

Commissioned by Berenice Torres
For Carrie and Thom

Stage Instructions:

Vocalist: Keep a drink on a small table next to you; preferably a lounge drink; for example, a martini.

Paper Music Quartet

Jennifer Fitzgerald

Text by: Charles Jester

Percussionist: smoke a cigarette; keep an ashtray handy.

Lento;
Con Rubato

con rubato ♩ = c. 66

Hold drink casually. You may sip from it, if you like.

Rit. ----- a tempo Rit. --- ♩ = c. 52

Voice

Marimba

V.

Mba.

With melancholy;
Lounge style

Put your drink
down on the table.

Hmmm... The ___ cof ___ fee ___ The cof

V.

Mba.

An afterthought...

___ fee ___ la - da - dee - da - duh ___ The cof-fee is slow ___

10 Pick up drink and inhale.

V. *mp* *mf* *mp* *f*
 poi - son _____ Hm - m-m-m - da - da _____ slow _____

Mba. *p* *sf* *mf* *f* *p sub* (*p*)

15 *mf* *f* Tentatively *p* Approximately *p* *a tempo* Put down drink.
 poi - son But slow, _____ But slow yes_? _____

Mba. *mf* *p* *f* *mp* *sf* *mf* *mp* *pp* *f* *mf*

20 In a loud whisper. Slowly; drawn out Suddenly brighter. Secco $\text{♩} = c. 92$
 yes _____

V. _____

Mba. *f* *mf* *f* *p sub* *mf*

(secco) *mf* Pick up drink. Sultry. *mp* *mf*

24

V. *mf*

Mba. *f* *p* *mp* *mf* *mp* *mf* *p* *mf*

That's not to mit-i-gate or e-ven ex-cuse

28 *mp* *sf* fade out; put down drink.

V. Hummm...

Mba. *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *f*

The coffee is slow poison, yes?
 But slow, yes?
 That's not to mitigate or even excuse....

II

The smallest advance....

The slightest movement

Secco

$\text{♩} = \text{c. } 184$

V. *ff*

Mba.

31

The smal - lest ad - vance

V. *mp*

Mba.

36

The smal - est

41

V. *ad - vance*

Mba. *mp* *p* *f*

47

Mba. *mp* *f* *p*

51

V. *senza rit.* *ff*

Mba. *sf* *ff*

The slight-est move-ment



Lento
Breathily

55 *mp* *accel. molto*

V.

Move _____ ment _____

Mba.

a tempo
With a clear voice
and articulation.

= c. 108

V.

Move-ment comes in slow _____ splash _____ es

Mba.

Mba.

ff

63

V.

Mba.

Movement comes in slow splash - es

ff \rightrightarrows *f*

ff

Breathily again

mf

66

V.

Mba.

Move - ment comes

p sub sf

p sub

69

V.

Mba.

in slow splash - - - es

mf

ff

Gradually reduce tremolo speed

Movement comes in slow splashes

IV

♩ = c. 104

V. *p* *mp* *p*

I do not I do not I do not

Mba. *p* *fpp* *p* *pp* *mp* *pp* *p* *mp* *p*

V. *mf* (sempre)

write a - bout for - syth - i - as or

Mba. *mf* *mp* *mf* *p*

V. *mp* *mf* *mp*

zin - ni - as or chrys - an - the - mums

Mba. *mf* *mp* *mf* *pp* *p* *mp*

93 *mp* *mf* *p* *mp*

V. *mp* *mf* *p* *mp*

be - cause I could not say whether whether I had e-ver

Mba. *mf* *mp* *mf* *mp* *p* *mf* *p* *mp*

99 *mf*

V. *mf*

seen one

Mba. *mf* *f* *mp*

103

Mba. *mf* *f* *mf*

Cleanly


f

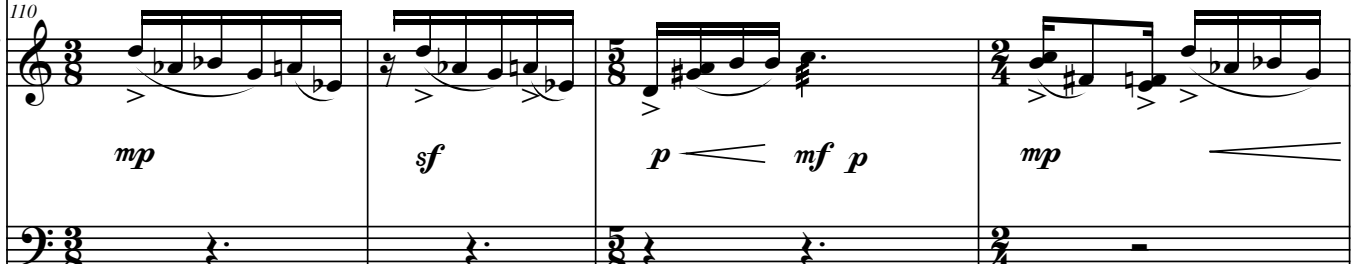
107

V.  Just give me cof-fee and a ci - ty

Mba.  *f* \rightrightarrows *mf* *mp* \rightrightarrows *p*

110

V.  street a frag - ment _____ of

Mba.  *mp* \rightrightarrows *f* *mp* *mf* *p* *mp*

114

V.  wit - ty con - ver - sa - tion and a

Mba.  *mf* *f* *mf*

Musical score for V. and Mba. parts, measures 117-120. The V. part is in treble clef with a 5/16 time signature. The Mba. part is in grand staff with a 5/16 time signature. The lyrics are: syn - co - pa - tion of _____ traf - - - fic. The V. part has a *mf* dynamic. The Mba. part has dynamics of *mp* and *mf* in measures 117-119, and *f* in measure 120.

I do not write about forsythias
(or zinnias or chrysanthemums)
Because I could not say
whether I have ever seen one.

Musical score for Mba. part, measure 123. The Mba. part is in grand staff with a 5/16 time signature. The dynamic is *ff*.

Just give me coffee and
A city street - a fragment of
witty conversation and
a syncopation of traffic.