

Libby Larsen

MOBILE / NOT MOBILE / ...
*8 Haiku from World War II Internment
Camps by Japanese-American Citizens*

Dedicated to Stephen and Anne Hunter

*Commissioned by Schubert Club
Premier performance, November 13, 2025,
Ordway Center for the Performing Arts, St. Paul, Minnesota
Roderick Williams, Baritone and Iain Burnside, Piano*

KENWOOD EDITIONS

Libby Larsen

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by Japanese-American Citizens*

For Solo Baritone and Piano

Commissioned by Schubert Club

Premiere performance, November 13, 2025
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Duration: 11 min.

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MOBILE / NOT MOBILE / ...

Premiered by Roderick Williams, baritone, and Iain Burnside, piano, at the Ordway Center for Performing Arts, St. Paul, Minnesota on 13 November 2025

Program Note

Mobile/Not Mobile/... is a setting of eight haiku found in Violet Kazue de Cristoforo's book *May Skies, There's Always a Tomorrow*, an Anthology of Japanese American Concentration Camp Kaiko Haiku. Each of the volume's 130+ haiku, set in free-style (kaiko haiku), distills into a few lines the realities of the detention camps where thousands of Japanese- American citizens were incarcerated during World War II. *

In collaborating on our new work, Roderick Williams, Iain Burnside and I selected 8 haiku by Shizuku Uyemarko, Yuko Fujikawa, Neiji Ozawa, Sagara Sei, Tokuji Hirai, Tojo Fujita and Hyakussei Okamoto. Each haiku uses something familiar to us (train, dragonfly, cloud, seasons, wind/windless) as contemplations of patience, forbearance and ability to endure.

Honoring these qualities, we thought to create a concert program which uses the 8 haiku songs to frame and inspire eight sets of Western art-song. For the Schubert Club premiere Roderick and Iain chose 23 songs to make up 8 sets. We call this a concert in the form of an Alexander Calder mobile. A visualization of the concert program is on the following page.

We intend that you perform Mobile/Not Mobile/... either in mobile form or as its own set. If you adopt mobile form, let the haiku poetry inspire your choices for each song set.

