

Libby Larsen

KEYS AND PENNIES

Tenor Voice and Piano

KENWOOD EDITIONS

Libby Larsen
KEYS AND PENNIES
Tenor Voice and Piano

Commissioned by Ryan Townsend Strand for the *Letters to Jackie* project, 2023.
Premiere: November 19, 2023, Ryan Townsend Strand, voice, Karina Kontorovitch, piano,
Epiphany Center for the Arts, Chicago, Illinois

Duration: 4 minutes

~Libby Larsen

Copyright © 2023 by Libby Larsen Publishing, Minneapolis, Minnesota, U.S.A.
All rights reserved. Printed in the U.S.A.
Copying or reproducing this publication in whole or in part by
any means is a violation of the Federal Copyright Law.

For more information about this piece and other music by Libby Larsen visit www.libbylarsen.com.

Keys and Pennies

Commissioned by Ryan Townsend Strand for the *Letters to Jackie* project, 2023

Premiere, November 19, 2023, Ryan Townsend Strand, tenor, Karina Kontorovitch, piano, Epiphany Center for the Arts, Chicago, Illinois

In 2020, Ryan Townsend Strand invited me to join a group of fourteen composers he was asking to create songs using texts drawn from letters written to Jacqueline Kennedy following the assassination of her husband, John F. Kennedy in 1963. *Keys and Pennies* is a setting of one of these letters. It was written in 1964 by 14-year-old Diana Tyler. Diana's heartfelt expression of her community's grief and her empathy for Mrs. Kennedy's loss of her husband is deeply moving. When I read her letter, I found myself identifying with her in many ways. We were the same age, both young women in 1964. Both of us were growing up and living in Minneapolis, Minnesota at the time. There were unanticipated touchpoints and I felt compelled to compose her letter into a song to add to the *Letters to Jackie* songbook.

About *Letters to Jackie*, Ryan Townsend Strand says:

“When words are important enough to write, they gain the power of history. On November 22, 1963, U.S. President John F. Kennedy was assassinated in Dallas, Texas while sitting next to his wife, Jacqueline Kennedy. For years to come after this infamous day, letters were written to Jackie, expressing condolences and confusion, the spectrum of grief memorialized in the written word. This project seeks to give voice to those letters, providing community for an audience, and sharing in that collective grief. It is a touchstone for turning inward and experiencing grief through the lens of a national tragedy. *Letters to Jackie* invites listeners on a communal journey to safely explore grief and spark conversation on the importance of human connection.”

Libby Larsen, 2023

KEYS AND PENNIES

DIANA TYLER
EDNA ST. VINCENT MILLAY

LIBBY LARSEN, 2023

$\text{♩} = 92-96$, relaxed
simply, quietly

The piano introduction consists of two staves. The right hand plays a series of chords in 6/8 time, starting with a half note chord and followed by quarter notes. The left hand plays a simple bass line with quarter notes. The dynamic is marked *mf*.

ped. ad lib. throughout

7

conversationally

The first system shows the vocal line starting at measure 7. The lyrics are: "Dear Mis-sus Ken-ne-dy: My name is Di-an-a Tyler." The piano accompaniment continues with chords in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand.

12

The second system shows the vocal line starting at measure 12. The lyrics are: "I am en-clo-sing a pa-per in which man-y ne-gro peo-ple— have ex-pressed what the". The piano accompaniment continues with chords in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand.

Copyright © 2023 by Libby Larsen Publishing, Minneapolis, Minnesota, U.S.A.

All rights reserved. Printed in the U.S.A.

Copying or reproducing this publication in whole or in part by
any means is a violation of the Federal Copyright Law.

a tempo

15

linger

death — of Pres - i - dent Ken - ne - dy meant to them. —

poco

mf

19

I am ver - y sor - ry — that such a thing had to hap - pen.

mp

p

23

It's as if his - to - ry were re - peat - ing it - self, — in a way. —

mf sub.

p sub.

26 **agitated**

I guess we need-ed that shock, but did it have to hap-pen, — es-

fsub. *psub.* *f*

30

pec - ial-ly this way? I'm not ver - y good at ex - pres-sing my - self — but

mp

33 **growing intense**

all I can say is I sym - pa - thize with you. You — have lost your hus-band, —

cresc. *f*

44 *Slowly, in shock, drained*

From his old coats I'll make you lit-tle jack-ets; I'll make you trou-sers

p

47 *rit.*

from his old pants. There'll be in his pock-ets— things he used to put there,

warmly

mf

attacca

50 *no faster than ♩ = 86*
more measured, becoming resolute

keys and pen-nies— cov-ered with to-bac-co; Dan shall have the pen-nies to

mf

53

save— in his bank; Anne shall have the keys to— make a pret-ty noise with.

p sub.

56

resolute

Life— must go on, and the dead— be for-got-ten;

mf sub.

60

quietly

growing urgent

accel.

Life— must go on, Life—

p

rit. to m. 68

64

must go on though good men die;

f *p*

68 slowly, thoughtfully, accepting courageously to the end

68

f sub. *p* *mf*

72

72

Anne, eat your break-fast;

p *mf* *p* *mf*

76

Dan, take your med - i - cine; Life ——— must go on; ——— I for-

pp

80

freely, slowly a tempo

get just why. Life must go on; ——— I for-get just why.

mf

rit. to the end

85

dim. to the end

ppp