

The Fisher of the James

LEAD SHEETS

Richard L. Rose

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Lead Sheet

↑ represents percussion.



Flowing (84 bpm)

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Baritone

Instrument:

Fisher: Might as well fish. Noth - ing else to

do but wait while some man - a - ger molds me for his crew, or

stand on the cor - ner with a sign, or wait for a

hand - out in a line. I will fol - low the ri ver, watch it

splinter and gather in - to pools where mus - kies catch cray - fish and

stone-flies sun - fish splat - ter, caught ground ed in pot - holes of

gran - ite, where the gulls have been wait - ing,

2 The Fisher of the James (Rose)

29      30 where the cur rent is bleed ing in the flee ing and feed ing, dy ing and

31      32 33 34 griev ing and heal - ing in the catch, in the drift

35    36 37 38 down Instrument: Fisher: With the

39    40 41 42 ri-ver a round me, I can leave far be- hind me Instrument emp - ty days full of

43   44 45 carp-ing and com plain-ing. A blue - gill or a crap - pie, slip - ping

46       47 48 ea - si - ly through debts, with - out an - y em - ploy - ment,

49     50 51 stea - dy in - come, or gump - tion, shows me more a - bout

52   53   54 

55  56   58

59  60  61 62 63

64   65 66 67 68

69 70 71

72  73  74 

75  76  77 Rose

78  4fr.  79   3fr.   80 81

No - thing for bait. He, seem - ing to know, sal - lied and dived

82   83   84  3fr. 3 3 3

flour - ished his cau - dal, shak - ing a head big as a

85   86  87   88

shov - el, shak - ing a head big as a shov - el.

89 Instr. *stacatto* 90 91 92

93   94   95    

Fisher: *agitato* Spin - ners, four aught hook, thir - ty pound line, read - y now to troll

96   97 3 3 3 98 99

Spin - ners, four aught hook, read - y to troll shore - line and wait. Instr (drone on D)

100  101 D, A 102  3 3 3

Fisher: Let him nose his way, find - ing the bait shin - ing, min - now bright

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103  104  105 

gill co - ver pulse slighte-nought seem real as a fish.

106    107  108  109  110 

Come! Come! Come and take my gift! Instrument:

111  *Sprechstimme
sempre con sforzo e fiato
grosso* 112  113  114  

Fisher: Some-thing has stuck. My hook has snagged. Stuck as I am stuck

115  116  117   118 

Instrument *ritardando* *a tempo* *sempre* Fisher:

118   119   120 

No! It's a live! Pull-ling, Shak-ing line! Tug-ging the hook deep er.

121   122  123   124 

Deep-er! Deep-er, pull! Now shake it free! Now pull away! Instrument

125     *sempre* 126  127  128  129 

Bull! Not a fish! One of us dies. Let it be

130  me. 131  One 132  of *sempre* 133  3fr. us 134  3fr. dies, 135  3fr. end 136  3fr. ing 137  3fr. ache 138  be 139  between us, ache so taut be tween us. One of us dies. Let it be me.

140  God 141  what a fish! 142  Let it be me. 143  144

145 **FISH**  drone on B Not a god. 146 Not a fish. 147 **FISHER** You speak! what then?

148 **FISH** *Faint drones alternating on Eb min. & Bbm in & cymbal brushed* 149  My name is Mash - ki - non - ge 150  My spi-rit name, now my

151 on-ly name. 152 My peo-ple swim the ri - ver. 153 We live in eel-grass & 154

155 sunk-en trees. 156 My name is Mash- ki - non - ge. 157 *Tambourine* 158  *Chords follow the tambourine pulse.* My oth-er peo-ple, Hauden-o

159  sau - nee,  160 gone now,  161 so long a- go,  bones to smoke to clouds to pale sky

162  shin - ing,  163 for O-pe-kan-ka-no  164 Instr: burned a - way, 165

166  their lives for lives he end - ed.  167 You on - ly know one time.  168 114 bpm 

169  You on ly know one place.  170 You on-ly know one  171 peo - ple   

172  I wear the long mask  173 I wear the long  174 mask. Instr: 175

176  His peo-ple-went to white vil- la - ges,  177 bringing them deer, smok-ing  178  179 

180  kin-ni-kin,  181 trad-ed and lis-tened to sing ing.  182 They lis-tened to Eng-lish  183

184  185  186  187  188 

Instrument

189  trill 190  191  192   

Colonist: Bu - sy, cur - ious, thir - sty fly, drink with me and

193  194  195  196  197  198  199  200 

drink as I. Welcome free ly to my cup. Couldst thou sip and sip it up.

201  202  203  204  205  206  207  208  209 

Make the most of life you may. Life is short and wears a way. Life is short and

210  211  212  213  214  215 

wears a - way. They lis tened to Eng-lish sing - ing,

216  217  218  219  4fr.

then slit their soft throats & clubbed them all. O-pe-kan ka - no said

220  221  222  223  4fr. 224 

burn them down. Clear out a place for new plant -ing.