

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 \flat

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 Forgetting's
Commissioned by the Georgina Joshi Foundation

Score in C

Tonia Ko

$\text{♩} = 56$ (Recitative)

Oboe

Bass Clarinet

Horn

Percussion

Harpsichord

Tenor

Violin

Viola

Violoncello

Lyrics: My dream is in-tan-gi-ble, _

5

B. Cl.

Perc.

Hpsd.

T.

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

Lyrics: it com-pris-es no-al-le-go-ry;_- As Mal-lar-mé said, "It is a mu-si-cal po-em, _

A Più mosso ♩=60

9

Ob. *gently swelling*
p *mf* *p* *espress.*

B. Cl. *pp* *mp* *pp*

Hn. *pp* *mp* *mf* *n.*

Perc. *pp* *mp* *mf* *n.*

Hpsd. *F.* *B.* *3* *3* *3* *6*

T. *it needs no li-bret-to."*

Vla. *p* *senza sord. flautando* *p*

Vc. *mp* *n.* *p* *mp* *senza sord. pizz.*



14

Ob. *mp* *mf* *f* *pp*

B. Cl. *mp* *mf* *p*

Perc. *mp*

Hpsd. *F.*

T. *p molto legato*

Vln. *3* *senza sord.* *mf* *p*

Vla. *arco* *pizz.* *mf*

Vc. *mf*

In his

19 **B**

Hn. *p* *mf*

Perc. (Vib.) *p*

Hpsd.

T. *mp*
 mem-o-ry will you per-mit me to of-fer you this sketch of him, hast-i-ly dashed off, a

Vln. *pp* *pizz.* *arco flautando* *p* *pizz.* *arco* *mp*

Vla. *p* *arco* *mp*

Vc. *p* slightly separated, with slight decay on each note *mf*



23 **C** ♩=56 Suspended, pulled back

B. Cl. *mp* *pp* *p* *pp* *mp* n.

Hn. *(mf)* *pp* *p* *pp* *mp* n.

Perc.

T. *mf* *mp* *p*
 vague re-col-lec-tion of a beau-ti-ful and be-lov'd face, ra-di-ant, e-ven in the sha-dows.

Vln. *f > p* *mf* *p* *mp* *pp* *p*

Vla. *f > p* *mf* *p* *mp* *pp* *p*

Vc. *mp*

*measured, deliberate *diminuendo*

29 **D** ♩=60 senza vib.

Ob. *ppp* *p*

B. Cl. *p* *n.*

Hn. *n.* *mp* *n.*

Perc. (Vib.) *p*

Hpsd. *lute stop* *molto legato*

Vln. *sul tasto* *pizz.* *p* *pizz. delicately*

Vla. *mp* *(pizz.) delicately* *p*

Vc. *pp* *pp*

33 **E** ♩=126

Ob. *pp* *frum*

B. Cl. *sotto voce* *ppp* *3* *3*

Hn. *mp* *f*

Perc. *mp* *p* *pp* *mf* *Triangle* *metal beater*

Hpsd. *open, F.*

T.

Vln. *arco* *mp* *pp* *mf* *f* *no dim.*

Vla. *mp* *arco* *mf* *f*

Vc. *mf* *mf* *f*

38

Ob. *mf* *f* *mp* *sfp* *ff* *mf* *f* *p* *f* *3*

B. Cl. *p* *f* *3* *mp* *p*

Hn. *mf* *f* *mp* *mf* *(mf)* *f* *p*

Perc. Bongos med. cord *mp* *f* Triangle *mf* *f*

Hpsd.

T. *poco agitato* *mf* *f* *mp* *mf* *mp*
 Ah! Ah ah (h)ah (h)ah

Vln. *mf* *f* *ff* *mf* *f* *mp* *f*

Vla. *ff* *f* *ff* *mp* *f*

Vc. *mf* *ff* *f* *mf* *f* *mp* *f* *p*

44

Ob. *mf* *f* *mf* *f* *p*

B. Cl. *mf* *p* *mp* *(mp)* *p*

Hn. *p* *mp* *sfp* *n.* *mp* *p*

Perc. Xylophone *f* *mp* *mf* *mp* Bongos (2) *mf* *mp*

Hpsd.

