

"By Keeping Things Exactly The Way That They Are"

from

Photo-Op

A Political Campaign Opera

Music by Conrad Cummings

Libretto by James Siena

Version for Soprano and Baritone voices and Piano

Duration ca. 5:00

By keeping things exactly the way that they are
we'll find truth in the smallest things
that are just as good as the big ones that keep
this country great.

Composer's Note:

Photo-Op is an opera about Presidential campaigning. Two singers, soprano and baritone - either of whom could be candidate, spouse, or running mate - deliver their stump speeches in an increasingly frenzied run-up to election. Sometimes they reveal their real thoughts, sometimes they become intoxicated with their own words.

In "By Keeping Things Exactly The Way That They Are," a statement that appears to hold meaning at first is revealed to contain none - but the campaign is so exciting it doesn't matter. You and your audience, despite yourselves, are simply going to be swept up in the excitement. Enjoy!

- Conrad Cummings

"By Keeping Things Exactly The Way That They Are"

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long $\text{♩} = \text{at least 92, but the beat is } \text{♩}$

Soprano

every syllable sharply and equally accented; every syllable a down beat; no metric grouping until m. 55

Baritone

p

By keep-ing things ex - act - ly the way that they are we'll find truth in the smal-lest things that are just

long $\text{♩} = \text{at least 92, but the beat is } \text{♩}$

Keyboard

pp

pp



every syllable sharply and equally accented; every syllable a down beat; no metric grouping until m. 55

5

S.

p

By keep-ing things ex - act - ly the way that they are we'll find truth

Bar.

as good as the big ones that keep this coun-try great.

Kbd.

9

S. in the smal-lest things that are just as good as the big ones that keep this coun-try great.

Bar. By keep-ing things ex - act - ly

Kbd.

13

S.

Bar. the way that they are we'll find truth in the smal-lest things that are just as good as the big ones that keep this coun-try

Kbd.

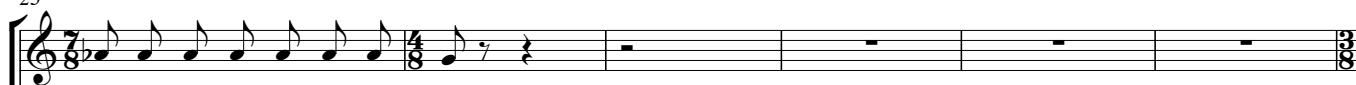
17

S. By keep-ing things ex-act-ly the way that they are we'll find truth in the smal-lest things that are just as good as the

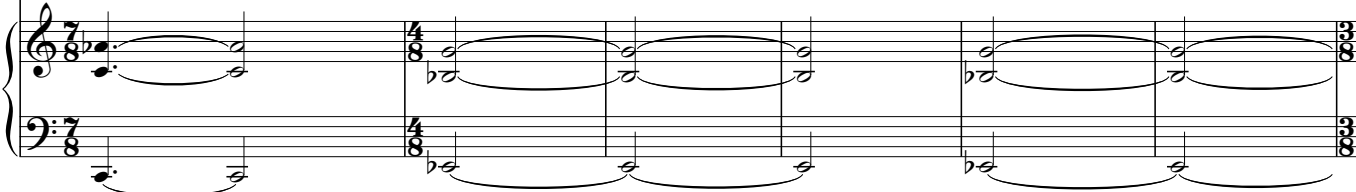
Bar. great.

Kbd.

23

S. 
big ones that keep this coun-try great.

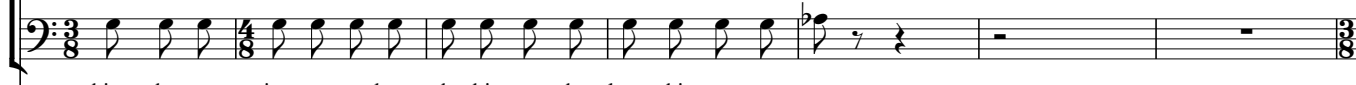
Bar. 
By keep-ing things ex-act-ly the way that they are we'll find truth in the smal-lest

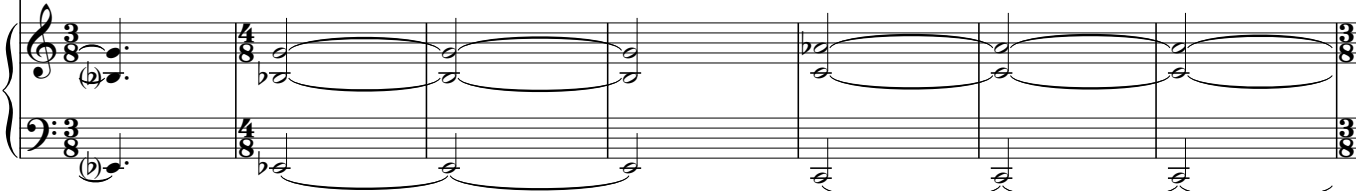
Kbd. 

