

# Pizzicato Five, Poetry Reading By Genqui Numata

(to a person descending a staircase)

Translator: Rie Iizuka

keitaro: eto ky wa  
itsumo boku-tachi  
guest ga  
irun desukedomo, ky mo, e...  
subarashii guest wo o-mukae  
shite orimasu.  
e... geijutsu-ka no kata desu.  
saki hodo utsutteta utsukushii  
kono e toka mo kare no  
sakuhin nan desu ga  
idai naru shijin de ari  
shashin-ka de aru  
numata genki san desu.

numata: oss! oss!  
numa-gen desu.  
ky wa ippen no  
shi wo rdoku sasete  
itadakimasu.  
pizzicato five ni  
sasagemasu.  
kaidan wo kakeoriru hito.

kaidan wo kakeoriru hito yo  
hitai ni ase wo nijimase  
obiekitte metsuki de  
kaidan no ue wo kage no y ni  
suberu hito  
haru no chikad wa hokori no nioi  
namanurui kaze ga fukiagete kuru  
rhythm wo tamotte  
rhythm wo tamotte  
tan tan to kaidan wo  
orite ike  
naname ni taorekakaruru building wo  
torinuke  
inu wo kettobashi  
neko wo kettobashi  
kippu uriba made hayaashi da  
itsumo  
itsumo ashi ga oira no mono to wa  
kagiranai  
rhythm wo tamochi  
rhythm wo tamochi  
tamochikirenakunatta toki  
soko nishintai to  
ashi no motsureatta toki  
soko ni yawaraka na  
rakka ga aru no da  
ashi ga karada wo hanarete  
itte shimau no ka wakaranai  
sore tomo shinz hossa no  
y na teishi ga aru no ka wakaranai

sore wa  
wakaranai  
rhythm wa shidai ni  
hayakunari  
hayakunatta rhythm wa kuchibiru no  
furue to kymeishi hajimeru

itsumo rakka wa  
shunkan ni yi sarete iru no da  
ittai ore ra wa  
nan nan da?  
oira wa ittai  
dare nan da?  
kansetu wo kishimase  
mashi wo haizurimawaru  
sakuhin na no ka?  
irotsuke wo shita y na  
aozora ni  
hibikiwataru koe na no ka?  
kihaku na kkan de  
rakka no  
sono kasokudo na no ka?  
kiete iku hito kage  
tzakaru koe  
chikatetsu no koe  
rhythm wo tamotte  
rhythm wo tamotte  
charming ni  
elegant ni  
shitashiki ashi yo  
tooi ashi yo  
saa ensoku ni dekakey  
shizuka na toki ga  
sugite yuku  
shizuka ni toshi ga  
akete yuku  
saraba jaa

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keitaro: well, today  
as usual we have  
a special guest.  
a wonderful guest  
has agreed to come here today.  
he's an artist.  
the pictures you saw  
on the screen  
before are his.  
please a big applause  
to a great poet  
and a great photographer  
ladies and gentlemen, mr genqui numata.

numata: hi, y'all.  
my name is genqui numata.  
tonight i will  
read  
a poem.  
i dedicate this poem  
to pizzicato five.  
to a person descending a staircase.

hey you, who are descending this staircase  
with sweat on your brow  
afraid of going down you let your gaze  
glide down the stairs like a shadow.  
yes, you.  
this underpass in springtime smells of dust  
and a lukewarm breeze blows by.  
keep up your rhythm  
keep up your rhythm  
and climb down those stairs

as if your life depended on that.  
pass by that leaning building  
kick the dogs away  
kick the cats too  
and go fast to the ticket counter.  
legs  
are sometimes  
independent beings.  
keep up your rhythm  
keep up your rhythm  
and when you can't take it anymore  
when your body  
and your legs have reached their limit  
at that time  
a soft fall will ensue.  
you feel as if  
your legs fell off your body  
or maybe there's a pause  
like a heart attack  
but you don't know what it is.

you don't  
know.  
you gradually  
gather up speed  
and as you speed up your legs  
and your trembling lips start to resonate.  
the fall comes at the last moment  
and makes it easier.  
and you ask yourself  
who are we?  
who am i  
after all?  
your joints squeak  
am i nothing but  
a crawling work of art?  
am i nothing but  
a voice sounding away  
across this sky  
so blue it looks like it's been dyed?  
am i nothing but  
the speed of  
this fall through thin air?  
shadow that melts away  
voice that dies away  
voice from the subway  
keep up your rhythm  
keep up your rhythm  
with grace  
with flair  
hey you, legs,  
hey you, my distant legs  
let's go on a stroll  
as the silent time goes by  
the city silently  
opens itself.  
goodbye.