Libby Larsen, 2025

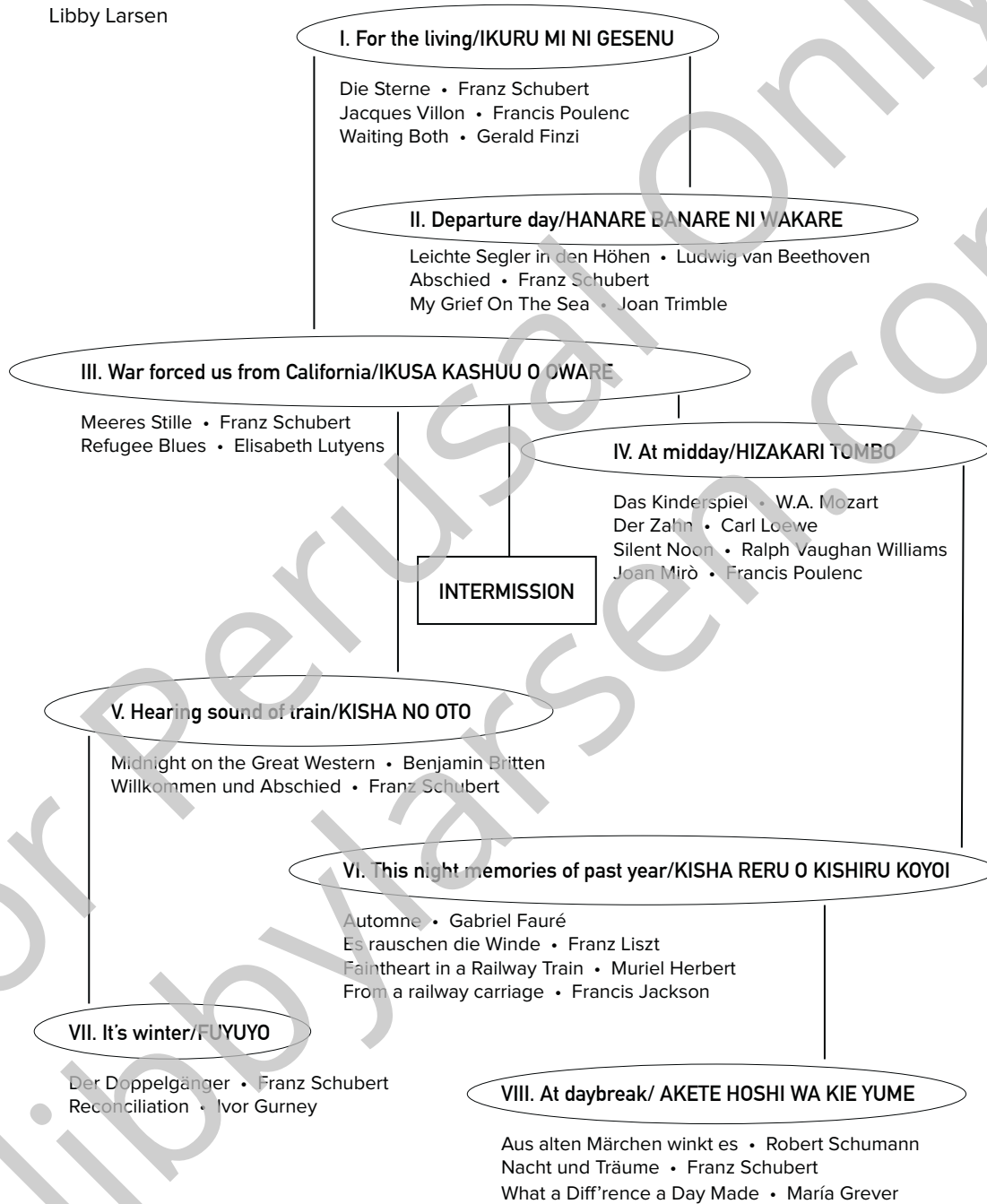
* Executive Order 9066, signed by President Franklin D. Roosevelt on February 19, 1942, authorized the mass forced removal and incarceration of all Japanese Americans on the West Coast. As a result of this order, some 110,000 Japanese Americans living on the West Coast were removed from the West Coast, most to inland concentration camps. Executive Order 9066 lapsed at the end of the war and was eventually terminated by Proclamation 4417, signed by President Gerald Ford on February 19, 1976.

MOBILE/NOT MOBILE/...

8 Haiku from World War II Internment
Camps by Japanese-American Citizens

Libby Larsen

A Visualization of the Concert Program



1. *For the living*

IKURU MI NI GESENU KOTO OOKU NATSU-HOSHI HIKARU

For the living
many incomprehensible incidents
summer stars shine

2. *Departure day*

HANARE BANARE NI WAKARE NO HI NO NATSU NO KUMO

Departure day
families leaving one by one
summer clouds

3. *War forced us from California*

IKUSA KASHUU O OWARE SABAKU NO MIZUUMI NAMI TATANU HI

War forced us from California
No ripples this day
on desert lake

4. *At midday*

HIZAKARI TOMBO OU KORA NO HA GA SHIROI

At midday
children chasing dragonflies
their teeth are white

5. *Hearing sound of train*

KISHA NO OTO KIKOYU NAGAKI YORUO SAMETE ORI

Hearing sound of train
-AWAKE-
this endless night

6. *This night memories of past year*

KISHA RERU O KISHIRU KOYOI OMOIDE ICHINEN NO AKIYO

Train rumbles on track
this night memories of past year
autumn evening

7. *Winter night*

FUYUYO WAGA KATA O TATAKU OTOKO NO IRO SHIROKU

Winter night
pale faced man
taps my shoulder

8. *At daybreak*

AKETE HOSHI WA KIE YUME WA DOKO E SUTER

At daybreak
stars disappear
where do I discard my dreams?

