

Abeni Janae

Senior Recital

Sunday, October 1st, 2023,
7:30 p.m.

Notes and Translations

John Kander (b. 1927) is an American musical theatre composer from Kansas City, Missouri. He began his career in music as a rehearsal pianist for *West Side Story*. The first musical he wrote for was James and William Goldman's *A Family Affair*. Soon after, he met Fred Ebb, in which they wrote 15 musicals together, including *Cabaret* and *Chicago*. Kander is still active in composing, including providing the music for two off-Broadway shows and working with Lin-Manuel Miranda on "Hamildrop", a series of songs related to the *Hamilton* musical.

"**Funny Honey**" is from the musical *Chicago* and is the second number in the first act. It is performed by the character Roxie Hart, who in the previous number killed her neighbor Fred Casely after he tried to end their affair. Roxie lies about the situation to her husband Amos, saying that it was a random burglar. Her husband believes her and takes the blame, as she sings about how no matter what she does, he'll still do right by her.

Funny Honey

Sometimes, I'm right
Sometimes I'm wrong
But he doesn't care, he'll string along
He loves me so
That funny honey of mine

And if you knew him like me,
I know you'd agree

Sometimes, I'm down
And sometimes, I'm up
But he follows 'round like some droopy-eyed pup
He loves me so
That funny honey of mine

What if the world slandered my name?
Well he'd be right there
Taking the blame
He loves me so
And it all suits me fine

He ain't no sheik
That's no great physique
And Lord knows he ain't got the smarts
But look at that soul
I'll tell ya, that whole is a whole lot greater than
the sum of its parts

That sunny, funny, honey, hubby of mine

Jerry Bock (1928-2010) was an American musical theatre composer from New Haven, Connecticut. He is mainly known for *Fiddler on the Roof* and *She Loves Me*. He was raised in Flushing, Queens, and studied music at the University of Wisconsin and the Manhattan School of Music. During college, he wrote *Big As Life*, one of his first of many musicals. He reached major commercial success in 1959 with the musical *Fiorello!*, which received the Pulitzer Prize for

Drama and tied with *The Sound of Music* for the Tony Award for Best Musical. He died on November 3, 2010 in New York at age 81.

“**I Resolve**” is the 13th number in the musical *She Loves Me*. It is performed by the female lead Ilona Ritter towards the end of the first act. After her lover Steven Kodaly postpones their date yet again, Ilona realizes her worth, and will no longer resolve and settle for men like him.

I Resolve

I resolve not to be so stupid
I resolve not to play these games
How often I've been a sitting duck for Cupid
How often I've let him shoot me down in flames

I resolve not to be so brainless
I resolve not to be so dumb
My usual brush with love is far from painless
And suddenly, I have got to know how come

I resolve not to be so trusting
It's high time, time that I awoke
Whatever I've got up here, it's up here rusting
My feminine intuition is a joke

I resolve not to the blame the others
Just because I'm an easy mark
I wanna know why I never meet their mothers
Where men are concerned, I'm always in the dark

I must be a cousin to a cat
I always wind up with a rat
I'm through with momentary thrills
I find I can't afford the bills

I must stop thinking with my skin
I will not be a mandolin
That someone strums and puts away
Until he gets the urge to play

I resolve, come what may!
I will not be this girl one more day

I resolve, here and now!
I will be a different girl, somehow!

Stephen Sondheim (1930-2021) was one of the most prominent composers and lyricists for musical theater. He is known for a wide variety of Broadway musicals, including *Into the Woods*, *Company*, *Follies*, *Sweeney Todd*, and *West Side Story*. He developed a love for musical theatre at a young age, and received mentorship from renowned musical theater librettist, producer, and director Oscar Hammerstein II. Many of his musicals received film adaptations, with *West Side Story* (2021) being the most recent. He wrote over 15 musicals and received many awards including eight Tony Awards, an Academy Award, eight Grammys, and a Pulitzer Prize. Sondheim passed away on November 26, 2021 at age 91.

“**Losing My Mind**” fifth to last song from the musical *Follies*. The main character Sally Durant Plummer sings this torch song as she reflects on her undying and obsessive feelings for Benjamin Stone, her former colleague and ex-boyfriend who she sees and interacts with again at a reunion.

