

Libby Larsen

NORTH SHORE SONGS

Four Poems of Louis Jenkins

Mezzo-Soprano and Piano

KENWOOD EDITIONS

Libby Larsen
NORTH SHORE SONGS
for Mezzo-Soprano and Piano

Commissioned by Schubert Club for mezzo-soprano Clara Osowski
With funding provided by Barbara Brown and John Michel
In memory of mezzo-soprano BJ Fredericks

Duration: 10 minutes, 50 seconds

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NORTH SHORE SONGS – Poetry by Louis Jenkins

SAUNA

Even to step naked
into the January night is a pleasure!
Steam rises from our bodies
and forms high, thin clouds
that go racing past the moon over the lake.

JANUARY NIGHT 35 BELOW ZERO

When I was a child, I'd burrow
into my covers
pretending to be a rabbit or a fox.
Tonight I will say my prayer
to whatever small creature is moving
in the woods beyond my window.
So fierce in its life.

LAKE SUPERIOR

What I like best
are those rocks that
for no apparent reason
stand waist-deep
in the water and refuse
to come into shore.

SUMMER RAIN

Lightening strikes. The clock stops.
The voice on the radio fades.
We sit in the dark living room as in a cave,
without light, without words.
The rain continues to fall all night.
We sleep and drift among roads, houses
and people we have known. I wake and listen,
the sound of rain, the sound of our breathing.
Water rising.

Sauna

Louis Jenkins

Libby Larsen, 2021

* $\bullet = 104$ rit. — $\bullet = 72$ $\bullet = 104$ rit. — $\bullet = 72$ $\bullet = 104$ rit. — $\bullet = 72$

4 $\bullet = 104$ rit. — $\bullet = 72$ $\bullet = 104$ rit. —

6 $\bullet = 104$ rit. — $\bullet = 72$ $\bullet = 104$ rit. — $\bullet = c. 72$, flexibly

E - ven to step

ppp

ped. ped.

* Beat 1 always at $\bullet = 104$. Begin ritard to $\bullet = 72$ on beat 2.

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17

clouds that go rac - ing past the moon

p *mp* *mf*

ped.

19 rit.

♩ = 104

rit. — ♩ = 72

♩ = 104

rit. — ♩ = 72

o - ver the lake.

p *mp* *mf*

ped. *ped.*

22

♩ = 104

rit. — ♩ = 72

♩ = 104

rit. — ♩ = 72

♩ = 104

rit. — ♩ = 72

dim. to the end *ppp*

ped. *ped.* *ped.*

January Night 35 Below Zero

Louis Jenkins

Libby Larsen, 2021

♩ = c. 92, suspended, under a blanket of snow

Musical notation for the piano introduction, measures 1-4. It features a 3/4 time signature and a key signature of three flats. The right hand plays a series of half notes (E-flat, D-flat, C, B-flat, A-flat, G) with a *p* dynamic. The left hand plays a series of quarter notes (G, F, E, D, C, B) with a *poco* marking.

5

Musical notation for measures 5-9. The vocal line (treble clef) has lyrics: "When I was a child, I'd bur-row in - to my". The piano accompaniment (bass clef) continues with a *p sempre simile* marking.

10

Musical notation for measures 10-14. The vocal line (treble clef) has lyrics: "cov-ers pre-tend-ing to be a rab-bit or a fox." The piano accompaniment (bass clef) includes a *mp** marking in measure 14.

*persistent scritchings of tiny claws

23

prayer to what - ev - er small crea - ture — is mov - ing in the

p

This system contains measures 23 through 26. The vocal line features a melodic phrase starting on a half note, followed by quarter notes and eighth notes. The piano accompaniment consists of a steady eighth-note bass line in the left hand and a more active treble line with some grace notes. A dynamic marking of *p* is present at the beginning of the piano part.

27

woods be - yond my win - dow. So fierce

rit. *free of time*

p

This system contains measures 27 through 30. The vocal line has a melodic line with a fermata over the final note. The piano accompaniment features a more complex treble line with sixteenth-note runs. Performance directions include *rit.* and *free of time*. A dynamic marking of *p* is present.

31

in its life.

a tempo, rit.

mf

This system contains measures 31 through 34. The vocal line is mostly sustained notes with a fermata at the end. The piano accompaniment has a simple bass line and a treble line with some sixteenth-note patterns. Performance directions include *a tempo, rit.* and a dynamic marking of *mf*.

Lake Superior

Louis Jenkins

Libby Larsen, 2021

$\text{♩} = 52$ ($\text{♩} = 104$), unmoveable

What I like best are those rocks that for no ap - par - ent

rea - son stand waist deep in the wat - er and re - fuse

to come in - to shore.

f sempre

stolid

Summer Rain

Louis Jenkins

Libby Larsen, 2021

♩ = 60

Lightning, dry, charged

2 6 5

Thunder

4 5 6

6 7

mf

Sub-ped.

slow release

7 4

Lightning

f

5

8 8

Thunder forearm

fff

Light-'ning strikes. The clock stops.

3

Sub-ped.

12 ♩ = 72, moving rit.

The voice on the ra - di - o fades We

fading

mp

17 **a tempo** rit.

sit in a dark liv - ing room as in a cave with-out light. With-out

n

21 **Rain** **poco a poco accelerando**

words.

mf *long* *p* *cresc.*

ped.

*Don't Get Around Much Anymore, Duke Ellington

♩ = 104

25

The

f *pp*

1/2 ped., ad lib. m. 25/26

27

rain con - tin - ues to fall all night.

sim. through m. 34

1/2 ped.

29

We sleep and drift a - mong

31

roads, houses and

33

people we have known

35

I wake listen, The

p

1/2 ped. by L.H. slurs through m. 46

44

Wa - ter ris

sub.mp *cresc.*

46

ing.

f

rit. to end

48

dim to end