Mobile/Not Mobile/...

I. For the living

Shizuku Uyemarko

Libby Larsen

Free of time to m. 10

The musical score is written for Voice and Piano. The key signature is one flat (B-flat) and the time signature is 5/4. The score is divided into two systems. The first system includes a Voice part and a Piano part. The Voice part has a single note in the first measure, followed by rests. The Piano part has a melody in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. The right hand melody is marked with a slur and the instruction "quietly descend" followed by "arrive". The left hand has a triplet of eighth notes marked "mf". The second system continues the piano part with a slur over the right hand melody marked "stunned" and "p". The left hand has a triplet of eighth notes marked "3". The third system includes a Voice part and a Piano part. The Voice part has a single note in the first measure, followed by rests. The Piano part has a melody in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. The right hand melody is marked with a slur and the instruction "murmur" followed by "mp". The left hand has a triplet of eighth notes marked "f". The fourth system continues the piano part with a slur over the right hand melody marked "mp sub." and "p". The left hand has a triplet of eighth notes marked "p".

DP ad libitum →

SP

4

V.

Pno

f

mp sub.

p

free

I -

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a tempo

7

V. *- ku - ru mi ni ge - se - nu ko - to oo - ku Nat - su - ho - shi hi - ka - ru*

Pno *murmur* *mf*

9 $\text{♩} = 76$

V. *For the*

Pno *coruscant* *luminous* *mf* *RH* *SP*

Free of time to m. 19

12

V. *liv - ing man - y in - com - pre - hen - si - ble in - ci - dents*

Pno *quietly* *p* *SP*

15

V.

Pno

mf

p

murmur



18

V.

sum - mer stars shine

Pno

shimmer

pp

poco

a tempo (♩ = 76)



20

V.

Pno

(mf)

mp

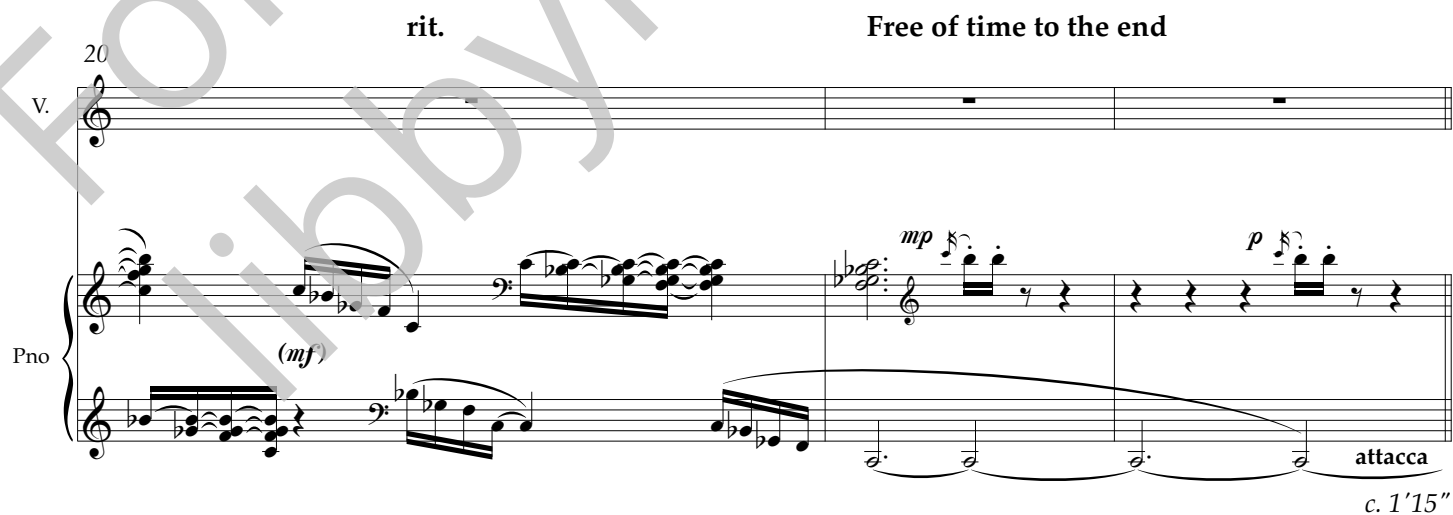
p

rit.