Losing My Mind

The sun comes up, I think about you
The coffee cup, I think about you
I want you so, it's like I'm losing my mind

The morning ends, I think about you
I talk to friends, still think about you
And do they know, it's like I'm losing my mind?

All afternoon doing every little chore
The thought of you stays bright
Sometimes I stand in the middle of the floor
Not going left, not turning right

I dim the lights and think about you
Spend sleepless nights to think about you
You said you loved me,
Or were you just being kind?
Or am I losing my mind?

Irving Berlin (1888-1989) was a renowned composer, lyricist, and songwriter. He is the songwriter behind popular songs such as “Puttin’ on the Ritz”, and “White Christmas”. Berlin couldn’t read sheet music and had a specially made piano that had a transposing lever to switch keys since he could only play in the key of F#. He is regarded as one of the greatest American songwriters in history. He has provided music for 20 Broadway shows, and his songs have topped the charts numerous times and have been covered and re-recorded by famous singers such as Louis Armstrong, Diana Ross, Frank Sinatra, Cher, Ella Fitzgerald, and Nat King Cole. Berlin passed away in 1989, at age 101.

“**Anything You Can Do**” is the second-to-last number in the musical *Annie Get Your Gun*. It is a duet between sharpshooter Annie Oakley and star of the Buffalo Bill’s Wild West show Frank Butler. The two are at odds with each other before a sharpshooting match, with their egos constantly trying to outdo the other throughout the song.

Anything You Can Do

Anything you can do, I can do better
I can do anything better than you
No you can’t, yes I can

Any note you can sing, I can sing higher
I can sing any note higher than you
No you can’t, yes I can

Anything you can be, I can be greater
Sooner or later, I’m greater than you
No you’re not, **yes I am**

Anything you can say, I can say softer
I can say anything softer than you
No you can’t, yes I can

I can shoot a partridge with a single cartridge
I can get a sparrow with a bow and arrow
I can live off bread and cheese
And only on that? So can a rat

I can drink my liquor faster than flicker
I can drink it quicker and get even sicker
I can open any safe
Without being caught? (**You bet!**) That’s what I thought, you crook!

Any note you can hold, I can hold longer
I can hold any note longer than you
No you can’t, yes I can
Yes, you can!

I can jump a hurdle; I can wear a girdle
I can knit a sweater; I can fill it better
I can do most anything
Can you bake a pie? (**No.**) Neither can I

Anything you can say, I can say faster
I can say anything faster than you
No you can't, yes I can

Anything you can sing, I can sing sweeter
I can sing anything sweeter than you
No you can't, yes I can

John Frederick Coots (1897-1985) was a songwriter during the early 1900s. He wrote the music for multiple Broadway shows, with his last show being *Sons o' Guns* in 1929. He wrote over 700 songs over the span of his career, with his most popular one being "Santa Claus Is Comin' to Town", which became an instant hit and is now a standard contemporary tune for the holidays. Coots passed away on April 8, 1985, at age 87.

"For All We Know" is a jazz ballad that was originally published in 1934. It was first made popular by bandleader Hal Kemp, as well as bandleader Isham Jones. The tune has been covered and arranged by various artists including Billie Holiday, The Spinners, Donny Hathaway, Nat King Cole, and Chet Baker.

For All We Know

Sweetheart, the night is growing old
Sweetheart, my love is still untold
A kiss that is never tasted
Forever and ever is wasted

For all we know, we may never meet again
Before you go, make this moment sweet again
We won't say goodnight before the last minute
I'll hold out my hand, and my heart will be in it

For all we know, this may only be a dream
We come and go like a ripple on a stream
So love me, for tonight
Tomorrow was made for some
Tomorrow may never come for all we know

Bobby Caldwell (1951-2023) was a jazz and R&B singer-songwriter. He grew up in Miami, Florida and listened to variety of music such as reggae, Latin, jazz, and R&B. In the 1970s, he signed with TK Records and released his lead single "What You Won't Do For Love" for his debut self-titled album. The song reached number 9 on the Billboard Hot 100 and remains his most successful single to date. He passed away on March 14, 2023.

