

POSSESSIVE KNOTS

for soprano and bass voice with piano accompaniment

by Cort Lippe

1985

Based on texts by R.D. Laing

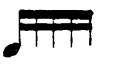
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Based on texts extracted by the composer from the book *Knots* by R.D. Laing
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Performance Notes

Accidentals hold throughout a measure unless otherwise indicated

Capitol letters - words written only in capitols - signify to the singers to scream the word at the given pitch. Sometimes the singers will be asked to scream and whisper at the same time. This should be a "stage" whisper.

- | | |
|---|---|
|  | = repeated note(s), stem without note-head beamed to a note |
|  | = glissando |
|  | = accelerate rhythmically |
|  | = retard rhythmically |
|  | = arpeggiate vertical structure in direction of arrow |
|  | = chromatic cluster |
|  | = trill, trill to note in parentheses |
|  | = grace note |
|  | = whispered |
|  | = sharp intake of breath |
|  | = sprechstimme |
|  | = inside piano on strings |
|  | = slap strings with open hand inside piano |

I

They are playing a game. They are playing at not playing a game. If I show them I see they are, I shall break the rules and they will punish me. I must play their game, of not seeing I see the game.

II

I am frightened
Don't be frightened
I am frightened to be frightened when you tell me I ought not to feel frightened

frightened
frightened to be frightened
not frightened to be frightened

not frightened
frightened not to be frightened
not frightened to be not frightened

III

I'm upset you are upset
I'm not upset
I'm upset that you're not upset that I'm upset you're upset
I'm upset that you're upset that I'm not upset that you're upset that I'm upset, when I'm not.

IV

You are a pain in the neck
To stop you giving me a pain in the neck I protect my neck by tightening my neck muscles, which gives me the pain in the neck you are.

My head aches through trying to stop you giving giving me a headache.

V

I am not entitled to what I have therefore everything I have is stolen.

If I've got it,
and I am not entitled to it,
I must have stolen it,
because I am not entitled to it.

I am not entitled to it because I have stolen it.

I have stolen it therefore I am not entitled to it.

I am not entitled to it therefore I must have stolen it.

Or, it has been given to me as a special favour by someone who is entitled to it so I am expected to be grateful for all I have because what I have has been given, not stolen.

VI

If it is mine
it is not me

If it is not mine
it is not me

If it is not me
it is not mine

If it is me
it is mine

But,
if it is mine
it is not me
and if it is not me

and if,
if it is not mine
it is not me

and if,
if mine
it is not me

then,
if it's not me
it's mine

If it's not me it's mine
If it's mine it's not me

If it's mine it's not me

If it's not me
It's not mine

if it's not mine
it's not me

if it's not me
it's mine

If, if it's mine
it is not me

if it is not me
it's not mine

then,
If it's mine, it's not mine

If, if it's mine, it's not mine

if it's not mine,
it is not me
and if it's not me
it's mine
if it's mine
it's not me,
if it's not me
it's not mine
if it's not me
it's mine

If it's mine
it's me

if, if it's mine
it's me

if
if it's me, it's mine
if it's mine it's not me
then if it's not me it's not mine

hence,
If it's not mine it's me
If it's not mine it's me
if
if it's me
it's mine
if it's mine it's not mine
if it's not mine it's not me
if it's not me
it's mine

Then,
If it's not mine it's mine
If it's not mine it's mine

if
if it's mine it's not mine
if it's not mine
it's not me

if it's not me it's mine
if it's mine it's me
if it's me it's not me
if it's not me it's mine
if it's mine

it's me
If it's me it's not mine
If it's not mine
it's not me
if it's not me
it's mine