Free of time to the end

attacca

c. 1'15"



II. Departure day

Yuko Fujikawa

Libby Larsen

♩. = c. 80–86

Voice: *mf* *p sub.*
 Piano: *mf* *p sub.*
 LH detached through m 13 1/2
 steam locomotive whistle →
 5 (3+3+2)
 V. Ha - na - re ba - na - re ni wa - ka - re no hi no
 Pno: *ff* *mp sub.*
 9
 V. na - tsu no ku - mo
 Pno: *pp* *ff*

28

V. one by one sum - mer

Pno

lightly *warmly*

SP

34

V. clouds - - - - - sum -

Pno

lightly *pp* *poco a poco cresc.*

non rit.

38

V. - mer clouds

Pno

poco a poco decresc. *n*

c. 1 min.

III. War forced us from California

Neiji Ozawa

Libby Larsen

Still, no forward motion (♩ = 48–52)

Voice

Piano

p

freely

2

V.

I - ku - sa ka - shuuo o - wa - re sa - ba - ku no mi - zuu - mi na - mi ta - ta - nu hi

Pno

push ahead

3

V.

War forced us from Cal - i - for - nia

Pno

p *mf* *fff* *f*

short //

IV. At midday

Sagara Sei

Libby Larsen

as fast as possible, yet precise

Dragonflies in stationary hover . . .

hover dart hover dart

f *p sub.* *f* *p sub.* *f* *p sub.* *f*

Damper pedal ad lib. throughout

4

V.

hover

p sub. *f* *p sub.* *dart*

7

V.

shout with glee

Kora!

hover sim.

p sub. *dart* *mf* *f*

SP

10 *f*

V. Tom - bo! Tom - bo!

Pno *p sub.* *f*

14 *With child-like excitement*

V. Hi - za - ka - ri Tom - bo ou Ko - ra no ha ga shi - ro - i

Pno *mp* *f* *p sub.*

17 *Summoning the other children*

V. Kora!

Pno *f* *SP*

20

V.

Hi - sa - ka - ri Tom - bo ou Ko - ra no ha ga shi - ro - i

Pno

mfsub. *fsub.* *mp* 8va loco

23

V.

Dragonflies, everywhere . . .

Pno

fsub. *p* SP SP

26

V.

At mid - day child - ren chas - ing

Pno

fsub. SP

38

V. Their teeth are white, are white.

Pno *mp* *mf* *p* *p*

SP *SP*

41

V.

Pno *loco* *8va* *loco to the end* *f*

44

V.

Pno

SP
*8va Ossia

c. 1'35"

V. Hearing sound of train

Tokuji Hirai

Libby Larsen

$\text{♩} = 120$

(steam locomotive whistle)

Voice

Ah

scoop

Piano

pp

Train, far away, approaching . . .

ped. ad lib throughout

5

V.

sim.

gliss.

ff

gliss.

A - wake

passes by . . .

ff

fades into the distance

Pno

9

V.

Ah

Pno

pp

12

V.

gl. *gl.*

A - wake

Pno

cresc. *f*

free of time

Slowly, quasi recit.

14

V.

fall off

3 3 3 3

Ki - sha - no o - to ki - ko - yu na - ga - ki yo - ru - o sa - me - te o - ri

Pno

ff *mf*

a tempo (♩ = 120)

15

V.

Ki - sha no

Pno

p *p*

18

V. *gliss.* o - to Ki - sha no

Pno

21 *steam whistle* o - to *fall off*

Pno *ff*

24 V. na - ga - ki

Pno *mfsub.* *mp*

27

V.

