

Night #2 at Berkeley Espresso

Qian Li

$\text{♩} = 60$

16 Story telling with wonder and fascination
 p f p
 There is a gor- geous boy writ- ing a pa- per at one of the lit- tle

20
 f
 ta- bles at this ca- fe. He fa- ces the ten- foot win- dows but does- n't look out.

24 Soften somewhat
 He is en- grossed in a re- search pa- per that in- volves in- ter- li- brary

28 $\text{♩} = 72$ 2 Restrained
 loans a small stack of them. His tea, served in tall

34 Focused, expressive with *riten.*
 glas- ses here, is dry and has been for the se- ven- teen min- utes I've been here wat- ching him.

Ossia

39 recover to $\text{♩} = 60$ Recitative
 He is dis- trac- ted for a mo- ment by some- thing op- po- site from me, now by the

42 $\text{♩} = 80$ Suddenly open up
 not too loud
 fin- gers of his right hand, now by his left palm, but un- fail- ing- ly re-

45 *rit. and soften dreamily* $\text{♩} = 80$ Obligatory addendum
 turns to the lit- tle book all text and soft cov- er bet- ween him and the

X Spoken approx. pitches with sliding
 ♩ = 60 Exaggerated narration in delighted fascination

49 lap- top. He has a ve- ry nice me- chan- i- cal

59 pen- cil by the book and an o- live fleece sweat- shirt o- ver the back of the chair

62 as if he threw it off af- ter sit- ting down with- out bo- ther- ing to ar- range it.

65 His bo- dy type re- minds me of Al- ex Re- do- sol, with

71 rich cur- ly hair and some- what dark skin. I won- der if his

78 hair is soft or stiff the way the light shines off his short curls it is im- pos- si-
 project

82 ble to tell if he wears it with sty- ling pro- duct... He wears a white

91 po- lo shirt o- ver a fine- ly pat- terned, pink and green but- ton- up shirt, sleeves

95 com- ple- ly un- but- toned and pulled up a bit to flare o- ver his fore- arms. He
 ...a moment of wonder

99 wears a ring, pos- si- bly a cla- ss ring, and socks with that m- as- cu- line
 Comical, overexpressive

102 *Draw back* *p* *mf* *Start over* *Very deliberately*
 ar- gyle pat- tern. A cu- ri- o- si- ty: he

106 *Shake yourself out of the folk song, a little alarmed*
 wears ne- on or- ange ear- plugs as if to block out the Mah- ler.

113 *Dreamily, thick with emotion* *f*
 I won- der where he goes to work

122 *Molto ritenuto*
 af- ter the cof- fee- shop clos- es. I won- der if he has some- one to go home

126 *Deadpan humor* *diminuendo*
 to, if he is a- void- ing them by stud- y- ing at a cof- fee- shop

131 *p*
 in- stead of his room or the li- brary where he can be found.

136 I look up from my own work to find he is pack- ing up. It takes three tries, three,

148 three tries for me not to look a- way -- I give him a small smile and break off a- gain.

151 *Build toward climax...* *...here!* *f* *J = 76*
 He has straight- ened up and sees my smile.

156 *Hushed, final, distant* *f*
 I watch him put a- way the emp- ty glass,

162 Relax a little Solo; open freely, more as recollecting a wonderful dream than in sadness

hoist up his bags so full of books, and walk out of the Berkeley Es-

165 Quieter Hang on After the last rests the pianist should return for bow

pres-so and a-cross the street. The lights flick-er -- it is clos-ing time.