

Before The Golden Gate

v. 11/13/14

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

Music by Conrad Cummings

Mezzo

Baritone

Piano

$\text{♩} = 69$

f marcato staccato

marcato, staccato, angry

"Whe-ther It's love or not means noth - ing much.

Mez.

Bar.

Pno.

poco meno mosso $\text{♩} = 63$
legato sostenuto

p

p

legato sostenuto

3

The im -

Love by it - self's a tight - en - ing te - ther, A ha - bit - for - ming drug, a crutch. . .

Mez.

Pno.

5

pas - sioned ad - vo - cate was wear - ing A cam - bric blouse, a wine - dark suit, An air both

poco accel.

7

Mez. fra - gile and a - cute-- And there was some - thing in her bear - ing That

Pno.

poco rall.

♩ = 56

8

Mez. seemed to make her flame and burn With sor - row, A - gain to - night the moon ad - van - ces, A

Bar. A - gain to - night the moon ad - van - ces, A

Pno. *mf* *p* *p*

10

Mez. ca - su - al cres - cent, fine and high, A sort of in - no - cent pas - ser - by A -

Bar. ca - su - al cres - cent, fine and high, A sort of in - no - cent pas - ser - by A -

Pno.

rall.

12 *mp*

Mez. cross the ci-ty of Saint Fran-cis, A - cross the free-way, red and white, With last month's cur-va-ture and

Bar. cross the ci-ty of Saint Fran-cis, A - cross the free-way, red and white, With last month's cur-va-ture and

Pno. *mp*

sf
(*f!*)

♩ = 48

15 *pp hushed*

Mez. light. Are the dead, too, de - filed by sor-row, Re-morse, or an- guish?

Bar. light. Are the dead, too, de - filed by sor-row, Re-morse, or an- guish?

Pno. *pp*

accel.

18 *pp*

Mez. We who live Clutch at our po - rous myths to bor - row Be -

Bar. *pp*

We who live Clutch at our po - rous myths to bor - row Be -

Pno. *pp*

♩ = 58

21 *mf* *mp* *f*

Mez. *mf* *mp* *f*

Bar. *mf* *mp* *f*

Pno. *mf* *mp* *f*

lief to ease us, to for-give Those who by dy - ing have be -

lief to ease us, to for-give Those who by dy - ing have be -

rall.

24 *mp* *p* *p*

Mez. *mp* *p* *p*

Bar. *mp* *p* *p*

Pno.

reft us Of them-selves, of our - selves, and left us Prey to this spi - rit - baf - fling pain. The

reft us Of them-selves, of our - selves, and left us Prey to this spi - rit baf - fling pain.

♩ = 52

27 *♩ = 52*

Mez. *♩ = 52*

Pno.

coun-tries round our lives main-tain No mem - moi - rists and no re - cor - ders.

29

Mez. *p* to dis-close What

Bar. *p* Those who are born are too young, those Who die too si - lent, *p* to dis-close What

Pno.

each note slightly longer

poco rit. - *p*

31

Mez. lies a - cross the oc - clu - ded bor - ders Of this bright tract, where

Bar. lies a - cross the oc - clu - ded bor - ders Of this bright tract, where

Pno.

..... ♩ = 48 *poco accel.* ♩ = 52

until fully legato here

33

Mez. *mf* we can see Each o - ther e - va - nes - cent - ly. *pp*

Bar. *mf* we can see Each o - ther e - va - nes - cent - ly. *pp*

Pno. *mf* *pp*

37 *pp* *f*

Mez. *pp* *f*

Bar. *pp* *f*

Pno. *pp* *f*

Slow-ly, Dusk turns to dark, and from the car Jan sees how, star by star by star, The

Slow-ly, Dusk turns to dark, and from the car Jan sees how, star by star by star, The

40 *rall.*

Mez. *rall.*

Bar. *rall.*

Pno. *rall.*

sky, now con - stel - la - ted whol - ly, Domes o - ver the flu - id free - way,

sky, now con - stel - la - ted whol - ly, Domes o - ver the flu - id free - way,

42 *p* *p* *piu mosso*

Mez. *p* *p* *piu mosso*

Bar. *p* *p* *piu mosso*

Pno. *p* *p* *piu mosso*

bright Withred and sil - ver lanes of light. Whe-ther It'slove or not means noth - ing

bright Withred and sil - ver lanes of light.

$\text{♩} = 44$ $\text{♩} = 50$

piu mosso

♩ = 58
mp legato

45

Mez. *mp* legato *V*
much. Slow - ly Dusk turns to dark, and from the car Jan sees how,

Bar. *mp* legato *V*
Slow - ly Dusk turns to dark, and from the car Jan sees how,

Pno. *mp*

48

Mez. *p* less legato *mp* legato *V*
Love by it - self's a tight - ning te - ther, star by star by star, The

Bar. *p* less legato *mp* legato *V*
Love by it - self's a tight - ning te - ther, star by star by star, The

Pno. *p* *mp*

rall. **♩ = 50**

50

Mez. *p*
sky, now con - stel - la - ted whol - ly, A ha - bit - for - ming drug, a crutch.