Long yo - ru - o night

Pno

p *p* *pp*

30

V.

sa - me - te o - ri

Pno

p *mp* *mf* *mp*

33

V.

gliss. wake

Pno

another train approaches . . .

p poco a poco cresc. to m. 38

45

V.

this end - less

Pno

47

V.

night

Pno

dim to

49

V.

Pno

niente

c. 2 min.

Libby Larsen

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Score for "Kishire" by Yuki Kajioka. The score is for Voice and Piano. The Voice part features a melody with lyrics in Japanese and English. The Piano part provides accompaniment with chords and a bass line. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 5/4. The score includes a large watermark "Copyright © 2019 Yuki Kajioka".

Voice

Ki - sha re - ru o ki - shi - ru ko - yo - i o - mo - i - de__ i - chi - nen no a - ki - yo

Piano

2

V.

5/4

castig memory back in time

p

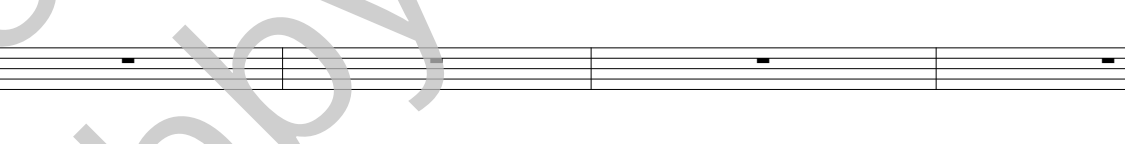
short

mf

f

3

SP

5
V. 
train, in distant memory
Pno *p*

Lingering

a tempo (♩ = 108–112)

18

V.

Au - tumn ev - en - ing

Pno

mf

hollow

p

21

V.

This night mem - o - ries of past

Pno

rit. to end

25

V.

year

Pno

c. 1'25"-1'30"

VII. It's winter

23

Hyakuissei Okamoto

Libby Larsen

as a windless, steady snowfall

Score for Voice and Piano, featuring the title "VII. It's winter" and the subtitle "as a windless, steady snowfall". The score is in 4/4 time and includes dynamic markings such as *mf*, *p*, and *mf*. The piano part includes performance instructions like *semi-legato*, *Ped. ad libitum*, *poco rall.*, *a tempo*, *freely*, *slowly*, and *poco*. The voice part includes lyrics: "It's win - ter win - ter night" and "The man pale faced man The man who taps my shoul - der is". The score is marked with measures 8, 15, and 22.

8

V. *mf* *a tempo*

It's win - ter win - ter night

Pno

15

V. *p* *mf* *a tempo*

The man slide pale faced man The man who taps my shoul - der is

Pno *slowly* *p sub.* *mf*

21

V. pale faced

Pno

glisten

sim.

p

(♩ = c. 72)

26

V. Fu - yu - yo wa - ga ka - ta o ta - ta - ku o - to - ko no i - ro shi - ro - ku The

Pno

whisper

pp

29

V. man who taps my shoul - der is pale faced

Pno

poco rit.

p sub.

c. 1'20"

VIII. At daybreak

25

Neiji Ozawa

Libby Larsen

fast, as the eye can catch a twinkle

molto rit.

Voice

** Airy abeles! Look at the stars! Look, look up at the skies!*

Piano

ppp

use all pedals, liberally, ad libitum throughout

slow, as to absorb infinity

fast, (stars)

molto rit.

V.

Pno

mf

ppp

slow (infinity)

V.

At day - break stars dis - ap - pear

quietly, across dawn's horizon

Pno

slowly

mf

8va

(loco)

poco

**The Starlight Night, Gerard Manley Hopkins*

push ahead, reaching for arrival

in personal tempo

11

V. *where* _____ *A - ke - te*

Pno

far away

p

(b)

14

V. *Ho - shi wa ki eh yu - me wa do - ko e su - ter - u* *where* _____ *do I dis-*

Pno

poco

(b)

17 *rit.*

V. *- card* _____ *my dreams?*

Pno

a tempo (personal tempo) rit. to the end

c. 1'30"