Many Splendid Forgettings (2011)
for tenor and large chamber ensemble

Tonia Ko
**Duration:** about 10 minutes

**Instrumentation:**

- oboe / english horn
- bass clarinet / clarinet in B♭
- horn in F
- percussion (one player):
  - xylophone
  - vibraphone
  - bongos (2)
  - large suspended cymbal
  - medium gong (precise pitch not necessary)
  - triangle
  - timpani (one 26 in. drum)
- harpsichord (double manual)
- tenor
- violin
- viola
- violoncello

**Notes:**

*Accidentals are valid until the end of the measure*

*Grace notes occur before the beat unless otherwise indicated*
… my dream is intangible, it comprises no allegory;
as Mallarmé said, "It is a musical poem, it needs no libretto."

… In his memory will you permit me to offer you this sketch of him, hastily dashed off,
a vague recollection of a beautiful and beloved face, radiant, even in the shadows.

*From Paul Gauguin’s letter to André Fontainas, Tahiti, March 1899*

This time of ours
Is like a great, confused dream.
Why should one spend life in toil?
When I woke up, I gazed for a long time
At the courtyard before me.
A bird sings among the flowers.
May I ask what season this is?
Spring wind,
The bright oriole of the water-flowing flight calls.
My feelings make me want to sigh.
The wine is still here, I will throw back my head and drink.

I sing splendidly,
I wait for the bright moon.
Already, by the end of the song, I have forgotten my feelings.

*From "A Statement of Resolutions After Being Drunk on a Spring Day" by Li T’ai Po, trans. Amy Lowell*

Please don’t forget;
in the grove
a plum blossom

Sweeping the garden,
the snow forgotten:
a broom

So many many
memories comes to mind:
cherry blossoms

*Three haiku by Basho Matsuo, trans. David Landis Barnhill*
Many Splendid Forgettings
Commissioned by the Georgina Joshi Foundation

Score in C

\( j=56 \) (Recitative)

Oboe

Bass Clarinet

Horn

Percussion

Harpsichord

Tenor

Violin

Viola

Violoncello

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This time of ours (s) is like a great confused

Why should one spend life in

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Why should one spend life in
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grazed for a long time at the courtyard before me.
A bird sings among the flowers...
of the water flowing flight calls
My feelings make me want to sigh

128

Oh.  mp

B. Cl.  mp

Hn.

Perc.

Hpd.

T.

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

rall...  \( \boxed { } \)  \( \frac { j = 76 } { } \) Broadly

I sing splendidly.

I wait for the bright moon.  Already by the end of the song, I have for-
Please don't forget; in the grove a plum blossom

* See note on page 5