Palliative and Supportive Care

The musician

cambridge.org/pax

Aldis H. Petriceks, B.A.

Department of Surgery, Stanford University School of Medicine, Stanford, California

Poetry

Cite this article: Petriceks AH (2019). The musician. *Palliative and Supportive Care* **17**, 250–250. https://doi.org/10.1017/S1478951518000391

Received: 5 April 2018 Revised: 16 April 2018 Accepted: 17 April 2018

Key words:

Death; dying; poetry; identity

Author for correspondence:

Aldis H. Petriceks, Department of Surgery, Stanford University School of Medicine, 269 Campus Drive, CCSR Building, Room 0105, Stanford, CA 94305.

E-mail: aldisp@stanford.edu

There's someone on the hospital bed—a man... handsome in years past, that much is clear. his eyes, well, they're closed, so I couldn't tell you what they look like. In moments passing, he crosses his legs in the air, like a kind of offering, but there's no one to offer to. Except me, perhaps. His breath rattles. The morphine drips.

There's a picture beside me, on the desk. A man—handsome, smiling; that onyx-yellow hair, perfectly unkempt like all young music teachers. He plays guitar beautifully, I can tell by his smile. The crowd is deafening, I ask them to please keep it down: someone's dying in here. But I can't, I don't want to, stop the silent singing, the chasm-like daydream of his eyes. His beautiful, blue, eyes.

© Cambridge University Press 2018

