

TWO CHINESE POEMS

WITH 8th CENTURY TEXTS

for

VOICE *and* PIANO

By

EMERSON WHITHORNE

Op. 18

I

THE KING OF LIANG

II

THE FEAST

COMPOSERS' MUSIC CORPORATION

14 East 48th Street, New York

THE KING OF LIANG

I

There was a King of Liang—a king of wondrous might—
Who kept an open palace, where music charmed the night.

II

Since he was Lord of Liang a thousand years have flown,
And of the towers he buildded yon ruin stands alone.

III

There reigns a heavy silence; gaunt weeds through windows pry,
And down the streets of Liang old echoes, wailing, die.

—KAO-SHIH (Circa A. D. 700)

Kao-Shih was one of the most fascinating of all the Tang poets. His life was one long series of romantic adventure. At first a poor youth battling with adversity; then a lover of an actress, whom he followed through the provinces, playwriting for the strolling troupe to which she was attached; then next, secretary to a high personage on a mission to Thibet; then soldier, and finally poet of renown, acquiring with his latter years the fortune and honours denied him in his youth.

Translation and biographical sketch
by L. Cranmer-Byng, from *A Lute
Of Jade*, Reprinted by permis-
sion of Messrs. E. P. Dutton & Co.

Authentic Chinese melodies have been employed in these songs.

—E. W.

Dedicated to
Robert Winthrop Chanler

The King of Liang

Kao-shih
Circa A.D. 700

Emerson Whithorne
Op. 18, No. 1

Gift of the Estate of Laura La Forge Webb, 1903.

Allegretto con umore (♩ = 132)

Voice

Piano

mf

senza pedale

mf

There was a King of ^{*}Liang

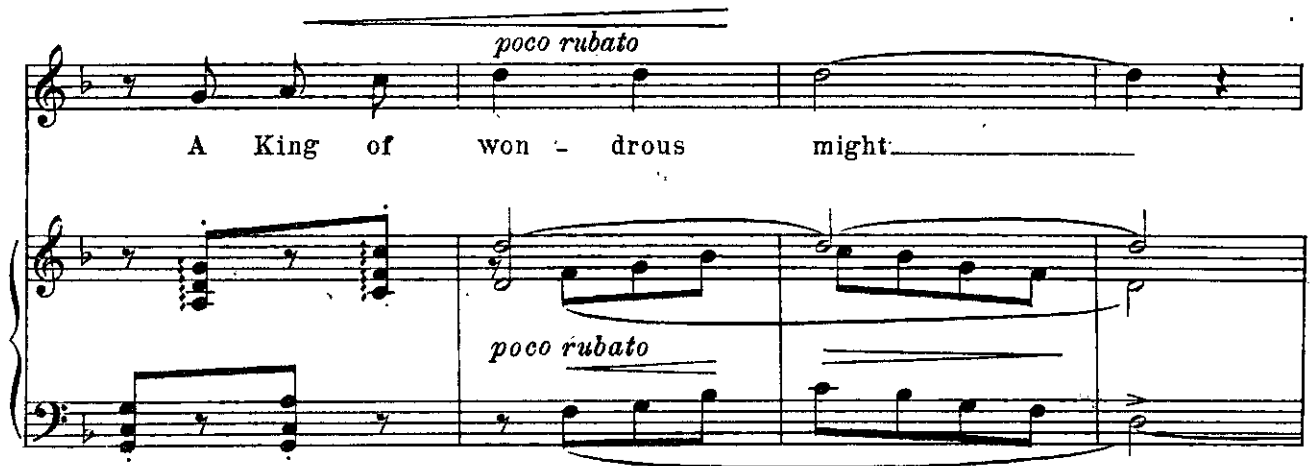
* *Liang*: the pronunciation should be nearer one syllable than two.