VII

If it's mine it's not mine
if it's not mine it's mine
if it's mine is not me
if not me is not mine
if not mine
is me
if me is not mine
if not mine is not me

then, if not me, it is me
if not me, it is me
if it is me, it is not mine
if it is not mine it is not me
if it is not me, it is me
if it is me
it is not mine
if it is not mine
it is me
if it is me, it is mine
if it is mine

therefore if it is not me
it is mine
if it is mine it is mine
if it is mine it is mine
if it is mine it is not mine
if it is not mine it is mine
if it is mine, it is mine
if it is mine, it is not mine
if it is not mine,
it is me
if it is me it is mine
if it is mine it is not me
if it is not me it is me
if it is me

it is not me
if it is not me
it is me

if it's me, if it's not me
if it's not me, if it's me
if it's me if it's me
if it's me if it's not me
if it's not me if it's not me
it's me if it's not me
if it's not me, it's me
if it's me it's not me
if it's not me it's me
if it's me,
if it's not me
if it's me
if it's not me
if it's me
if it's not me, it's me
if it's not me it's not me
it's not me if it's me
if it's me it's me
it's me if it's not me
if it's not me, it's not me
if it's not me, it's me
it's me if it's me
if it's not me it's not me
it's not me if it's not me
if it's me, it's me
if it's me, it's me
I am it
if it is not me
if it is not me, I am it, if I am not it, I am it, if I am it, I am not it

VIII

I want it
I get it
therefore I am good

I want it
I don't get it
therefore I am bad

I am bad
because I didn't get it

I am bad
because I wanted what I didn't get

I must take care
to get what I want
and want what I get
and not get what I don't want

dryley, no vibrato

rit. un poco

[very slight pause
before II]

♩ = 60

breathy, whisper-like

1.)

Handwritten musical score for the first system, measures 1-3. The score is for three parts: J1 (Soprano), Jk (Alto), and Pn (Piano).

J1: Treble clef, 5/4 time. Measure 1: (pp) I am fright-ten-ed. Measure 2: (mf) I am fright-ten-ed. Measure 3: (ff) I am fright-ten-ed.

Jk: Bass clef, 5/4 time. Measure 1: (1) Don't be fright-ten-ed. Measure 2: Don't be fright-ten-ed. Measure 3: Don't be fright-ten-ed.

Pn: Grand staff, 5/4 time. Measure 1: mf. Measure 2: mf. Measure 3: mf.

Handwritten annotations include "breathy, whisper-like" and "1.)".

Handwritten musical score for the second system, measures 4-6. The score is for three parts: J1 (Soprano), Jk (Alto), and Pn (Piano).

J1: Treble clef, 5/4 time. Measure 4: to be fright-ened. Measure 5: When you tell me I ought not to feel fright-ened. Measure 6: When you tell me I ought not to feel fright-ened.

Jk: Bass clef, 5/4 time. Measure 4: to be fright-ened. Measure 5: When you tell me I ought not to feel fright-ened. Measure 6: When you tell me I ought not to feel fright-ened.

Pn: Grand staff, 5/4 time. Measure 4: to be fright-ened. Measure 5: When you tell me I ought not to feel fright-ened. Measure 6: When you tell me I ought not to feel fright-ened.

Handwritten annotations include "poco", "Ped", and "poco".

Handwritten musical score for the third system, measures 7-9. The score is for three parts: J1 (Soprano), Jk (Alto), and Pn (Piano).

J1: Treble clef, 5/4 time. Measure 7: (f) fright-ened fright-ened. Measure 8: (mf) to be fright-ened not fright-ened. Measure 9: to be fright-ened not fright-ened.

Jk: Bass clef, 5/4 time. Measure 7: to be fright-ened not fright-ened. Measure 8: to be fright-ened not fright-ened. Measure 9: to be fright-ened not fright-ened.

Pn: Grand staff, 5/4 time. Measure 7: p. Measure 8: mp. Measure 9: ff.

Handwritten annotations include "poco più mosso", "Ped", and "Ped".

1.) note: the high "la" should be very clear timbrally and "ff" dynamically,

Handwritten musical score for "The Nightingale" by Tchaikovsky, measures 12-15. The score is for Violin I (JL), Violin II (JK), and Piano (Pn). Measure 12 shows the Violin I playing a triplet of eighth notes, Violin II a whole note, and the Piano a triplet of eighth notes. Measure 13 shows the Violin I playing a triplet of eighth notes, Violin II a whole note, and the Piano a triplet of eighth notes. Measure 14 shows the Violin I playing a triplet of eighth notes, Violin II a whole note, and the Piano a triplet of eighth notes. Measure 15 shows the Violin I playing a triplet of eighth notes, Violin II a whole note, and the Piano a triplet of eighth notes. The lyrics are: "frigh-tened not to be frigh-tened not frigh-tened to be not frigh-tened".

