

LETTER FROM LINDA

Micro-opera in one act for soprano, actress, and piano

Text: Anonymous/Frank Polite

Music: Alden Jenks

Duration approx. 9 minutes

♩ = 68 *rubato ad lib.* ♩ = 78

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7

6

*Linda picks up the
letter she's been writing,
and reads it aloud:*

Sandy, hi, got your letter a few days ago.
Hey, every-body needs to let off steam
once in a while, and I do my fair share..."

10

arp. ad lib

And it does make you feel 100% better, and I'm sure things have cooled down a bit now anyhow. I know your problems well and don't blame you for letting loose at all...

14 *Cue:*
I know your problems."

Everything is pretty much the same here as you last saw me a few days ago. I went out and got a book and record and now spend my time doing my two favorite things --- reading and listening to my favorite songs... I bought a Donna Fargo album and Harold Robbins' latest novel. It gives me a big lift to just sing along with my favorite records.

16

20 *rit.* ♩ = 60

Cue: when you hear the words "big lift just to sing along..." finish the measure you're in; wait until the singer is ready; and begin playing the Eb upbeat to measure 28

24

with increasing intensity...

Faster

Faster

Faster

Faster

Led. * Led. *

42

rit. ♩ = 60

♩ = 78

Slow
♩ = 68

p

47

Gently...

Read-ing and list-en-ing, list-en-ing, list-en- ing...

lightly

51

f non troppo

It makes me feel less lonely.... Bob just isn't around all the time and I get depressed. I like to think that I'm the most important person in his life, but it isn't that way anymore. He's got his friends, and he likes to spend his time with them.

*Hold until the line
"spend time with
them" is finished*

55

Piano solo

rhythmic, but very delicate and flowing. Bring out the top line

59 $\text{♩} = 104$

mp

rit. $\text{♩} = 66$

63 *a tempo* $\text{♩} = 104$

pp

slower $\text{♩} = 98$

I guess if I had friends my age it would be easier to accept. But I don't have anyone now I can really talk to and feel comfortable with.

slower still

$\text{♩} = 85$

67

It seems like most people just want the latest gossip, and mostly that's *YOU*, if you know what I mean. With the kids I just can't pack up and go anywhere I want. It's practically impossible, so I just stick to my books and records and the radio. My biggest thrill is shopping and walking around the mall...

70 **rit.** $\text{♩} = 68$ $\text{♩} = 87$

Shop-ping and

74 *(Ay-round)* $\text{♩} = 75$ $\text{♩} = 84$
a tempo

walk-ing a - round the mall. Shop-ping and walk-ing

sudden ritard
ominous
p
a tempo
3

80

Pack up and

84

I just can't pack up and

88

go an - y - where that I want, an - y

91

where that I want to, that I want to I

(8)

94

rit. $\text{♩} = 50$

want to I want

f *sff*

97

$\text{♩} = 84$ $\text{♩} = 68$

Shop-ping and walk ing a - round the mall

slower *p! subito*

10

102 ♩ = 84

Music score for measures 102-105. The vocal line (treble clef) has a key signature of two flats and a 4/4 time signature. The lyrics are "a - round the mall, a-round the mall_____". The piano accompaniment (grand staff) features a melody in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. A dashed line above the piano staff is labeled "8va". The tempo marking "a tempo" is placed above the piano staff.

a - round the mall, a-round the mall_____

a tempo

8va

And then afterwards I feel, you know, miserable
and kinda empty.... I guess because I spent too
much money.

Music score for measures 106-109. The piano accompaniment continues with the same key signature and time signature. The right hand has a melody with a piano (p) dynamic marking. The left hand has a bass line with a piano (p) dynamic marking.

106

p

p

Music score for measures 110-113. The piano accompaniment continues with the same key signature and time signature. The tempo marking "more slowly..." is placed above the piano staff. The right hand has a melody with a piano (p) dynamic marking. The left hand has a bass line with a piano (p) dynamic marking.

110

more slowly...

p

114 ♩ = 74

rubato ad lib

♩ = 56

118

arp. ad lib.

I say power to ya if you're getting back into religion. Sometimes it really helps you feel... better about yourself and your problems. Life isn't easy, and believing something makes it liveable. I have my religious feeling buried deep in my heart because Bob laughs at my feelings and point of view on anything and everything. So if I feel something I just keep it to myself.... Well, Bobby is crying and gettin' cranky, so I guess I should go....

119 ♩ = 72

Well

125 *very gently*

Bob-by is cry - ing so I bet - ter — go

This musical system covers measures 125 to 128. The vocal melody is written in a treble clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The time signature changes from 3/4 to 4/4 at measure 127 and back to 3/4 at measure 128. The piano accompaniment is in a grand staff (treble and bass clefs). It features a mix of chords and moving lines, including a triplet of eighth notes in the right hand at measure 127. The lyrics are: "Bob-by is cry - ing so I bet - ter — go".

129 *wistful*

Bob - by is cry - ing so I bet - ter go

This musical system covers measures 129 to 132. The vocal melody continues in the same key signature and time signature pattern. The piano accompaniment features more complex harmonic textures, including a triplet of eighth notes in the right hand at measure 130. The lyrics are: "Bob - by is cry - ing so I bet - ter go".

133

My feel - ings are bur - ied — so deep in my

This musical system covers measures 133 to 136. The vocal melody starts with a whole rest in measure 133, then continues in the same key signature. The time signature changes from 4/4 to 3/4 at measure 134 and back to 4/4 at measure 136. The piano accompaniment includes a triplet of eighth notes in the right hand at measure 134. The lyrics are: "My feel - ings are bur - ied — so deep in my".

hold back ad lib.

137

heart, my feel-ings are bur-ied so deep in my heart

This system contains measures 137 through 142. The vocal line begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. It features eighth and quarter notes, with two triplet markings over measures 139 and 140. The piano accompaniment is written for grand staff (treble and bass clefs) and includes chords, arpeggiated figures, and melodic lines in both hands.

143

Well Bob - by is

This system contains measures 143 through 146. The vocal line starts with a whole rest in measure 143, followed by a key signature change to one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature change in measure 144. The piano accompaniment continues with chords and melodic fragments in both hands.

147

cry - ing so I bet-ter go

This system contains measures 147 through 152. The vocal line features triplet markings over measures 147 and 149. The piano accompaniment includes a sixteenth-note arpeggiated figure in measure 148, marked with a '6', and a triplet in the bass line of measure 152.

150

8va

cry - - ing,

152

rit. ♩ = 56

cry - - - - - ing

(8)

f

p

Ped. *

$\text{♩} = 68$ $\text{♩} = 58$ **rit.** $\text{♩} = 50$

155 *8va*

$\text{♩} = 94$

158 **rit.**

$\text{♩} = 82$ **rit.** $\text{♩} = 50$ $\text{♩} = 82$ *start fast...* *slow down...* *very slow*

162 *f* *pp*