

The River Merchant's Wife: A Letter

Translated by Ezra Pound- Songs from CATHAY

Text by Li T'ai Po, 8th cent. Chinese

Music by Winifred Keane, BMI

$\text{♩} = 88$

mp

Simply

Voice

While my hair was still cut straight a- cross my

Piano

L.H. L.H. L.H. L.H. L.H. L.H.

pp

5

Voc

fore- head, Played I a- bout the front gate, pull- ing

Pno

L.H. L.H.

Voc

flow'rs-. You came by, On

Pno

sfz *sfz*

mf

10

Voc

bam- boo stilts, play- ing horse, You

Pno

mp *sfz*

Voc

walked a- bout my seat, play- ing with blue plums. And we went on

Pno

p

Voc

liv- ing in the vil- lage of Cho- kan: Two small peo- ple,

Pno

pp

Voc

with- out dis- like or sus- pi- cion.

Pno

mp

3

Voc

At four- teen, I mar- ried My Lord

Pno

p

3

Voc

you. I nev- er laughed be- ing bash- ful.

Pno

sfz *sfz* *p*

Voc

Low' ring my head, I looked at a wall

Pno

mp

3 25

Voc

Called to a thou- sand times, I nev- er looked back.

Pno

mf *mp*

3

4

30 Warmly

Voc

At fif- teen, I stopped scow- ling

Pno

mp

Voc

mp

I de- sired my dust to be mingled with

Pno

p

35 *mf*

Voc

yours, For ev- er and for

Pno

mf

5

Voc *f* e ver & for- ev- er! *p* Why

Pno L.H. R.H. *f* 8vb

Voc 40 should I climb the look- out? At six- teen, you de-

Pno *mp* *pp*

Voc 3 par- ted, You went in- to far Ku- to yen, by the

Pno 3

45

Voc

riv- er of swirl- ing ed- dies, And you have been

Pno

Voc

gone five months. The mon- keys make

Pno

Voc

sor- row- ful noise o- ver- head.

Pno


50


(no pedal)

7

8vb

p


Voc  You dragged your feet


Pno  *p* *8vb*

55

Voc  when you went out. By the gate now, the moss is

Pno  *mp*
p dolce

Voc  grown, the diff' rent mos- ses, Too

Pno 

60

Voc

deep to clear them a-way! The

Pno

Voc

leaves fall ear-ly this au-tumn in wind. The

Pno

p

pp

65

Voc

paired but-ter-flies are al-ready yel-low with Aug-ust o-ver the

Pno

lighter

Voc

grass in the West gar- den. They

Pno

Voc

mf hurt *mp* me. I grow ol- der.

Pno

mp *pp*

70

Voc

mp 3 - If you are com- ing down through the narrows

Pno

mp *p* L.H. L.H.

Voc *mf*
 of the Ri- ver Kiang Please let me know be-

Pno *secco*
 8vb — 8vb —

Voc 75 -
 fore- hand, And I will

Pno

Voc
 come out to meet you, As far as Cho- fu- sa.

Pno

11 3

Voc

Pno

Penwin Press

©WK 1991
(203-227-0583)