Handwritten musical score for "I'm Up-set" by George Gershwin. The score is in 4/4 time, marked "♩ = 88". It features a piano introduction with a 5-measure bass line, followed by vocal and piano parts. The vocal melody includes lyrics: "I'm up-set you are up-set", "I'm up-set that you're not up-set that I'm up-set you're up-set", and "I'm up-set". The piano accompaniment includes a 5-measure bass line and a 6-measure treble line. The score is marked with dynamics like pp, p, mp, f, and (pp).

Handwritten musical score for "Up-set" by David Byrne. The score is written on four staves. The first two staves are for a string quartet, and the last two are for a vocal soloist. The music is in 4/4 time and features a "crescendo" and "accelerando" section. The lyrics are: "that you're up-set that I'm not up-set that you're up-set that I'm up-set when I'm NOT!". The score includes dynamic markings like "(cres...)", "(accelerando)", "(sfz)", and "subito sfz". There are also handwritten notes like "4" and "NOT!".

-IV-

$\text{♩} = 80$

relaxed, lyrically *mf* My head aggressively, poco stacc.

Jl

Jk

① *legato mf*

(f) you are a

8 sfz

=

aches through try-ing to stop you

② pain in the neck (ff) To stop you giving me a pain in the neck, I protect my

ff 8 sfz

=

giving giving me --- a

④ neck by tight-ning my neck mus- - cles (fff) which gives me the pain in the neck you are!

sfz

JL head-ache

Jk

⑤ 8^L

Pn

deces... rall... molto - rall.

... (ppp) (Slight pause before V)

$\text{♩} = 176$ -V-

very legato, mockingly

whispered, very percussively (mf) So it has been giv-en

①

f

Ped *

to me as a spe- - - cial fa- vor by some-one who is en-

1.)

③ (ff) I am not en-titled to it be-cause I have sto-len it

*

J1 ti-tled to it So I am ex-pect-ed to be
 Jk I have sto-len
 Pn
 Ped. *

grate-ful for all I have? be-
 ⑦ it there-fore I am not en-ti-tled to it
 PP
 fff mf fff
 mp

Cause what I have has been giv-en not sto-len
 ⑨ I am not en-ti-tled to it there-fore I must have sto-len it
 f mf mp

♩ = 72

-VI-

-7-

JKL (mf) it is not me --- it is not me

JK (1) (mf) If it is mine --- If it is not mine --- If

Pn P (3) mf

=

it is mine (f) it is mine (f)

(6) it is not me If it is me (f)

f P Ped

=

(P) If it is mine (mf) and if it is not me (ppp)

(9) BUT (mf) it is not me it is NOT mine ff

* Ped * Ped *

JI (mf) It's not mine if it's not mine it's not me If it's not me it's mine If it's mine it
 Jk (22) (mf) not mine If it's not mine it's not me If it's not me it's mine IF if it's
 Pn mf ff
 Ped * Ped * Ped

is not me If it is not me it's not mine THEN if it's mine If it's mine
 (26) mine it is not me if it is not me it's not mine it's not mine it's not mine
 f (sfz) (sfz)
 Ped

accel. poco a poco ...
 If it's not mi- It is not me If it's it's not mine not me not me
 (29) If it's not mi- IF then mine --- If it's not mine it's it is it
 accel. poco a poco ...
 * Ped

$\text{♩} = 180$
accel. poco a poco
 JI (f) if it's not me it is mine mine it is not me mine me mine it's not me THERE if it's not me
 Jk (32)(f) it's not me it is mine mine mine me me it is mine FORE
 Pn *accel. poco a poco*
 * sfz Red * Red *

Handwritten musical score for "Me Mine" by The Beatles. The score is written on three systems of staves. The first system has two staves (treble and bass) with lyrics "me mine" and "mine me". The second system has two staves with lyrics "and if it's na" and "me me me-mene-me-me-me if it's my(y)". The third system has two staves with lyrics "and if it's na" and "me it's mine THEN if it's my(y)". The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and fingerings. There are handwritten annotations: a circled "35" in the first system, a "5" under a chord in the second system, and a "3" under a chord in the third system. The word "Ped" is written at the bottom of the first and third systems, and an asterisk is written at the bottom of the second system.

