

ARTHUR GREGOR

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## From “Remembrance”

On ferme les yeux pour se retrouver.

### Mozart, *Marriage of Figaro*, Act III Duet, The Countess and Suzanna

The volume up  
the men out for exercise in a prison yard  
transfixed, inward turned like thoughtful  
muscular statues in stillness extending themselves  
to something they had once known,  
forgotten, cannot name, could never name,  
something tugging at the heart  
the memory of something marvelous  
extraordinary even in their sad  
distorted lives. A murmur that  
brings each to where each once  
had been, a song, a duet, an aria uniting them.  
And I in the night crossing the Atlantic  
hearing it on the plane’s music track  
remembering the film am moved  
stirred to tears they may or may not have shed  
join them in the heart’s  
jubilant recognition and in  
the infinite sadness of their plight—  
joy and sadness, Emily’s  
“joy to have merited the pain”—  
and no plane could lift me to  
the height of such tunes such harmony  
the one reference  
each had been brought back to  
as I was then  
to the one memory  
uniting us  
touching us as nothing does.