

Ellen Steinbaum

Berlin Philharmonic Concert 11/11/__16

Maybe she also sat mid-orchestra,
center—it could have happened—
also fingering a length of pearls,
as she waited for Mahler’s Seventh,
settled into her plush seat
reading the program and nodding
to nearby friends. It could have happened
on this same weighted date, a different year:
the houselights dimmed,
the conductor was applauded,
and then the expectant hush,
the opening notes. And she,
the woman I imagine, could have
willed herself into the flood of sound
that drowned out the rest

Ellen Steinbaum is the author of three poetry collections. Her work has been nominated twice for the Pushcart Prize and is included in Garrison Keillor’s anthology, *Good Poems*, *American Places*, *The Widows’ Handbook*, Cavankerry’s *Waiting Room Reader II* and *A Mighty Room: a collection of poems written in Emily Dickinson’s bedroom*. An award-winning journalist and former Boston Globe columnist, she writes a blog, “Reading and Writing and the Occasional Recipe” which can be found at her web site, ellensteinbaum.com.