

Random Acts of Kindness
for Soprano Saxophone and Piano

for Eugene Rousseau

Don Freund
2015

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Random Acts of Kindness

Even though the intense lyricism of the song that forms the core of *Random Acts of Kindness* is tinged with bittersweetness, it is set in a world of hope, empathy, and touches of whimsy and playfulness.

Too often, I believe, our attention is turned towards the dark side of our human nature, but if we take the time to notice, we can find a world filled with inexplicable selflessness, seemingly random acts of kindness, warmth and concern, strangers who don't hesitate to offer help and a glow of humanity at any opportunity. When I think of Gene Rousseau, I recognize him as a personification of this grace. And so, in celebrating his retirement, it seems appropriate to write a piece reflecting on all the acts of kindness he has offered to so many as a performer, teacher, colleague, and very special human being.

Duration: ca. 6 minutes

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Random Acts of Kindness

for Soprano Saxophone and Piano
for Julia Nolan's performance at the
Retirement Celebration for Eugene Rousseau

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♩ = ca. 52, with a great deal of expressive rubato

Soprano Saxophone
(score is in C)

mf, reflective

mf

touches of Pedal

Detailed description: This system contains the first three measures of the piece. The Soprano Saxophone part (top staff) begins with a quarter rest, followed by a melodic line of eighth and sixteenth notes. The piano accompaniment (middle and bottom staves) starts with a quarter rest in both hands, then enters with a bass line of eighth notes and a pedal point in the left hand. Dynamics include *mf, reflective* for the saxophone and *mf* for the piano.

4

push a little...

intense

poco marcato

Detailed description: This system contains measures 4 through 6. The saxophone part (top staff) has a melodic line with eighth notes and a half note. The piano accompaniment (middle and bottom staves) features a bass line with eighth notes and chords. Dynamics include *push a little...*, *intense*, and *poco marcato*.

7

relax

slow for cadence ♩ = 52 (*tempo primo*)

p

p

mf

Detailed description: This system contains measures 7 through 9. The saxophone part (top staff) has a melodic line with eighth notes and a half note. The piano accompaniment (middle and bottom staves) features a bass line with eighth notes and chords. Dynamics include *relax*, *slow for cadence*, *♩ = 52 (tempo primo)*, *p*, and *mf*.

10

mp, accompanying
f
mf

13

mf *p* *mf* *mp*

mp *f*

P P

16

held back *tempo agitato*

p *mf* *f* *f, heavy* *f*

8va

18

slowing *largamente* ♩ = 52 (*tempo primo*)

f, rich

P P P

20

f *f*

P P P P P

23

held back

P P P P

25

slower *slowing* *still slower*

mf, sweet *mp, wistful*

mf *mp*

27

♩ = 80 (*subito tempo giusto*) ♩ = 60 ♩ = 80 ♩ = 52

mf, bright *f, singing* *mf, perky* *f, heavy*

slowing *slowing*

p *mf* *mf* *p*

29 $\text{♩} = 88$ *slowing* $\text{♩} = 72$ *slowing* $\text{♩} = 52$

f *slowing*
heavy
P P P P P P P

31 $\text{♩} = 80$ $\text{♩} = 60$

p, light *mf* *slowing*
mf, bright *f*

32 $\text{♩} = 80$ *slowing* $\text{♩} = 88$ *slowing*

p *f* *slowing*
mf *f* *bring out thumbs (middle voice)*
P

34 $\text{♩} = 72$ *slowing* $\text{♩} = 52$ $\text{♩} = 88$ *slowing*

f, playful *ff*
(P) P P P

36 $\text{♩} = 72, \textit{tempo giusto}$

p, light

f

p

crisp

mf, lyrical

mf, "staccato"

($\text{♩} = \text{♩} = 144$)

no Pedal

playful

f

f

p

f

p

mf

49

f

51

ff > *mf* *f* *fp*

slowing

ff *mf*

♩ = 48 ♩ = 144

55

f *molto espressivo* *p* *mf*

slowing

♩ = 60 ♩ = 52 ♩ = 72

58

mf *f*

slowing

♩ = 52 ♩ = 80 ♩ = 48

61 *push...* ♩ = 60 *slower* ♩ = 66 *slowing* ♩ = 48

p *f*

P

63 ♩ = 66 *slowing* ♩ = 58 ♩ = 66 *slowing* ♩ = 52

mf *mp* *mf* *mf*

P P

65 *push...* ♩ = 60 *slowing* ♩ = 52

mf *mf* *f* *mp* *f*

P P P

67 *f, intense* *intense*

f, intense *intense*

P P P P P P P P

♩ = 44 (♩ = 88)

♩ = 72. very free

69

Musical score for measures 69-70. The score is in 6/4 time, changing to 4/4 at measure 70. It features a piano part with a treble and bass clef, and a vocal line. Dynamics include *f* and *p*. The tempo is marked as *very free*.

71

Musical score for measures 71-72. The score is in 4/4 time. It features a piano part with a treble and bass clef, and a vocal line. Dynamics include *mf*, *p*, and *f*. The tempo is marked as *slowing* and *♩ = 52*.

73

Musical score for measures 73-74. The score is in 3/4 time. It features a piano part with a treble and bass clef, and a vocal line. Dynamics include *p*, *mf*, and *pp*. The tempo is marked as *extreme rubato* and *slowing*. A triplet of eighth notes is marked with a '3'. The tempo is also marked as *♩ = 52*. There are two 'P' markings with brackets at the bottom of the page.

