A Cat's Life
a little opera for solo piano
(1990)

Keith Eisenbrey

## A Cat's Life

## Introduction

Good Evening radio listeners, and welcome once again to Opera of the Mind.

Tonight's program features a rather peculiar work from the operatic literature.

A Cat's Life is not set in any of the great operatic languages - Italian, German, French, or Soprano.

In fact, there are no singers at all.
There are no costumes, no sets, nor any lighting effects.
There is an orchestra, but it has been reduced to the 88 keys of the big black box and the 10 facile fingers of the perpetrator - truly a low budget artistic endeavor.

So what's left?
Well, there is a story of sorts.
It involves the adventures of a Herocat, and its broad outline is quickly told.

In the first act, Herocat is a kitten and romps around for awhile, finally settling down for a nap.

In the second act, Herocat continues napping.
At the very end of the third act, as the final notes dream away, Hero Cat stretches and wakes.

There are further nuances, but let's begin.
I will touch on the main points for you as they pass by.
So settle back, sip your tea.
Now, Herocat, the kitten:

## A Cat's Life

a little opera for solo piano



Herocat plays in the exuberance of Kittenhood.


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(. . . The Still Wind . . . )

97




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TR



## Drowsiness




Herocat naps.




Herocat dreams himself to be . . .



$286$



311 Narrator: Act One ends in the dark cavern behind the tiger's cage of teeth.



## Act II

Narrator: In Herocat's dream, Act Two begins. The sun rises slowly,
softly, among forest trees and twittering birds.
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In his dream, Herocat prepares for a great task.



























In his dream, Herocat sleeps.


In his dream, Herocat, now ancient, watches the new kittens romp.






. . . Herocat puzzles over his life.



. . . Herocat recalls his youth.


Narrator: In Herocat's dream, he recalls his youth, and the passion of the great task.




Narrator: Herocat becomes uneasy about his existence.
In his dream, Herocat becomes uneasy about his existence.



Narrator: A vague, queasy disruption grips him.


And in his dream ${ }_{3}$..


Narrator: And in his dream, Herocat dies.

... again.
più mosso, ma non troppo



Narrator: In his dream, Herocat rises from the jungle.


- ed. ad libitum



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Narrator: In his dream Herocat stretches, and wakes.



