

Homework passage: Ovid *Fasti* 2.97-118, my translation.

Perhaps, unfortunate one, you feared the wind and waves,
For you the sea was safer than your ship.
Since the helmsman stood with his sword drawn
And the others armed, alert, a troubled band,
'What are you doing with a sword? Sailor, control the ranging helm!
These hands of yours are not for bearing arms.'
He, frozen with fear, said, 'I do not stave off death
Allow (me) yet to embrace the lyre and recall trifles.'
They gave permission, laughing at his vacillation.
He seized the garland, which would suit your head, Phoebus,
He had put on his robe, rich with Tyrian purple.
The plucked strings returned music to his fingers
With afflicted flurries as when a swan cries out,
Her grey flanks pierced with harsh arrows.
Enrobed, he jumped forward into the midst of the waves,
Sprays of blue water on a surging ship.
Then, they recall, a dolphin (have faith!)
Submitted her arched back to a novel cargo.
He, sitting and holding his lyre, sang for the price of his passage
And hushed the maritime waters with song.
The gods see pious actions. Jove admitted the dolphin to the constellations
And commanded nine stars to form her.

forsitan, infelix, ventos undasque timebas:

at tibi nave tua tutius aequor erat.

namque gubernator destricto constitit ense

ceteraque armata conscia turba manu

quid tibi cum gladio? dubiam rege, navita, puppem:

non haec sunt digitis arma tenenda tuis.

ille, metu pavidus, 'mortem non deprecor' inquit,

'sed liceat sumpta pauca referre lyra.'

dant veniam ridentque moram: capit ille coronam,

quae possit crines, Phoebe, decere tuos;

induerat Tyrio bis tinctam murice pallam:

reddidit icta suos pollice chorda sonos,
flebilibus numeris veluti canentia dura
traiectus penna tempora cantat olor.
protinus in medias ornatus desilit undas;
spargitur impulsa caerula puppis aqua.
inde (fide maius) tergo delphina recurvo
se memorant oneri subposuisse novo.
ille, sedens citharamque tenens, pretiumque vehendi
cantat et aequoreas carmine mulcet aquas.
di pia facta vident; astris delphina recepit
Iuppiter et stellas iussit habere novem.