T. *f* *mp* *mf* *mp* hushed, playfully *p*
 This time This time of ours

Vln. *mf* *f* *mp* *f* *mp*

Vla. *f* *f* *mp* *f* *mp* legato

Vc. *mf* *p* *mp* *(mp)* *p*

51

Ob. *sub. mf* *f* *mf* *f*

B. Cl. *mf* *p* *sub. f* *mp* *mf* *mp* *f*

Hn. *mp* *p* *mf* *mp* *mf*

(Bongos)
Perc. *mf* *(mf)* *mp* *mf* *p*

(Xylo.)

T. *f* *carefree* *mf* *f*
This time of ours (s) is like a great, con - fused

Vln. *f* *mp* *mf* *f* *p* *f*

Vla. *f* *mp* *mf* *mp* *f*

Vc. *mf* *mp* *p* *mp* *mf* *f*

57

Ob. *pp* *pp* *mf* *f*

B. Cl. *pp* *mp* *p* *mf* *mp* *p* *mf* *mp* *f*

Hn. *sub. p* *pp* *mp* *n.* *open* *mp* *p* *mf* *f*

Perc. *p* *mf* *f*

Hpsd. *sub. mp* *n.* *mp*

T. *sub. mp* *n.* *mp*
dream. Why should one spend life in

Vln. *sub. p* *non. vib.* *mp* *n. non. vib.* *mf* *f*

Vla. *p* *pp* *mp* *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *f*

Vc. *p* *mp* *p* *mf* *sfp* *f*

64 H

Ob. *f*

B. Cl. *n. p* *mf* *p* (*p*)

Hn. *p* *mf* *p* with dark intensity *pp*

Perc. *mf* *p* Vibraphone med yarn.

Hpsd. *B. 3*

T. *sfp* *f* *p* languidly *3* *3*
 toil? When I woke up, I

Vln. *f* *pp* *mp* *pp* *mp* *p*

Vla. *sul pont.* *f* *pizz.* *mp* *n. p* *mp* *p*

Vc. *f* *mf* *pp* *mp* *pp* *mp* *mp* *n.*



72

Ob. *mf*

B. Cl. *mp* *mf* *p* *p pulsing* *mp* *mf*

Hn. *p* *mp* *mf* *p* (*p*) *mp* *mf*

Perc. *Xylophone med. cord* *p*

T. *mf* *mp* *3* *3*
 gazed for a long time at the court-yard before me.

Vln. *mp* *mf* *n.* *mp* *mf* *p*

Vla. *mp* *p* *mp* *mf* *pp* *p pulsing* *mf* *mp*

Vc. *mp* *pp* *p* *mp*

77

Ob. *f* *pp* *mp* *mf* *mp*

B. Cl. *mp* *f* *p* *mf* *p* *f*

Hn. *mp* *mf* *mf* *f*

Perc. (Xylo) *mf* (Sus. Cymb.) (same mallets) *p* *mf* stick *f*

T. *f* *awestruck*

Vln. *mf* *p* *mf* *f* *p* *mf* *f* *p*

Vla. *f* *arco V* *mp* *mf* *ff* *p*

Vc. *mf* *sfp* *mf* *mf* *mp* *mf* *ff*

A bird sings a - mong the flow - - ers...

