconds after the start of the electronic track.

Tom Armitage  
22nd March 2013

Simple but lamenting (♩=52)

Accordion

*p*

8

*p* *f*

15

*f*  
M (C) M

22

(C) M (Cm) (Bb) (C) M M 7 M *subito p*  
*poco rit.*

28

35

**A tempo** *rit.*

*ppp*  
M (C) M (C) M (Cm) (Bb) (C) M M 7