

A Home in *The Golden Gate*

Music by Conrad Cummings

Lyrics by Vikram Seth
from the novel in verse
The Golden Gate

Commissioned by OPERA America
for the OPERA America Songbook
in celebration of the opening of
The National Opera Center

Lyrics by Vikram Seth from the novel
in verse *The Golden Gate*

Last night I saw a Buster Keaton.
(I think he's great. He never smiles.)
Then home, to catch up on my files.
A can of chili. When I've eaten,
The late night news, and so to bed."
John looks forlorn as this is said.

Liz, sweet Liz, a little lonely,
Sequestered in her city flat with only
The trusty Charlemagne, her cat,
A fearsome tabby, as companion,
As she swims the rapid canyon
Of her career. . .

John sighs, looks up. An ad describes
The Roach Motel's compelling merit:
"Roaches check in – but they don't check out!"
John thinks, "That's what my life's about."

Daybreak. John wakes to sunlight streaming
Across an unfamiliar bed.
"A cream duvet? I must be dreaming –
With lilac hexagons – instead
Of my plain blanket – and the ceiling:
An open glass skylight revealing
Clear sky – and what's this at my feet?
A cat! My God!" – With swift heartbeat
He starts as, through the door he's facing,
Liz enters with a coffee tray
In negligible negligee.

How wonderful it is, returning
To the retreat of a friend's smile
And a shared meal; to know, if only
For this one night, one won't be lonely.

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version 7/27/12

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$\text{♩} = 72$

Tenor Voice

Piano

"Last
Reo.

5 *cresc* ----- *f*

night I saw a Bus - ter Kea - ton. (I think he's great. He nev - er smiles.)

p *cresc* ----- *f*

\wedge

9

p

molto rall.

Then home, to catch up on my files, A can of chi - li.

13

$\text{♩} = 54$

And when I've eat - en, The late night news, and so to bed."

16

pp ————— **p** ————— **pp**

John looks for - lorn as this is said.

20

Liz, sweet Liz, a lit - tle

leggiero

p

(light pedal)

22

lone - ly

Se - ques-tered in her cit-y flat with

p

24

f

on-ly the Trust-y Char - le- magne,

mp

f

26

cat, A fear-some tab by, as com-pa-nion, As she

p **mp** **p**

28

poco piu mosso
f $\text{♩} = 60$

swims the rap-id can - yon Of her car-reer.

f
Red.

30

poco rit. $\text{♩} = 54$

pp

John sighs, looks up. An ad de-scribes The

ff **pp**

^

34

mp ————— **p** *mysterious*
pp

Roach Mo-tel's com - pel-ling mer - it:
 "Roach-es check in- but they

mp ————— **pp**

37

espressivo ————— **p** ————— **pp**

don't check out!" John thinks, "That's what my life's a- bout."

p ————— **pp**

*suddenly in another world,
breathless with wonder*

piu mosso

— = 69 —

41

mp **p**

Day-break. John wakes to sun light stream - ing

mp

p

43 *f* — *p* — *f*

A - cross an un - fa - mil - iar bed.

f — *p* — *f*

45 — *p* —

"A cream du vet?— I must be

— *p* —

rit. — — — — — $\text{♩} = 54$

47 *f* — *p*

dream — — — — — ing- With li-lac hex-a-gons- in stead Of

f — *p*

poco
rallent a tempo

8

49

pp

mf

my plain blan - ket-

and the ceil - ing:

An

A musical score for piano and voice. The piano part consists of two staves: treble and bass. The vocal line begins with eighth-note chords and transitions to a melodic line with sixteenth-note patterns. The piano accompaniment features eighth-note chords and sixteenth-note figures. Measure 49 ends with a dynamic of *pp*. Measure 50 begins with a piano dynamic of *pp*.

piu mosso

51 $\text{♩} = 69$

f

p

o - pen glass

sky - light

re - veal - ing Clear

sky -

A musical score for piano and voice. The piano part consists of two staves: treble and bass. The vocal line continues with eighth-note chords and melodic lines. The piano accompaniment features eighth-note chords and sixteenth-note figures. Measure 51 ends with a dynamic of *f*. Measure 52 begins with a piano dynamic of *f* and ends with a dynamic of *p*.

53

ff

f

— and what's this at my feet?

A cat! My God!"

With

A musical score for piano and voice. The piano part consists of two staves: treble and bass. The vocal line continues with eighth-note chords and melodic lines. The piano accompaniment features eighth-note chords and sixteenth-note figures. Measure 53 ends with a dynamic of *ff*. Measure 54 begins with a piano dynamic of *ff*.

55

swift heart - beat He starts as through the door he's fac - ing

57 *p*

rall. - - - - -

pp

Liz en - ters with a cof-fee tray In

59 $\text{♩} = 54$

neg - li - gi - ble neg - - - li - - -

pp

piu mosso

$\text{♩} = 69$

hushed, in awe

10

61

Musical score for measure 61. Treble clef, key signature of one sharp. The vocal line consists of eighth-note pairs followed by a dotted half note. The piano accompaniment has eighth-note chords in the bass and harmonic notes in the treble. The lyrics "gee." and "How won-der-ful it is, re -" are written below the staff.

How won-der-ful it is, re -

Musical score for measure 62. Treble clef, key signature of one sharp. The vocal line has eighth-note pairs. The piano accompaniment has eighth-note chords in the bass and harmonic notes in the treble. The dynamic **p** is indicated above the piano staff. The tempo **Lento** is written below the piano staff.

64

Musical score for measure 64. Treble clef, key signature of one flat. The vocal line consists of eighth notes. The piano accompaniment has eighth-note chords in the bass and harmonic notes in the treble. The lyrics "turn - ing To the re - treat of a friend's smile" are written below the staff. Measure length markings "3" are placed above the piano staff.

turn - ing To the re - treat of a friend's smile

Musical score for measure 65. Treble clef, key signature of one flat. The vocal line consists of eighth notes. The piano accompaniment has eighth-note chords in the bass and harmonic notes in the treble.

67

Musical score for measure 67. Treble clef, key signature of one flat. The vocal line consists of eighth notes. The piano accompaniment has eighth-note chords in the bass and harmonic notes in the treble. Measure length markings "3" are placed above the piano staff. The lyrics "And a shared meal; To know, if on - ly For this one night," are written below the staff.

And a shared meal; To know, if on - ly For this one night,

Musical score for measure 68. Treble clef, key signature of one flat. The vocal line consists of eighth notes. The piano accompaniment has eighth-note chords in the bass and harmonic notes in the treble.

11

Broaden slightly

71

A musical score for voice and piano. The vocal line starts with a dotted half note followed by eighth notes. The lyrics are "one won't be lone - ly." The piano accompaniment consists of sustained notes in the bass and middle octaves. Dynamics include **ppp** (pianississimo) and **pp** (pianissimo). The vocal line ends with a fermata over the word "ly".

one won't be lone - ly.

ppp

pp

Ped.