83

Ob. *ff* *mf* *f* *pp*

B. Cl. *pp*

Hn. *mp*

Perc. *f* *mp* *f* *mf* *f* *p* *pp*

Hpsd. *F.* *B.* *F.*

T. *no dim.* *(s)* *p*

Vln. *pizz.* *arco* *pizz.* *arco* *dolce* *p* *pp* *p dolce*

Vla. *iii* *f* *pizz.* *arco* *f* *pp* *mp* *p*

Vc. *sul pont.* *mp* *ff* *p* *ord.* *mf*

May I ask what

90 rit. J ♩ = 84

Ob. *long* *short*

B. Cl. *p* *n.* *n.* *mp* *n.* *pp* *6* *mp* *pp* *sf* *n.*

Perc. Timpani
soft felt *ppp* *p* *mp*

Hpsd. *B.* *3*

T. *p non espress.*
sea - son this is? Spring wind,

Vln. *mp* *n.* *ord.* *mf* *5* *n.*

Vla. *ord. → sul pont.* *pp* *mp* *n.* *pp* *mp* *n.*

Vc. *pp* *mp* *pp* *mf* *mp*

97 K

Ob. *p* *mf* *p* *mp*

B. Cl. *pp* *mf* *mp*

Hn. *pp* *mp*

Perc. *pp*

Hpsd. *F., manuals coupled* *3* *6* *5* *3* *3*

T. *p molto legato* *espress.* *mf* *(mf) tenderly*
Spring wind(!) The bright or - i - ole

Vln. *sul tasto.* *ord.* *p* *mf* *p* *sf* *f* *p* *mf* *mf* *f* *mp* *mf*

Vla. *mf* *p* *sf* *f* *mf* *f* *mp* *mf*

Vc. *arco* *n.* *p* *sf* *f* *p* *mp* *mf* *3* *mf*

103

Ob. *p* *mf*

B. Cl. *p* *mp* *mf* *pp*

Hn. *p* *mp* *p* *mf*

Perc. *mf* *p* *B.*

Hpsd. *5* *3* *3* *5* *6*

T. *mp*

Vln. *p* *mf* *p* *mp* *mf* *f* *pp*

Vla. *mf* *p* *mp* *mf* *p* *f* *pp*

Vc. *mp* *f* *mp*

Xylophone hard plastic

of the wa - ter flow - ing flight calls. My feel - ings make me

109

Ob. *mf* *f* *mp* *mf* *mp* *f*

B. Cl. *mp* *p* *no cresc.* *(p)* *f* *mp* *f*

Hn. *pp* *mp* *n.* *p* *no cresc.* *mp* *mf* *(mf)* *f*

Perc. *p* *pp* *med. cord* *3* *p* *mp* *Bongos* *mf*

Hpsd.

T. *pp*

Vln. *n.* *mp* *ord.* *3* *p* *f* *5* *sfmp* *f* *mp* *f* *mf*

Vla. *n.* *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *f* *sfmp* *f* *mf*

Vc. *arco* *n.* *mp* *p* *mp* *f* *ff*

want to sigh.

115 **M**

Ob. *ff* *f* *mp* *mf* *f*³

B. Cl. *mp* *f* *mp* *p* *mp* *mf*³ *mp* *f*

Hn. *mp* *f* *mp* *p* *mf* *mp* *f*

Perc. *f*³ *mp* *mf* *f*³

T. *mp* *mf*

Vln. *ff* *mf* *f* *mp* *mf*^{pizz.} *arco* *ff*

Vla. *ff* *mp* *p* *mf* *f* *mp* *mf*^{pizz.} *arco* *ff*

Vc. *mp* *f* *mp* *p* *mp* *mf*³ *mf* *ff*

The wine is still here, I will throw back my head and

121 **N** *accel.* *♩ = 104*

Ob. *ff*³ *mf* *f* *f*

B. Cl. *mf* *sf* *p* *f* *mf* *f* *mp*

Hn. *sub. p* *gliss.* *f* *f* *mf*

Perc. Triangle metal beater *f*

Hpsd. *F., uncoupled* *f* *ff*

T. *cresc.* *f*

Vln. *ff*³ *mf* *mp* *ff* *f* *mf* *ff*

Vla. *non legato* *f* *ff* *mf* *mp* *ff* *mf* *ff*

Vc. *mf* *ff* *f* *ff*

drink. Ah!

