

Not being Charles Frieth

Bethan James

Ed Scolding

Character: Robin Fingest (tenor) - personal secretary to celebrated composer and conductor Charles Frieth. Unhappy in his job and resentful of the way Charles treats him. A frustrated and untalented composer.

Set: Charles Frieth's study. Shelves lined with scores. Large desk with papers, pens and a STAPLER strewn across it. It is late. A bottle of wine and one half-full glass stand on the piano. Another on the desk.

Accompaniment instrumentation: For a palette of chamber ensemble with flute, clarinet, trumpet (with & without mute), French horn, violin, cello, double bass. For clarity of score, more detailed notes are omitted.

Robin Fingest rifling through the papers on Charles' desk and the drawers.

♩ = 100

Robin

Piano

f *mp* *p*

3

pedal ad lib. where no specific pedalling marked

muttered angrily to himself

3 *p* *mp*

R. Banal... tasteless... trite...

Pno. *f* *mf*

Takes a swig from the glass and then knocks it over in a pettily deliberate manner.

6 *mf*

R. sim-ple pas- tiche... full-

Pno. *mp* *mf* *f*

3

2

9 *sarcastic, mocking*

mocking, mimicking Charles: imperious and booming

R. *f*
 of bas - ic er - rors in coun - ter - point 'you

Pno. *mp* *mf* *p* *mf*

Pulls a score from the bottom drawer. Opens it on the desk and scans it hungrily...

13 *mf*
 aim too high Ro - bin'

Pno. *mf* *mp* *pp* *p*

Frustrated disappointment.

17

R.

Pno. *mp* *mf* *ff* *fff* *pp*

23 *frustrated, tired f*

22 *f*
 What... am I mis - sing?

Pno. *f* *mf*

25 *mf* *f*

R. I watch him work; I take ad-vice

Pno. *f*

27 *ff* *mf* *mp*

R. I co-py out pa-ges and pa-ges and pa-ges

Pno. *ff* *f* *mf* *mp*

31 **32** *timid pp* *p*

R. I com-pose late

Pno. *pp* *mp*

35 *mp* *mf*

R. in - to the night cha - sing notes a-cross my mind,

Pno. *pp* *p* *mp* *mf*

38 *f* *mf* *f*

R. 8 figh-ting to catch phra - ses as they

Pno. *f* *mf* *f*

41 *mp* *f*

R. 8 wa - ver and fade.

Pno. *mp* *sfz* *p* *mp*

Ped.

45 *mp* *mf*

R. 8 Then an i - dea comes and I pick up speed

Pno. *p* *mp*

49 *ff* *bold, uninhibited, joyful f*

R. *8* the mu - sic

Pno. *mf* *f* *ff* *p* *f* *pp*

52 flows the i - deas are per - fect.

Pno. *f* *mf*

54 *mf* *f*

R. *8* Com - plex chords, sty - lish me - lo - dy

Pno. *mp* *f*

57 *falsetto* *mp*

R. *8* a so - pra - no, flutes

Pno. *mp* *f* *mp*

75 *mf*

R. peaks and poi - gnant turns."

Pno. *mp* *mf* *f*

78 *f* **Snaps out of his day-dream**
slow ♩=80

R. This is the one!

Pno. *f* *mf* *mp*

8^{vb}-----|

82 **molto rubato** **poco rubato** **87** **senza rubato**

R. Ba - nal

Pno. *p* *molto espress.* *f* *mp* *mf* *pp*

(R.H.)

89 **accel.** ♩=84 *p*

R. he said. Trite he said. And then

Pno. *mp* *pp*