

Isobel Davies

Litany of action

Litany of Action is grew out of a love of the writings of Rebecca Solnit, partnered with a desire to highlight the growing awareness that, though climate action has historically been recognized mostly when performed by able-bodied people with financial resources, it is truly accessible to all of us, and we are already doing it. It is the final work in a collection supported by Creatives Rebuild New York, a Universal Basic Income pilot for artists in New York State.

Texts:

"It is late. We are deep in an emergency. But it is not too late, because the emergency is not over. The outcome is not decided. We are deciding it now."

From: *Difficult is Not the Same as Impossible* (Rebecca Solnit (b. 1961)),
in *Not Too Late: Changing the Climate Story from Despair to Possibility*.
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"And now let us believe in a long year that is given to us new, untouched, full of work that has never been done..."

From: *Letter to Clara Rilke (1 Jan 1907)*, Rainer Maria Rilke (1875-1963)

"To be generous, to value things money can't buy, to believe in the collective and not just the individual, to give instead of sell, to see yourself as part of the greater whole rather than an isolated individual, to care and to take care of the vulnerable, maybe even to love when love is care..."

From: Rebecca Solnit social media post, July 19th, 2023.

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Litany of Action

Rebecca Solnit and
Rainer Maria Rilke

Isobel Davies

Tempo and Performance Instructions:
 ♩ = 56
p (piano)
rit. (ritardando)
A tempo
articulated like a recitative
3 (triplets)

Vocal Parts:

Soprano:
 It is late. It is late. We are deep in an e-mer-gen

Alto:
 It is late. It is late. We are deep in an e-mer-gen

Tenor:
 It is late. It is late. We are deep in an e-mer-gen

Bass:
 It is late. It is late. We are deep in an e-mer-gen

Piano for rehearsal only:
 The piano accompaniment consists of two staves (treble and bass clef) in D major. It features triplets and sustained chords that provide harmonic support for the vocal lines. The tempo and performance instructions are repeated above the piano staff.

5

più p *mp*

S. cy. We are deep. But it is not too late, be-cause the e

più p *stringendo* *a tempo* *mp*

A. cy. We are deep in an e-mer-gen - cy. It is not too late,

più p *mp*

T. cy. We are deep. It is late, But not too late,

più p *mp*

B. cy. We are deep. not too late,

Pno. *più p* *mp*

10

p

S. mer-gen-cy is not o-ver. It is not o'er. The out-come is not de-ci-ded.

p

A. mer-gen-cy is not o-ver. is not o - ver. The out come is not de-ci-ded.

p

T. mer-gen-cy is not o-ver. is not o - ver. The out-come is not de-ci-ded.

p

B. mer-gen-cy is not o-ver. is not o'er.

Pno. *p*

14

S. *pp* 3 3 *poco cresc.*
We are de - ci-ding it now. It is late. We are de - ci-ding it now. And

A. *pp* 3 3 *poco cresc.*
We are de - ci-ding it now. We are de - ci-ding it now. And

T. *pp* 3 3 *poco cresc.*
We are de - ci-ding it now. It is late. And now, And

B. *p* 3 3 *pp* *poco cresc.*
We are de - ci-ding it now. It is late. And now, And

Pno. *pp* 3 3 *poco cresc.*

18 *accel.* *mp* $\text{♩} = 76$

S. *mp*
now, And now let us be - lieve, let us be - lieve,

A. *mp*
now, And now, Let us be - lieve, Now___ let us bel - lieve,

T. *mp*
now, And now, And now let us___ be - lieve, be - lieve,___

B. *mp*
now, And now, Let us be-lieve in a

Pno. *mp* *accel.* $\text{♩} = 76$

22

S. *long year That is gi-ven to us new, un-touched, full of work that has ne-ver been*

A. *long year gi-ven to us new, un-touched, full of work that has ne-ver been*

T. *long year That is gi-ven to us new, un-touched, full of work that has ne-ver been*

B. *year, a long year, to us new, un-touched, full of work that has ne-ver been*

Pno.

26

Più mosso

S. *done. Now let us__ be-lieve, Let us be - lieve*

A. *done. Now let us__ be-lieve, Let us__ be-lieve, Let us be*

T. *done. Now let us__ be-lieve, Let us be-lieve*

B. *done. Let us be-lieve in a*

Pno.

Più mosso

30 7

S. in a long year un - touched, full of work that has

A. lieve in a long year, un - touched, full of work that has

T. in a long year un - touched, full of work, full of work that has

B. long, year, un - touched, full of work that has

Pno.

33

Meno mosso $\text{♩} = 80$ expansive

S. *f* ne-ver been done, *mp* full of work that has ne-ver been done. To be

A. *f* ne-ver been, been done, *mp* full of work that has ne-ver been done. To be

T. *f* ne - ver been, *mp* full of work that has ne-ver been done. To be

B. *f* ne - full of work that has ne-ver been done. To be

Meno mosso $\text{♩} = 80$ expansive

Pno.

37 *mf*

S. gen-er-ous, mo-ney can't buy, To be -

A. gen-er-ous, mo-ney can't buy, To be -

T. gen-er-ous, mo-ney can't buy, To be -

B. gen-er-ous, to va-lue things mo-ney can't buy, To be - lieve in the coll-ec-tive

Pno. *mf*

41

S. lieve in the col-lec-tive and not just the in - di - vi - dual, To give in - stead of sell, To

A. lieve in the col-lec-tive and not just the in - di - vi - dual, To give in - stead of sell, To

T. lieve in the col-lec-tive and not just the in - di - vi - dual, To give in - stead of sell, To

B. and not just the in - di - vi - dual, To give in - stead of sell, To

Pno.

46

S. see your-self as part of the great-er whole,

A. *mp* see your-self as part of the great-er whole, ra-ther than an i - so - la - ted in-di-

T. *mp* see your-self as part of the great-er whole, ra-ther than an i - so-la-ted in-di-

B. *mp* see your-self as part of the great-er whole, ra - ther than an in-di-

Pno. *mp*

50 *poco accel.* *f*

S. to care, to care, —

A. *poco accel.* *f* vi-du-al, to care, — and — to take care of the

T. *poco accel.* *f* vi-du-al, to care, and to take care of the vul nera-ble,

B. *poco accel.* *f* vi-du-al, To care, — to care, — May -

Pno. *poco accel.* *f*

55

rit. *a tempo* *mp*

S. e-ven to love, may-be e ven to love when

A. vul-nera-ble, E-ven to love, may-be e-ven to love when

T. May-be e-ven to love, e-ven to love,

B. be, e - ven to love, may-be e-ven to love when

Pno.

60

S. love is care. It is late.____ It is late.____

A. love is care. It is late. It is late,____ late.____

T. love is care. It is late, late.____

B. love is care. It is late, late.____

Pno.

66

S. *fp*
But it is not too late, not too late.

A. *fp*
But it is not too late, not too late. Now let us believe in a

T. *fp*
But it is not too late, not too late.

B. *fp*
But it is not too late, not too late.

Pno. *fp*

72

S. in work that has ne-ver been done,

A. long year full of work that has ne-ver been done.

T. in work that has ne-ver been done,

B. in work that has ne-ver been done,

Pno.

78

S. *pp*
done, Full of work that has ne - ver been done.____

A. *pp*
Full of work that has ne - ver been done.____

T. *pp*
done, Full of work that has ne - ver been done.____

B. *pp*
done, Full of work that has ne - ver been done.

Pno. *pp*

83

S. _____

A. _____
A long year.____

T. _____
It is not____ too late.____

B. _____
To care.____

Pno.