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poco rubato

A King of won - drous might.

poco rubato

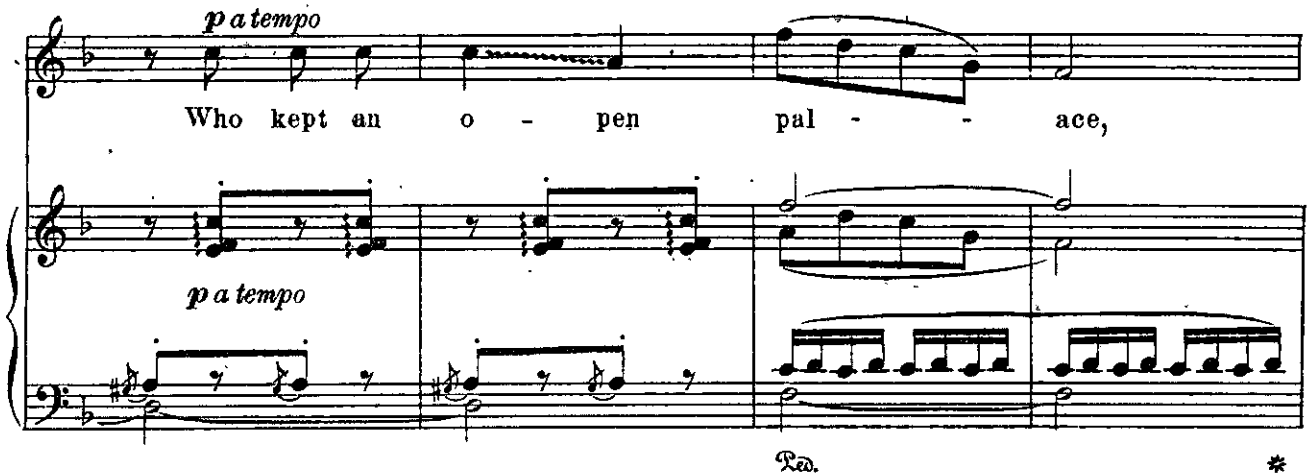


p a tempo

Who kept an o - pen pal - ace,

p a tempo

Red. *

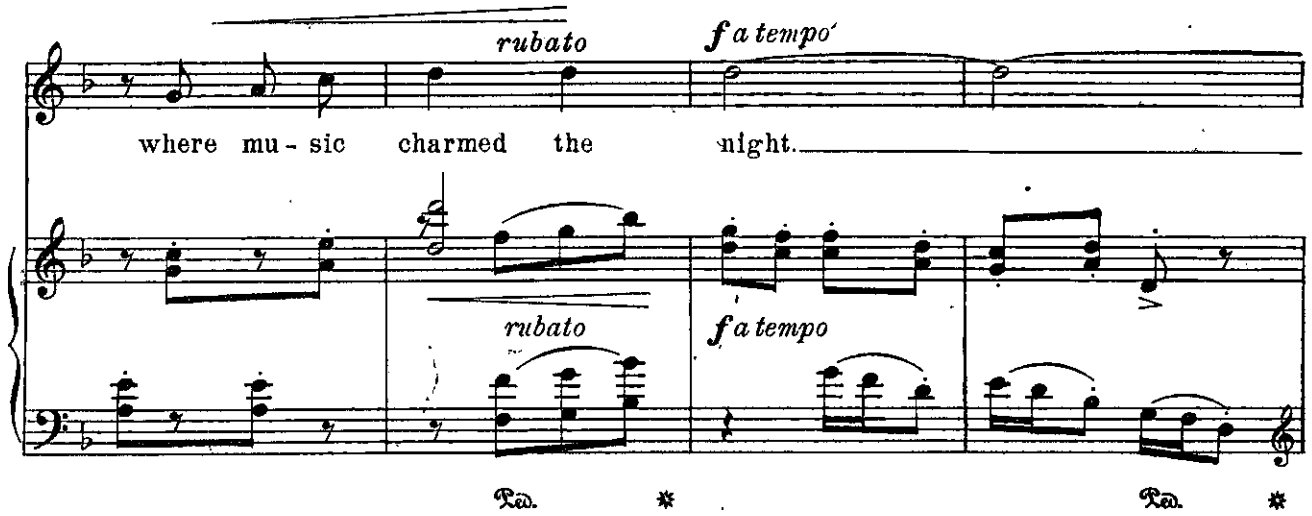


rubato *f a tempo'*

where mu - sic charmed the night.

rubato *f a tempo*

Red. * Red. *



The first system of music consists of three staves. The top staff is a vocal line with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The middle and bottom staves are piano accompaniment, with the middle staff in treble clef and the bottom staff in bass clef. The piano part features a steady eighth-note accompaniment in the right hand and a more active bass line in the left hand. Performance markings include *rall.* (rallentando) and *fz* (forzando). A *Red. ** (ritardando) marking is present at the end of the system.