"What You Won't Do For Love" was released in September 1978. It became an instant hit and topped the charts for several weeks. This arrangement started off as an assignment for my Commercial Arranging II class with Shaun Mahoney. After adapting it for the Commercial Music Ensemble, we included it in our 70s music concert during the Spring 2023 semester. I remember my mother would always tell me "I want you to sing this song someday", and after my voice professor Alexander Kariotis said to me "This is a recital song" after hearing me sing it in the Commercial Music Workshop class during the Spring 2021 semester, I knew I had to make it extra special.

What You Won't Do for Love

I guess you wonder where I've been
I've searched to find a love within
And I came back to let you know
Got a thing for you, and I can't let go

My friends wonder what is wrong with me
Well I'm in a daze from your love you see
And I came back to let you know
Got a thing for you, and I can't let go

Some people go around the world for love Although I only want the best, it's true
But they may never find what they dream of I can't believe the things I do for you

What you won't do, do for love
You tried everything, but you don't (won't)
give up
In my world, only you
Make me do for love what I would not do

Stevie Wonder (b.1950) is a singer-songwriter, producer, and all-around musician. He is considered a legacy artist as most of his prominence was during the Motown era in the 70s. A child prodigy with unbelievable musical skill at such a young age, and happened to be blind, he was signed under the record label Tamla at 11 years old. He released his debut album *The Jazz Soul of Little Stevie* in 1962, with "Fingertips" being one of his first chart-topping singles. Wonder has released over 20 albums, including his arguably most notable album *Songs in the Key of Life*, which was his 18th studio album, released in 1976. He is known for his other decade defining hits such as "Superstition", "My Cherie Amour", "Part-Time Lover", and "Signed, Sealed, Delivered". He has received numerous honorary degrees and awards and continues to perform.

"**Sir Duke**" is one of the lead singles on Wonder's 1976 album *Songs in the Key of Life*. It is in tribute to the revolutionary jazz musician Duke Ellington, who had passed away in 1974. He wrote the song to acknowledge Ellington, as well as other important jazz artists who inspired him and had a great influence in music. I was inspired to choose this song as the closer to the first half after listening to a Motown playlist on shuffle, finding it to be the perfect encapsulation on my connection to music.

Sir Duke

Music is a world within itself
With a language we all understand
With an equal opportunity
For all to sing, dance, and clap their hands

But just because a record has a groove don't make it in the groove
But you can tell right away at letter A when the people start to move

They can feel it all over
They can feel it all over people

Music knows it is and always will
Be one of the things that life just won't quit
But here are some of music's pioneers
That time will not allow us to forget, no

For there's Basie, Miller, Satchmo, and the king of all, Sir Duke
And with a voice like Ella's ringin' out, there's no way the band could lose

You can feel it all over
You can feel it all over people

Shaffer Chimere Smith (b.1979) also known as “Ne-Yo” is an R&B singer-songwriter and producer. He started his career as a songwriter, writing for various R&B artists. He gained major success after writing “Let Me Love You” for R&B singer Mario. He released his debut album *In My Own Words* in 2006, with his single “So Sick” peaking at number one on the US Billboard Hot 100. Smith's other hits include “Closer”, “Miss Independent”, “Because of You”, and “One in a Million”.

“**Never Knew I Needed**” is the lead single on the soundtrack for the Pixar film *The Princess and the Frog*. It is featured during the end credits in the movie as a reflection on the love story that takes place. The song peaked at number 56 on the US Billboard Hot R&B/Hip-Hop Songs chart.

Never Knew I Needed

For the way you changed my plans
For being the perfect distraction

For the way you took the idea that I had
Of everything that I wanted to have
And made me see there was something
missing

For the ending of my first begin
For the rare and unexpected friend
For the way you're something that I'd never
choose
But at the same time, something I don't
wanna lose
And never wanna be without ever again

You're the best thing I never knew I needed
So when you appeared, I had no idea
You're the best thing I never knew I needed
So now it's so clear, I need you here always

My accidental happily ever after
The way you smile and you comfort me with
your laughter
I must admit, you were not a part of my book
But now when I open it up and take a look
You're the beginning and the end of every
chapter

Who knew that I could be
So unexpectedly
Undeniably happier

So with you, right here, next to me

India Arie (b.1975) is an American R&B singer-songwriter. She attended the Savannah College of Art and Design after taking an interest in songwriting and performing. She released her debut album *Acoustic Soul* in 2001, which was number ten on the U.S. Billboard 200 and was certified double platinum in the span of months. Arie has released six more albums since then, with her 2019 album *Worthy* being the most recent. She has collaborated with various artists including John Mellencamp, Akon, and Stevie Wonder. She has won four Grammy Awards including Best Urban/Alternative Performance for her single “Little Things” in 2003.

