

1996

## Competition

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### Recommended Citation

Taylor, Bekah (1996) "Competition," *Exile*: Vol. 43 : No. 1 , Article 9.

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.denison.edu/exile/vol43/iss1/9>

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As his hair fell over the strings,  
I noticed how gentle he was,  
treating them like a new-found girl  
whose conversation he found interesting.  
I could pretend it was all for me—  
the way he drew the music out,  
his slender hands which explored  
her neck with care.  
I envied the way he held  
her curves close,  
squeezing out the chords,  
looking through me with indifference  
to the audience beyond.

—*Bekah Taylor*