

Flute

by Yoojin Kim

The stage is mine, all mine

Bright lights glare into my eyes
And it takes a few seconds to regain
Full consciousness

The I inhale, the breath of life
And start my song
A clean crisp note fills my ears
And my confidence rises
The elaborate trills, shrill high notes
And the deep low notes fill the air

For a moment, I've forgotten
About the watching eyes of the judge below me
Listening warily for any sign of faltering

And this is the last breath I'll take
The final one
And the note fills the air for many, intense long seconds
It finally fades away
But a bit stays behind to echo
And ring in my ears

But then it completely disappears
Leaving me empty