“**Video**” is the lead single on India Arie’s album *Acoustic Soul*. It was released on February 6, 2001, and peaked at number 47 on the US Billboard Hot 100 and number 14 on the Billboard Hot R&B/Hip-Hop Songs. It was nominated for four Grammy Awards in 2002 including Record of the Year. This song is dedicated to my mother, who has wanted me to sing this song for the longest time. I recall my younger years of her telling me every couple of months to learn this song because “it’s low and would fit my voice very well”.

Video

Sometimes I shave my legs, sometimes I don’t
Sometimes I comb my hair, sometimes I won’t
Depending how the wind blows, I might even paint
my toes
It really just depends on whatever feels good in my
soul

I’m not the average girl from your video
And I ain’t built like a super model

But I learned to love myself unconditionally
Because I am a queen

When I look in the mirror and the only one there is
me
Every freckle on my face is where it’s supposed to
be
And I know my creator didn’t make no mistakes on
me
My feet, my thighs, my lips, my eyes
I’m lovin’ what I see

Am I less of a lady if I don’t wear a pantyhose?
My momma said “a lady ain’t what she wears, but
what she knows
And I’ve drawn the conclusion, it’s all an illusion
Confusion’s the name of the game
A misconception, a vast deception
Something’s gotta change

And don’t be offended, this is all my opinion
Ain’t nothin’ that I’m sayin’ law

I’m not the average girl from your video
My worth is not determined by the price of
my clothes
No matter what I’m wearing, I will always be
India Arie

This is a true confession of a life learned lesson
I was sent here to share with y'all
So get in where you fit in, go on and shine
Clear your mind, now's the time
Put your salt on the shelf, go on and love yourself
Cause everything's gonna be alright

Keep your expensive drinks and your fancy minks
I don't need that to have a good time
Keep your expensive cars and your caviar
All I need is my guitar
Keep your cristal and your pistol
I'd rather have a pretty piece of crystal
Don't need your silicone, I prefer my own
What God gave me is just fine

Selena Gomez (b.1992) is an American singer-songwriter, producer, actress, and philanthropist. She was born in Grand Prairie, Texas, and her parents named her after the Tejano singer Selena Quintanilla. She started off her career as a child star, appearing in children's television show *Barney & Friends* from 2002 to 2004. From 2007 through 2012, she portrayed Alex Russo, the main character in Disney Channel's *Wizards of Waverly Place*. She also had recurring roles and guest star appearances on other Disney Channel shows such as *Hannah Montana* and *Suite Life of Zack and Cody*. During this time, she formed Selena Gomez & the Scene, a pop rock band that lasted from 2008 to 2012. She launched off her solo career in 2013 with her solo album *Stars Dance* which debuted at number one on the *Billboard* 200. Throughout the span of her career, she has had multiple singles reach the top of the charts and has received numerous awards and nominations.

“**A Year Without Rain**” is the second single on the Selena Gomez & the Scene's album of the same name. It was released in September 2010, and debuted at number 35 on the *Billboard* Hot 100. This arrangement was also originally an assignment for my Arranging II class. I have had the idea of turning this synth pop tune into a rock anthem for about 2 years now and scored it in a way that almost feels like an entirely new song. I hope you take a listen to the original to see what elements I kept and changed in the arrangement.