The second system of music consists of three staves. The top staff is a vocal line with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The middle and bottom staves are piano accompaniment, with the middle staff in treble clef and the bottom staff in bass clef. The piano part features a steady eighth-note accompaniment in the right hand and a more active bass line in the left hand. Performance markings include *p a tempo* and *pp* (pianissimo).

Moderato mesto (♩ = 84)

The third system of music consists of three staves. The top staff is a vocal line with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The middle and bottom staves are piano accompaniment, with the middle staff in treble clef and the bottom staff in bass clef. The piano part features a steady eighth-note accompaniment in the right hand and a more active bass line in the left hand. Performance markings include *mp* (mezzo-piano) and *du* (diminuendo). The lyrics are: "Since he was Lord of Liang a thousand".

years have flown, _____ And of the tow'rs he

Ra. * Ra. *

build - ed _____ yon ru - in stands a - lone. _____

Ra. *

Moderato misterioso (♩ = 108)

p

Ra. *

*una corda
senza pedale*

Musical score for the first system. The piano part (left) features a melodic line with slurs and dynamic markings: *p.*, *p.*, *mp*, and *mf marcato*. The bass part (right) has a simpler accompaniment with dynamic markings: *p.*, *mp*, and *mf marcato*.

Musical score for the second system. The piano part (left) continues the melodic line with dynamic markings: *mp*, *p.*, *mf marcato*, and *p.*. The bass part (right) includes a *ritard.* marking.

Adagio (♩ = 66)

There reigns a heav - y si - lence;

Musical score for the third system, featuring a vocal line and piano accompaniment. The tempo is marked *Adagio* with a metronome marking of 66. The lyrics are "There reigns a heav - y si - lence;". The piano part (left) has dynamic markings *pp* and *mp*. The vocal part (right) has a *p* marking.

(♩ = ♩)

gaunt weeds through win-dows pry, —————

pp *mp*

tre corde *

And down the streets_ of Liang old ech - oes,

mp *mf*

tre corde * * *

mf (♩ = ♩) Allegretto (♩ = 132)

wail - ing, die. —————

mf

tre corde * *senza pedale*

mp morendo

mp a tempo

una corda

p.

p.

p.

ritard. al fine

fz

fz

mp

pp

THE FEAST

I

From silver lamps a thin blue smoke is streaming,
And golden vases 'mid the feast are gleaming;
Now sound the lutes in unison,
Within the gates our lives are one.
We'll think not of the parting ways
As long as dawn delays.

II

When in tall trees the dying moonbeams quiver:
When floods of fire efface the Silver River,
Then comes the hour when I must seek
Lo-yang, beyond the furthest peak.
But the warm twilight round us twain
Will never rise again.

—CH'ÉN TZU-ANG (A. D. 656-698)

Ch'én Tzu-ang was famous for writing that kind of impromptu descriptive verse which the Chinese call "ying." In temperament he was less Chinese than most of his contemporaries. His passionate disposition finally brought him into trouble with the magistrate of his district, who cast him into prison, where he died at the age of forty-two.

Translation and biographical sketch
by L. Crammer-Byng, from *A Lute
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The Feast

Ch'ên Tzŭ-ang
A.D. 656-698

Emerson Whithorne
Op. 18, No. 2

Animato e frescamente (♩ = 144)

The first system of piano accompaniment consists of two staves. The upper staff begins with a *mp* dynamic and features a melodic line with slurs and accents. The lower staff provides a rhythmic accompaniment with chords and single notes. The tempo is marked as *Animato e frescamente* with a quarter note equal to 144 beats per minute. The key signature has two flats, and the time signature is 4/4. The system concludes with a *mf* dynamic marking.

The second system of piano accompaniment continues the piece. It features a *fz* dynamic marking at the beginning. The upper staff has a melodic line with slurs and accents, while the lower staff provides a rhythmic accompaniment. The tempo is marked as *Meno mosso* with a quarter note equal to 132 beats per minute. The system concludes with a *mf* dynamic marking.

