

Kala Pierson



Mother of Exiles

SSAATTBB (with brief S and A solos) – 9:00

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text and music

I know. and you know. And so.

I know waves. and you know waves. And so.

I know waves, salt licking my feet, sheen of corrosion. and my torch
slicing through centuries of fog and unmooring and exile.

I stood with my city as it grew. as it sang in every language.
as its skyline bled into a new shape
and only more fervent song.

And I stand with it. now. in exile myself.
I stand with it now as its sweetest songs end
in unmarked vans and secret courts,
shattering families, and hearts. and my heart. (I know. and you know. And so.)

But I know. and you know. that freedom cycles in waves. that waves
crest and fall. I know I stand for more
than those who would exile me can conceive. I know I'll stand
for longer than they hold sway.

And so. I stand, yearning to breathe free. And so.

I stand. and you stand. And we know.

intenso, rubato $\text{♩} = 54$

S
I know. and you know. And so. And so.

A
I know. and you know. And so. And so.

T
And so. And so.

B
And so.

- **All breaths are notated.** Breathe only at rests (otherwise, stagger breathing).
- **All glisses are very pronounced / 'dug into'** and last the note's full duration.

S *mp* I know and you know *div.* *p*

A *mp* I know and you know *p*

T *p* waves, *mp* and so.

B *p* waves, *mp* and so.

A

S. Solo *p* *mf* *f* *mf* *f* (return to section)
I know waves,

A. Solo *mf* *f* (return to section)
salt lick-ing my feet,

S *pp* *mp*

A *pp* *mp*

T *pp* *mp*

B *pp* *mp*

unis. tutti mf *4:3* *div.* and my torch
 S sheen of cor - ro - sion, sli - cing
tutti mf *4:3* and my torch
 A sheen of cor - ro - sion,
mf *4:3* *div.* and my torch
 T sheen of cor - ro - sion, sli - cing
mf *4:3* and my torch
 B sheen of cor - ro - sion,

unis. mp *3*
 S through cen - tu - ries of fog
mp *3* *2*
 A through cen - tu - ries of fog and un - moor - ing and ex - ile,
 [Ten. I: to unison text, below] *mp* *2* *2*
 T through cen - tu - ries of fog and un - moor - ing and ex - ile,
mp *3* *2* *2*
 B through cen - tu - ries of fog and un - moor - ing and ex - ile,

S *p* *mp* *pp*
I know. and you know. And so.

A *p* *mp* *pp*
I know. and you know. And so.

T *unis.* *pp* *p* *pp*
I know. And so.

B *pp* *p* *pp*
I know.

B

$\text{♩} = 120$
 $(\text{♩} = 60)$

□ △ □ △

S *mf*
I stood with my ci - ty as it grew. as it

A *mf*
I stood with my ci - ty as it grew. as it

T *mf*
I stood with my ci - ty as it grew. as it

B *mf*
I stood with my ci - ty as it grew. as it

56

58



S
sang in ev'-ry lan- guage, as its sky - line bled in - to a

A
sang in ev'-ry lan- guage, as its sky - line bled in - to a

T
sang in ev'-ry lan- guage, as its sky - line bled in - to a

B
sang in ev'-ry lan- guage, as its sky - line bled in - to a

60

62

64

66

S
new shape and on - ly more fer - vent song.

A
new shape and on - ly more fer - vent song.

T
new shape I stand

B
new shape I

80

82

S *mf* *f*
and se - cret courts, —

A *mf* *p poss.*

T *mp* *unis.* *mf* *f*
in un - marked vans and se - cret courts, —

B *mp* *unis.* *mf*
in un - marked vans

84

86

88

S *mf* *rubato (not a feel of strictly even triplets)* *(non dim.)* *ppp*
shat-ter-ing fa-mi - lies_ and hearts. — I

A *mp*
and my heart. —

T *mf* *rubato (not a feel of strictly even triplets)* *(non dim.)*
shat-ter-ing fa-mi - lies_ and hearts. —

B *p poss.* *pp*
I

90 92 94

p *mp*

S know

p *pp* *p* *mp*

A I know

p *mp*

T I know

p *mp*

B know

96 98 100 102 104

p *mp* *mf*

S and you know. And so. And so.

p *mp* *mf*

A and you know. And so. And so.

p *mp* *mf*

T and you know. And so. And so.

p *mp* *mf*

B and you know. And so.

♩ = 66

S
— but I know. and you know

A
— but I know. and you know that

T
— but I know. and you know that

B
— but I know. and you know that

E

mm. 113-116: rubato (not a feel of strict alternation between [division into 2] and [division into 3])

114

116

S
free - dom cy - cles in waves, that waves crest and fall.

A
free - dom cy - cles in waves, that waves crest and fall.

T
free - dom cy - cles in free - dom cy - cles and waves crest and fall.

B
free - dom cy - cles in waves, that waves crest and fall.

f *unis.* *(non dim.)* *mf*

S I know I stand for more than

div. f *unis.* *(non dim.)* *mf*

A I know I stand for more than

f *(non dim.)* *mf*

T I know I stand for more than

f *(non dim.)* *mf*

B I know I stand for more than

legatiss. *f*

S those who would ex - ile me can con - ceive. I know I'll stand

legatiss. *f*

A those who would ex - ile me can con - ceive. I know I'll stand

legatiss. *f*

T those who would ex - ile me can con - ceive. I know I'll stand

legatiss. *f*

B those who would ex - ile me can con - ceive.

S *mp*
 for lon-ger than they hold sway. And so.

A *mp*
 for lon-ger than they hold sway. And so.

T *pp mp*
 And so.

B *p mp*
 So.

F

S. Solo *p f mf*
 stand, yearn - ing

S *p mp (m. 146 optional for Sop. I) mf div. p pp*
 And so. (I) stand

A *p mp mf p pp*
 And so. I stand

T *p mp mf p pp*
 And so. I stand

B *p mp mf p pp*
 And so. I stand

S *mf* and you stand. *f* And we know.

A *mf* and you stand. *f* And we know.

T *mf* and you stand. *f* And we know.

B *mf* and you stand. *f* And we know.

$\text{♩} = 54$

S we know. we know.

A we know. we know.

T we know. we know.

B we know. we know.