$\text{♩} = \pm 90$

(nasal) accel. poco a poco...

6

it is not me-me-me IF THEN

(nasal)

6 5 6

THERE-FORE-BUT Be-cause there-fore but if

6 6 6

③ it is not ma-ma-ma me-me-ma-ma-me ma-ma-me-ma-me-ma me-ma-me-ma-na-ma-na-ma-na-mae-me-me-mae-mae-ma-na-ma-ma-

accel poco a poco

* Ped

rit. molto

WA

ma-ma-ma-mae-mae-me-me-ma-ma-ma-mo-mo-a---(ae)---(e)---(i)---

me-me-mae-ma THEN-HENCE IF THERE-FORE me-me-ma-ma---

rit. molto

WA

rit. molto

[attacca]

[attacca]

Ped sfz

$\text{♩} = 100$

-VII-

1) WA

(mf) If it is mine if it is mine if it is not mine accel. poco a poco...

WA

(mf) it is mine it is not mine it is not mine accel. poco a poco...

mf

(sfz)

accel. poco a poco...

* (sfz) Ped

... $\text{♩} = 110$

accel. poco a poco...

if it is mine if it is mine if it is not mine if it is me

it is mine it is not mine it is me it is mine

5

3

5

3

(sfz)

f

accel. poco a poco...

Ped

* fap-trem.

(sfz)

accel. poco a poco...

accel. poco a poco ...

$\text{♩} = \pm 120$

accel. poco a poco

Handwritten musical score for three staves (J1, Jk, Rn) in 2/4 time. The score includes lyrics and dynamic markings.

J1: *f* if it is mine if it is not me if it is me if it is not if it's me

Jk: *f* it is not me it is me it is not me if it's me

Rn: *f* accel. poco a poco ...

Annotations: *accel. poco a poco*, *accel. poco a poco*, *accel. poco a poco*, *Ped*, **Ped*, ***

Handwritten musical score for three staves (J1, Jk, Rn) in 2/4 time. The score includes lyrics and dynamic markings.

J1: if it's me if it's not me it's me if it's not me

Jk: if it's not me if it's not me if it's not me it's me

Rn: *f* *pp* *sfz*

Annotations: *3:2*, *(sfz)*, *f*, *mp*, *sfz*

Handwritten musical score for three staves (J1, Jk, Rn) in 2/4 time. The score includes lyrics and dynamic markings.

J1: if it's me if it's not me if it's me if it's me *f*

Jk: it's not me it's me if it's not me if it's not me

Rn: *mf* *fff* *mp* *mf* *ff* *Ped* ***

Annotations: *mf*, *fff*, *mp*, *mf*, *ff*, *Ped*, ***

The pitch contour arrows designate general pitch change across the given rhythms. A completely

1.)

JL

1) if it's me if (ff) it's me if it's if it's not me not me if it's

Jk

(21) (ff) it's not me if not me it's me it's not me it's me if it's me

Pn

mf $\triangleleft$ f mf $\triangleleft$ f mf $\triangleleft$ ff $\triangleright$ f Ped.

$\text{♩} = 144$ decres. poco a poco $\text{♩} = 120$

(f) it's me it's me if it's not me it's me if it's (mf) me it's not me

(25) (f) if it's not me it's not me if (mf) me if it's not it's not me if

ff sfz Ped

$\text{♩} = 100$ $\text{♩} = 72$

if it's me not if it's me (mp) if it's if it's if it's

(29) if not me it's (mp) if not me it's it's if

mf mp

1) From measure (21) to the end of VII. begin enunciating and articulating the words less and less

$\text{♩} = \pm 50$

if (p) it's if if (fff) inhale - - exhale

(p) if it's it's (fff) exhale - inhale - exhale

Red

$\text{♩} = \pm 80$

un poco staccato, lightly

VIII

(p) I it get there-fore I am good (mp) I it

(1) (p) want I it there-fore I am good (mp) want I

mp

(mf) don't it fore

(f) I am I am be-cause I

(3) (mf) get there- (f) bad bad be-cause

f

Red

==

1984-85
Paris-Tampa