The third system includes a vocal line and piano accompaniment. The vocal line is on a single staff with lyrics: "From sil - ver lamps a". The piano accompaniment is on two staves. The upper staff has a *mp* dynamic marking and includes a *mp riten.* marking. The lower staff provides a rhythmic accompaniment. The system concludes with a *p* dynamic marking.

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thin blue smoke is stream -

5 4 5 4 5 4

* *Ad.*

Detailed description: This system contains the first two staves of music. The top staff is a vocal line in G major with lyrics 'thin blue smoke is stream -'. The piano accompaniment is in the left hand, with a right hand accompaniment starting on the second staff. The piano part includes a descending scale in the right hand and a steady bass line in the left hand. The system concludes with a fermata and the tempo marking *Ad.* and a star symbol.

- ing, *mp* And

p

* *Ad.* * *Ad.*

Detailed description: This system contains the next two staves of music. The vocal line continues with the lyric '- ing,' and then has a rest followed by the tempo marking *mp* and the word 'And'. The piano accompaniment continues with a *p* dynamic marking. The system ends with a fermata and the tempo marking *Ad.* and star symbols.

gold - en vas - es 'mid the feast are

p

Detailed description: This system contains the final two staves of music on the page. The vocal line has the lyrics 'gold - en vas - es 'mid the feast are'. The piano accompaniment continues with a *p* dynamic marking. The system concludes with a fermata.

mf gleam - - - - - ing; *mf* Now sound the

* Ria. * Ria. *

ritard. lutes in u - - - - ni - son, *p* With - in the gates our *a tempo*

ritard. *p* *a tempo*

* Ria. * Ria. *

p lives are one. We'll think not of the *Tranquillo e misticamente* (♩=110)

p *Tranquillo e misticamente* (♩=110)

pp *mp* *poco marcato*

* Ria. * Ria. *

part- ing ways *accel.* *mp* As

*Re. * Re. * Re. * Re. **

a tempo long as dawn de - lays. *accel.*

a tempo *p subito* *accel.*

*Re. * Re. * Re. * Re. **

Animato (Tempo I)

*Re. * Re. * Re. * Re. **

mf *fz*

Re. * Re. * Re. * Re. *

fz *mp* *rit.* *fz*

Re. *

Meno mosso (Tempo II)

mp *p*

When in tall trees the dy - - - ing

Re.

moon - - beams quiv - - er:

mf

* *Re* * * *Re* *

Detailed description: This system contains the first two staves of music. The top staff is a vocal line in treble clef with a key signature of one flat and a 3/4 time signature. The lyrics 'moon - - beams quiv - - er:' are written below the notes. The bottom two staves are for piano accompaniment, with a treble and bass clef. The piano part begins with a dynamic marking of *mf*. There are two asterisks with the word 'Re' below the piano part, indicating a specific performance instruction.

mp
When floods of fire ef -

p

Re

Detailed description: This system contains the next two staves of music. The vocal line continues with the lyrics 'When floods of fire ef -'. The piano accompaniment features a dynamic marking of *mp* for the vocal line and *p* for the piano part. The piano part includes a *Re* marking below the first measure.

face the Sil - - ver Riv - er,

* *Re* * *Re*

Detailed description: This system contains the final two staves of music on the page. The vocal line concludes with the lyrics 'face the Sil - - ver Riv - er,'. The piano accompaniment ends with a *Re* marking and two asterisks below the staff.

mf *rall.* *p ten.*

Then comes the hour when I must seek Lo - yang,

mf *rall.* *ten.* *p ten.*

*

a tempo *p*

be - yond the furth - est peak. But the

a tempo *pp*

Tranquillo (Tempo III) *accel.*

warm twi - light round us twain

p *poco marcato* *mf accel.* *ffz*

ad. * *ad.* * *ad.*

mp *rall. molto*

Will nev-er rise a - gain.

f *rall. molto*
mp subito

* *Re.* *

Re.

accel. *Animato (Tempo I)*

accel. *f* *mp*

* *Re.* * *Re.* * *senza pedale*

p *mf marcato* *ritard.* *mp*