128 *rall.* O ♩=76 Broadly

Ob. *mp* *f* *f* *sub. mp* *f* *mp* *f* *mf*

B. Cl. *f* *p* *ff* *mf*

Hn. *mf* *p* *(p)* *f* *p* *f* *p* *mf* *f* *f* *molto* *p*

Perc. *Timpani* *med. felt* *p* *mf* *f*

Hpsd.

T. *f*

Vln. *sub. p* *mf* *3* *f* *sfz* *f* *sfz* *f* *sfz* *f* *ff* *mf*

Vla. *pizz.* *arco* *sub. p* *mf* *f* *mf* *f* *ff* *mf* *ff* *sub. mp* *f*

Vc. *sub. p* *mf* *mf* *mf* *f* *gtr.* *f* *3* *ff*

136 *rit.* ♩=66

Ob. *f* *To Eng. Hn.* *pp* *E.H.* *espress.* *mf* *pp*

B. Cl. *f* *p* *f* *mf* *To Cl.* *n.* *Cl. in Bb* *n.*

Hn. *half-stopped* *p* *poco* *pp*

Perc. *Bongos* *cord mallets on beat* *Xylo.* *mp* *f* *5* *p* *mp* *pp* *p* *mp* *pp*

Hpsd. *8' only* *B.*

T. *sub. mp* *f* *p* *mp*

Vln. *ff* *p* *mf* *mp*

Vla. *ff* *mf* *f* *p* *mp* *n.*

Vc. *ff* *p* *mf* *p* *pp* *pp* *mp*

I wait for the bright moon. Al - read y, by the end of the song, I have for-

143 *short* **P** (2+2+3)

Eng. Hn. *p* *mp*

Cl. *mp* *pp* *mp* *n.*

Hn. *p* *mp* *half-stopped* *mp* *non cresc.*

Perc. *Vib. med. yarn* *mp* *mf*

Hpsd. *B.* *6*

T. *3* *p*
got - ten my feel - ings.

Vln. *p* *mf* *pp* *n.* *mf*

Vla. *p* *mf* *n.* *mf*

Vc. *p* *mf* *n.* *mf*



149 *long*

Eng. Hn. *mp > p*

Cl. *mf* *mp* *> p* *mp > mf*

Hn. *open* *p*

Perc. *Susp. Cymb. stick* *Vib. (yarn)* *mf*

T. *mp* *3* *mf*
Please don't for - get; in the grove a plum blos - som

Vln. *non vib., sul pont* *n.* *mf* *3* *p* *mp*

Vla. *pizz.* *mp* *mf* *p* *pp* *pp* *mp*

Vc. *arco.* *f* *> p* *(V)* *(V)* *mp* *n.*

* See note on page 5

155 **Q**

Eng. Hn. *p non cresc.* *p* *mf* *pp*

Cl. *p* *mp* *p* *mf* *p* *mp*

Hn. *p* *mp* *p* *mf*

Perc. (Vib.) *l.v.* *mf* *p* *mp*

Hpsd. (B.) *pp*

T. *pp* Sweep - ing the gar - den, the

Vln. *gliss.* *n.* *mf*

Vla. *n.* *pp* *mf* *p* *pizz.* *mp*

Vc. *n.* *mf* *mp*

162 **R**

Eng. Hn. *mp* *n.* *mf* *pp*

Cl. *mp* *f* *sf > p* *mp* *mf* *pp*

Hn. *p* *mp* *mf*

Perc. (yarn) *mf* *p* *mf* *pp*
 Susp. Cymb. (Trgl.) (beater)
 Vib. (yarn)

Hpsd. F. B.