A Year Without Rain

Can you feel me when I think about you? With every breath I take Every minute, no matter what I do My world is an empty place Like I've been wandering the desert for a thousand days Don't know if it's a mirage, but I always see your face	I'm missing you so much Can't help it, I'm in love A day without you is like a year without rain I need you by my side Don't know how I'll survive A day without you is like a year without rain
The stars are burning, I hear your voice in my mind	So let this drought come to an end

Can't you hear me calling?
My heart is yearning like the ocean that's
running dry
Catch me I'm falling
It's like the ground is crumbling underneath
my feet
There's gonna be a monsoon when you get
back to me

And make this desert flower again
I'm so glad you found me
Stick around me baby
It's a world of wonder with you in my life
So, hurry baby, don't waste no more time
I need you nearer
Can't explain, my day without you

Abeni Janae (b.2001) is an American singer-songwriter, composer/arranger, producer, and advocate. Born and raised in El Paso, Texas, she grew a deep love and passion at the age of 13 after singing at open mic night events at a youth center she used to attend. She is the youngest composer for Carl Fischer Music, an internationally renowned music publishing company, and recently premiered her arrangement of the spiritual “Lord I Know I’ve Been Changed” at Carnegie Hall in March 2023 with the Americas High School Treble Choir under the direction of Rocio Manriquez. Janae is currently pursuing a Bachelor’s in Commercial Music with a Concentration in Voice at the University of Texas at El Paso and will graduate in December 2023. Her upcoming plans include pursuing a master’s in music with a concentration in composition at UTEP starting Spring 2024, performing with the UTEP Choral Union at Carnegie Hall in March 2024, and returning to Leeds with the UTEP Chamber Singers in Fall 2024.

“**Star-Crossed Lovers**” is an original song I wrote in April 2021. I was quite literally plucking for inspiration on my guitar when I began to play the opening riff. For the next several months, I spent time coming up with lyrics and instrumentation to further enhance the song. The song was performed with the UTEP Commercial Music Ensemble for the Spring 2022 concert. My future goal with this song is to record and release it as my first single!

Star – Crossed Lovers

Maybe I'm not right for you
And you're not right for me
Even though you make me feel so complete
I was scared to take a chance
Now I'm scared you'll walk away
And what we had for years is gone in a day

I know we had our problems
That's without a doubt
I thought that we were able to figure it all out

I guess when time passes
And things never change
It's time for us to go our separate ways

Unless you change your mind

Maybe I'm out of line
And need to accept the fate
That where my heart lies is not where it
stays
I really thought you were the one
And we'd walk down the aisle
But now that you're gone, I'll have to wait
awhile
Unless you change your mind

If we're just star – crossed lovers
That are meant to be
Then I'll see you in the moonlight
In the black night sea full of stars in the shape
of my heart
I just don't want us torn apart with this all
ending
So please, don't leave

Maybe we're not star – crossed lovers
And never meant to be
I'll still wait for you in the moonlight
In the black night sea full of stars in the
shape of my heart
I just feel so torn apart with this all ending

Oh please, don't you leave

Wishful thinking made me blind to
The fact that you're leaving for good
And you won't change your mind

Coldplay is a British rock band that formed in 1997. Their members include Jonny Buckland on guitar, Guy Berryman on bass, Will Champion on drums, and Chris Martin on vocals and piano. They released their debut album *Parachutes* in 2000, which peaked at number 51 on the Billboard 200 and was certified double platinum. Their songs such as “Yellow”, “The Scientist”, “Clocks”, and “Viva la Vida” are credited as songs that are timeless hit songs in the 21st century. They intend to record three more albums until 2025, and plan on actively touring afterwards.

“**Dies Irae**” is a Latin poem and sequence that has been commonly used in the Roman Rite liturgy for the Requiem Mass. The text has been set to music by various composers throughout time, with the most well-known settings by Mozart and Verdi. When I was brainstorming the arrangement of Viva la Vida, I knew I wanted to have a choir singing throughout the song. The “Dies Irae” text immediately came to mind, and a melody was already in my ear. At the time, I wasn't sure why this specific text had to be part of the arrangement, but after analyzing the lyrics of both songs, I find it to coincide with one another.

“**Viva la Vida**” is the second single from Coldplay's album *Viva la Vida or Death and All His Friends*. It was released in June 2008 and reached number one on the UK Singles Chart and the Billboard Hot 100. The band's first number one single also won Song of the Year at the Grammy Awards in 2009. This song was the very first song I ever sang in front of people. I had just turned 13 years old and was going to the Milam Youth Activity Center for about a month at this point. They had an open mic event called “Coffee House” and I asked a new friend I made if he could play it for me on the piano while I sang. This moment is what made me realize music was my calling in life from God, and I wanted to do everything it took to pursue it for the rest of my life.

