CRAIG BOHMLER

Love Letters

Mezzo-Soprano and Piano

words by Elie H. Haddad

Table of Contents

the spring in Lebanon	3
Departure	8
In Paris	10
As I Leave Lebanon	13
Unconditional Love	15
The Proposal	22



Texts

The Spring in Lebanon

You are my flowers, my roses, my grass, my trees, my spring. You are my lakes, my rivers, my skies, my stars, the oceans, and seas.

They say that spring is beautiful for it brings new life. They say the red flowers of Lebanon blossom in the spring To reveal the love of Adonis for his Ishtar.

I say, "Let them keep their spring!" I have you and you are my spring. You are my flowers and my life.



Departure

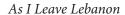
Your tears are raindrops
That water the golden grass
In the desert of my soul.

My face may look radiant and my eyes joyful But I have no heart. I give it to you for twenty-six days.

Please be careful
For it is fragile
And may melt in your tears.



The city of arts.
You are my art.
The city of beauty.
You are my beauty.
The city of lights.
You are my light
The city of romance.
You are my love.



I am afraid to show my soul to those I leave behind, For my naked soul would betray the joy I feel. Your eyes are getting closer and your warmth stronger, So let my face frown and let my lips droop, For my soul is happy.

Unconditional Love

For you, I could drink a bottle of champagne and a bottle of wine And not get a hangover Because your love sobers me.

For you, I can eat a four-pound chicken, a salad, and three potatoes baked in butter And not get a stomach ache Because your love soothes me.

For you, I can sleep and snore through the night Unaffected by the little nudges you give me Because your love comforts me.

For you, I could get up and pee in the other bathroom So the noise does not bother you Because your love guides me.

For you are the most sober, soothing, Most comforting, most guiding light In the world.

The Proposal

Whisper the hymn of eternity in my ears.

Indwell in me your essence and erase my fears.

Like a bow missing an arrow that has lost its aim,

Life shall be for a heart with no beats and no tears.

Yellow are leaves that shiver in the winter snow. Old are the clouds that summon for the winds to blow Upon the hill where the olive tree speaks the truth.

Miracles bloom in the cold wherever your eyes glow.

Ask me where did I find the strength to arm my soul?

Repeat the same words of wisdom that make me whole.

Right and love are but sounds if heard or seen.

You make the world. You make the bells of heaven toll.

Must I say more, or should the words find a closed door? End of the line. You love me. I love you more.

Program notes

The first five poems in this cycle are part of twenty-six that I wrote for Layna before going on a long trip to Lebanon—one piece per day, sequenced, and each sealed in its own envelope. The final poem, "The Proposal," was written upon my return. Twenty-two years later, two kids, and a lifetime of adventures, my hair is greyer, but the love remains young and new. Layna, you are the air I breathe and the blood in my veins.

-Elie H. Haddad

For Layna Chianakas Haddad

Love Letters

for Mezzo-Soprano and Piano

Elie H. Haddad

Craig Bohmler (BMI)



Text: © Copyright 1996 by Elie H. Haddad. All rights reserved. Used by permission.





Departure



Text: © Copyright 1996 by Elie H. Haddad. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Led.

Led.

Elie H. Haddad Craig Bohmler (BMI)



Text: © Copyright 1996 by Elie H. Haddad. All rights reserved. Used by permission.



As I Leave Lebanon

Elie H. Haddad

Craig Bohmler (BMI)



Text: © Copyright 1996 by Elie H. Haddad. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Unconditional Love

Elie H. Haddad

Craig Bohmler (BMI)



Text: © Copyright 1996 by Elie H. Haddad. All rights reserved. Used by permission.



The Proposal

Elie H. Haddad Craig Bohmler (BMI)



Text: © Copyright 1996 by Elie H. Haddad. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