T. *mp* *sub.* *mf* snow for - got - ten: a broom

Vln. *p* *mf* *sf > p* *mp* *f* *pp*

Vla. *pp* *mp* *mf* *pp*

Vc. *mf* *pizz.* *f* *arco* *mf > p*

167

Eng. Hn. *mp* *mf* *pp* *mf* *mp* *ord.*

Cl. *mp* *mp* *mf* *pp* *sotto voce* *mp* *ord.*

Hn. *pp* *mf*

Perc. *p* *mf* *f* *pp* *l.v.*

Hpsd. *f*

T. *mf*

Vln. *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *f* *pp* *non. vib.* *ord. vib.* *mf*

Vla. *mp* *p* *f* *pp* *non. vib.* *ord. vib.*

Vc. *p* *f* *pp* *non. vib.* *ord. vib.* *mf*

So ma - ny ma - ny

174

Eng. Hn. *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *pp* *mp* *n.*

Cl. *mp* *mf* *p*

Hn. *pp* *p*

Perc. *pp* *mp* *n.* *mp* *bow*

Hpsd. *lute stop* *B.*

T. *mp* *f* *n.* *p* *mp*

me - mo - ries come to mind: cher - ry blos - soms

Vln. *mp* *ord. vib.* *pp* *pizz.* *arco* *mp* *p* *mf* *pizz.* *arco* *mf* *p* *(gliss)*

Vla. *mf* *3* *p* *mf* *mp* *mf* *p* *(V)*

Vc. *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *mp* *n.* *(gliss)*

180

Eng. Hn. *mf* *pp* *mf*

Cl. *pp* *mp* *p* *sub. mf* *p*

Hn. *p* *mp* *pp* *mp* *no dim.* *n.*

Perc. *pp* *no cresc.*

Hpsd.

T. *mp* *mf* *p*

Vln. *pizz.* *p* *arco* *mp* *pp* *mp* *mf* *pp*

Vla. *pizz.* *p* *arco* *f* *p* *mf* *pp* *sub. mf* *p*

Vc. *p* *mf* *mp*

cher - ry - blos - - - - - soms

186

T **Meno Mosso** (♩=56)

Eng. Hn. *pp* *mp* *pp*

Cl. *mf* *mp* *pp* *pp*

Hn. *mf* *mp* *mf* *p* *mp* *pp* *n.*

Perc. *mp* *Susp. Cymb. yarn* *pp* *Vib. cord* *l.v.*

Hpsd. *open, F.* *lute stop* *r.h.* *l.h.*

T. *p* *mf* *n.* *p* *mp* *pp*

Vln. *pizz.* *p* *arco* *mp* *pizz.* *arco*

Vla. *n.* *mf* *p* *mp* *pp*

Vc. *p* *mf* *n.* *f* *p* *mf* *p*

cher - ry - blos - - - - - soms

cher - ry - blos - - - - - soms

U

192

Eng. Hn. *mp* *p* *pp* *mp*

Cl. *p* *mp* *pp* *p* *mp* *n.*

Hn. *mp* *p* *pp*

Perc. Med. Gong med. yarn mallet *pp*

Hpsd. (lute) *molto legato* *pizz.* *5* *5*

Vln. *mf* *pp* *mp* *n.* *pizz.*

Vla. *mp* *p* *(p)* *mp* *pizz. delicately* *arco* *ppp* *mp*

Vc. *pp* *mp* *pizz.* *arco* *gliss.* *pp* *mp* *n.* *ppp* *mp*



198

Eng. Hn. *p* *pp*

Cl. *n.* *mf* *n.*

Hn. *pp* *mp*

Perc. *p*

Hpsd.

Vln. *arco* *f* *p* *mp* *3* *n.* *espress.* *p* *mf* *pp* *n.* *p*

Vla. *pizz.* *pp* *mf* *3* *arco* *n.* *p*

Vc. *pp* *no cresc.* *pizz.* *n.* *p*

204

Cl. *pp* very delicately

Perc. (Gong) *mp* *mf* Vib. cord, motor on slow

Hpsd. (lute) 6 6 *n.*

Vln. *mp* *pp* *mp* *gliss.*

Vla. *mp* *pp* *mp* arco *tr* (•)

Vc. *pp* *mp* *gliss.*

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