Dies Irae/ Viva la Vida

Dies iræ, dies illa
Solvat sæclum in favilla
Teste David cum Sibylla

Day of wrath and doom impending!
David's word with Sibyl's blending,
Heaven and earth in ashes ending

I used to rule the world
Seas would rise when I gave the word
Now in the morning I sleep alone
Sweep the streets I used to own

I used to roll the dice
Feel the fear in my enemies' eyes
Listen as the crowd would sing
"Now the old king is dead, long live the
king"
One minute I held the key
Next the walls were closed on me
Then I discovered that my castles stand
Upon pillars of salt and pillars of sand

I hear Jerusalem bells are ringing
Roman Calvary choirs are singing
Be my mirror, my sword and shield
My missionaries in a foreign field
For some reason I can't explain
Once you go, there was never (I know Saint Peter won't call my name)
Never an honest word
But that was when I ruled the world

It was the wicked and wild wind
Blew down the doors to let me in
Shattered windows and the sound of
drums
People couldn't believe what I'd become
Revolutionaries wait for my head on a
silver plate
Just a puppet on a lonely string
Oh, who would ever wanna be king?
But that was when I ruled the world

Special Acknowledgements:

First off, I would like to thank God for blessing me with the gift and calling of music. I have been through many things throughout my life, and it is God who has kept me steady through it all. This experience has not only taught me a lot, but has renewed my faith and my purpose, reassuring me that this is indeed the path meant for me. Thank you to everyone who attended and supported my recital! Whether you attended in person, watched the livestream, or even shared the information, your support is much appreciated.

I would like to thank Stephen Haddad and the sound team for their hard work and attention to detail for making sure everything for my recital was set up properly and sounded amazing. It is not an easy task, especially for how extensive the instrumentation was. I am extremely grateful for them taking on the task regardless and ensuring that everything would be okay.

I would like to thank the UTEP Department of Music for these past four years of education, experience, and enlightenment. I walked in a scared, yet determined freshman, and will leave as a confident, capable, and experienced musician with a degree. Thank you, Dr. Elisa Fraser Wilson, for believing in me not only as a chorister, but as a composer. Agreeing to premiere my arrangement of "Hold On Just a Little While Longer" with the UTEP Concert

Chorale was the first step I needed in pursuing the goals I have now. I know for a fact I would not have had a fraction of the opportunities as well as the same sense of community in choir anywhere else but UTEP. Thank you to the voice area faculty, including Cherry Duke, who was my voice professor when I first entered as a vocal performance major. Thank you for continuing a connection of collaboration and support, I appreciate everything that you have done for me.

Thank you, Stephen Jackson, who was my first voice instructor when I started taking music seriously. I started voice lessons with him when I entered my freshmen year of high school, and he helped in developing my voice from what felt like ground zero. Thank you for everything that you've done, and for always being in my corner. Thank you, Mr. V, who was my high school choir director and piano instructor. You helped me gain an everlasting love for choir music, and every day for four years, he pushed me to become a better musician. Thank you for everything that you have done to support and encourage me on my musical journey.

Thank you, Dr. Reyman, for enlightening my interest in commercial music composition and arrangement. Your mentorship is much appreciated. Thank you, Dr. Dousa, for being my mentor in composition and encouraging me to continue my composing career in graduate school here at UTEP. Thank you, Mr. Kariotis, who has spent the last two years transforming me from just a singer to a well – rounded musician. It is because of him; I feel courageous and willing to take risks in my singing as well as stage presence. Thank you for helping me find my voice in music and making me feel like I can sing anything I want if I put my heart and soul into it.

Thank you, Pastor Randy, and Pastor Melissa Miller, for being the spiritual guides and supporters in my life. It is because of you and your teachings, my faith in myself and God is reassured, and I feel empowered by the scripture Psalm 3:14 “I can do all things through Christ that strengthens me.” Thank you to my family, both related and found, for always being in my corner, rooting for me throughout the years no matter what.

Last, but certainly not least, thank you mom for has dedicating much of your life to being a guiding light and my biggest supporter. You not only encourage me to do music, but you take an active role in my education and career, teaching me how to conduct business and be my own person. I would not be anywhere close to where I am at now without you in my life.