Bar. *p*
sky, now con - stel - la - ted whol - ly, A ha - bit - for - ming drug, a crutch.

Pno. *p* *p*

52 *martellato*

Pno. *ff*

55 *molto piu mosso* ♩ = 80

Pno. *ff* *marcato staccatissimo* *sim.*

Pno.

57 *f*

Mez. *f*

Bar. *f*

Pno. *f*

Take this as proof She loved you, saw through your e - va - sion And knew your

59 *mf*

Mez. love, love, was not a - loof From you, and with-out pride or ran - cor

Bar. love, love, was not a - loof From you, and with-out pride or ran - cor

Pno. *mf*

61 *rall.* $\text{♩} = 63$ *meno mosso* $\text{♩} = 54$

Mez. *p* *pp*
Kept all you gave her. Do not han - ker For cla - ri - ty; you can - not

Bar. *p*
Kept all you gave her.

Pno. *p* *pp*

63

Mez. find It now, or e - ver; be as kind, As gen - er - ous, and as in - ci - sive With your

Pno.

piu mosso

$\text{♩} = 66$

65 *mf*

Mez. *mf*

Pno.

rall.

$\text{♩} = 54$

68

Mez. *rall.*

Pno.

rall.

p $\text{♩} = 63$ but flexible

71

Bar. *p*


Pno.

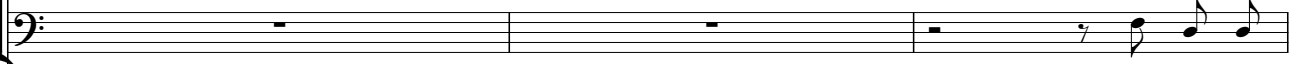
75 *poco*


Bar. *poco*

Pno.


88


Mez.  time, say, cir - ca nine-teen eigh - ty, There lived a man. His name was John. _____

Bar.  De - ple - ted

Pno. 

91

Mez.  Suc - cess - ful in his field though on - ly Twen - ty - six,

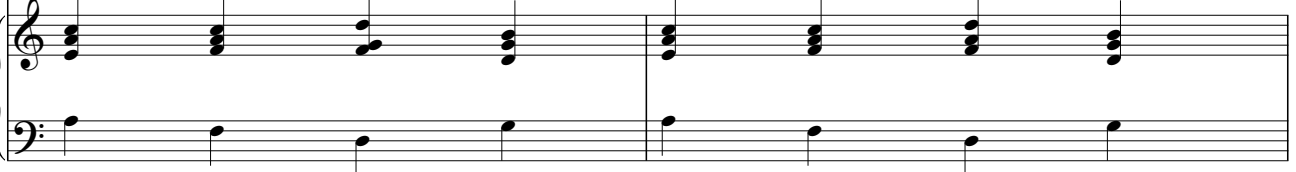
Bar.  by his pain, he slow - ly Walks to Jan's desk. What

Pno. 

94

Mez.  re - spec - ted, lone - ly, One

Bar.  did not last In life has now pos - sessed him whol - ly,

Pno. 

poco rallent. ♩ = 44

96

Mez. ev ning as he walked a - cross Gol - den Gate Park, Noth - ing can mi - ti - gate the past. the

Bar. Noth - ing can mi - ti - gate the past.

Pno.

p *mf*

poco più mosso

♩ = 48

99

Mez. ill judged toss Of a red fris - bee al - most brained him. He

Bar. He gent - ly touch - es Jan's sand dol - lar.

Pno.

mf *p*

102

Mez. thought, "If I died, who'd be sad? Who'd

Bar. It sootheshim in the ache, the squa - lor. That is his life,

Pno.

mf

104

Mez. *f*
weep? Who'd gloat? — Who would be glad?

Bar. *f*
and she seems near Him once a - gain, and he can hear Her voice, — can

Pno. *f*

106

Mez. *f* *f*
Would a - ny - bo - dy?" As it pained him, He

Bar. *f*
al - most hear her say - ing, "I'm with you, John.

Pno.

108

Mez. *f*
turned from this — dis - pi - ri - ting theme To ru - mi - na - tionsless ex - treme. —

Bar. *f* 3
You're not a - lone. there is the phone. —

Pno.

111

Mez.

Bar.

Pno.

f

più mosso
♩ = 60

più mosso
♩ = 69

più mosso
♩ = 76

117

Pno.

più mosso
♩ = 92

ff

122

Pno.

più mosso
♩ = 120

127

Pno.

poco a poco rallent.

dim.

mf

(♩ = 92)

♩ = 72

Tempo primo

♩ = 40 (rhythms do not have to be precise)

132 *p*

Mez. *p* Pay what are your own heart's ar - rears.

Bar. *p* he can hear Her voice,

Pno. *p*

134 **più mosso**
♩ = 48

Mez. *mf* Now clear your throat,

Bar. *mf* can al - most hear her sa - ying, "I'm with you, John. You're

Pno.

(rhythms do not have to be precise)

136 *f* and dry these tears." ___ *p* His name was John.

Bar. *f* not a - lone and dry these tears." ___ *p*

Pno. *f* *p*

♩ = 54

139

Pno.

143

Pno.

Ped. _____ *