

"First day in the lab"

Lyrics: Uri Alon and Michael Elowitz

Music: Leonard Cohen

Mike takes you down  
to a place by the centrifuges  
it's your first day in the lab  
and you don't know what a centrifuge is  
and he hands you precious flasks  
and you drop them... and they shatter  
and you look at him quite meekly  
but he says it doesn't matter  
they were only the controls.

and he gives you of his buffers  
and he gives you of his strains  
and you wish you had his genome  
or at least you had his brains.

I came to him one morning  
an idea had been forming  
my transformants weren't transforming  
and my swarmers weren't not swarming  
I said Mike Im a failure  
I'm going to work at Happy Burger  
I think I'm quitting science  
but he says now don't be hasty  
you see, science like the cafeteria  
is sometimes nasty sometimes tasty.

and he soothes you so discreetly  
and you trust in him completely  
and you mind it has been freed  
and you know that something,  
somewhere will succeed.

Now Mike is packing  
his papers in a folder  
there's a knapsack on his shoulder  
his pipette is in it's holder  
and as he leaves the floor  
the shakers all stop shaking  
the columns all runs dry  
and the autoclave stops baking  
it will never be the same.

and you know that you must keep him  
or at least that you must clone him  
and you know that you will miss him  
and you know that you will phone him  
all the time.

Mike takes you down ...