

June 2008

## Prime Cut in Synchrony at the Pre-Recording Session

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### Recommended Citation

Doyle, Sharon (2008) "Prime Cut in Synchrony at the Pre-Recording Session," *Harpur Palate: a Literary Journal*: Vol. 8: Iss. 1, Article 20.

Available at: <https://orb.binghamton.edu/harpurpalate/vol8/iss1/20>

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# Doyle: Prime Cut in Synchrony at the Pre-Recording Session

PRIME CUT IN SYNCHRONY AT THE PRE-RECORDING SESSION  
Sharon Doyle

*-for Ivan Turk, the Geologist  
who made this find:  
1997, Divje Babe Cave*

I found a weathered red-brown pipe  
pierced with measured ragged holes—  
a bone aged forty thousand years  
that looks to be carved for music.

But I found it in this Slovak cave—  
a place not clearly East  
or West,  
so I wonder if it plays five tones  
in oriental mode, or did  
Neanderthals hear twelve  
as in occidental octaves.

Maybe they worked up harmonies,  
counterpoints, an orchestra,  
and when they played the pipe, it was  
a flute, round embrasure whistle-toned  
or flat like an egg to coax overtone  
in prehistoric Black,  
or maybe Irish, jazz.

Whatever, they did not wait for time  
to teach them to forge  
from mineral silver  
or carve  
from vegetable tree limbs;  
rather, they cleverly salvaged from animal—  
calcium phosphate leached of blood—

the thighbone of bear in a primal cave,  
that taught them  
the tricks  
of breath.