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# Vox Humana

Timothy Liu

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*Timothy Liu*

VOX HUMANA

Wrapped in scarves of flame, a woman  
sealed in a pinewood box offering  
prayers to a God she was not afraid  
to meet. Are we nothing more  
than names still searching for voices  
to inhabit?—Giuditta Pasta,  
Maria Malibran, and all those divas  
who survive as print, fioriture  
of portraiture long before our age  
reduced their gowns to relics enshrined  
behind smoked glass—La Fenice’s pyre  
devouring sheaves of Callas’ letters  
as we gondola downstream—ashes  
blown back into our faces.