

Nohemi — a Song for Paris

Mimi — can I call you that
this is a song for you —

with candles we stand & we kneel
this is how it is now we
well all of us we
send you these flowers across time
this time here which we
cannot explain

all love goes to you
& your friends the other night
so many with you gone we
stand we play Lennon's piano
Imagine — we say
a world without violence —
we want to imagine that in your name
Nohemi Gonzalez from El Monte
from Whittier California from
Cal State Long Beach —
then

we run out of words

the words
so many words your mamá
Beatriz your cousin Jacqueline
we know them now — for you

we write them a poem too
I do not know how we will do that
we are doing that — that is all
like the designs you made — for a high-spirited world
you said you were *high-spirited & self-driven* — yes
like the dreams you had
& the words First Generation
the ones you used to
describe your life

we continue with you — somehow
it is not important to know how
it is important to continue that is all
I must — say it again

we are all writing a poem
for you for your cousin Jacqueline
for your mamá Beatriz — she loved you
their love will make it alright
all of our love will make it alright yes

here is your song Mimi —

We light Nohemi a candle
the candle waves across the stars
close they are so close because
Nohemi & Paris are in our hearts

Because
Nohemi &
Paris — are in

our hearts

- Juan Felipe Herrera
Poet Laureate of the United States