==

29

S. 
By keep-ing things ex-act-ly the way that they

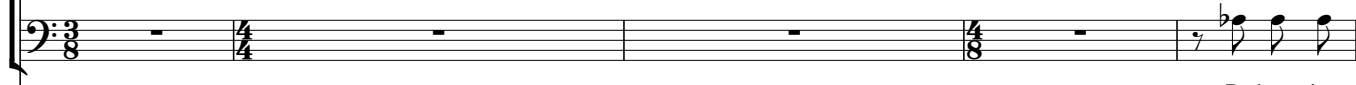
Bar. 
things that are just as good as the big ones that keep this coun-try great.

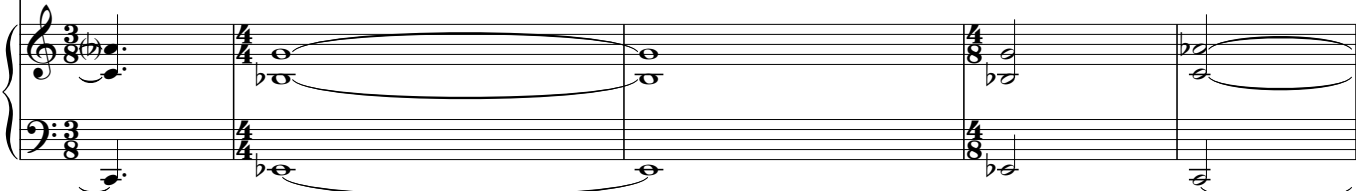
Kbd. 

==

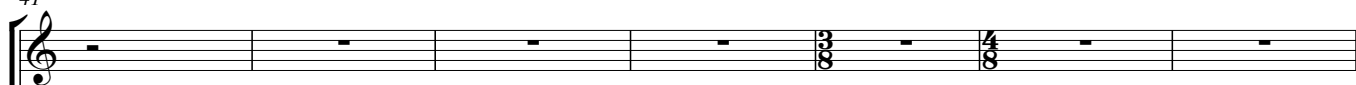
36

S. 
are we'll find truth in the smal-lest things that are just as good as the big ones that keep this coun-try great.

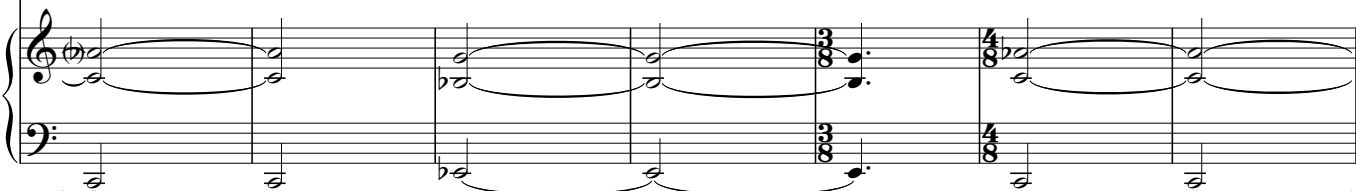
Bar. 
By keep-ing

Kbd. 

41

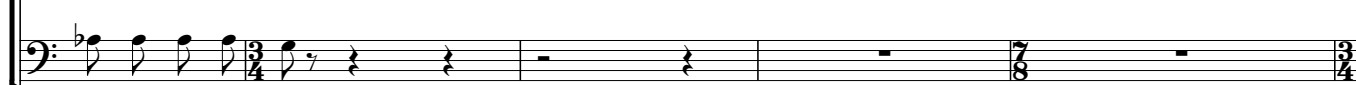
S. 

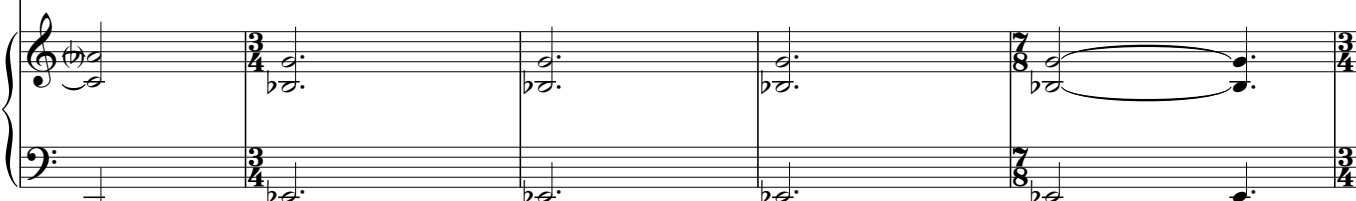
Bar. 
 things ex - act - ly the way that they are we'll find truth in the smal-lest things that are just as good as the big ones that

Kbd. 

48

S. 
 By keep-ing things ex - act-ly the way that they are we'll find truth in the smal-lest things that are just as

Bar. 
 keep this coun-try great.

Kbd. 

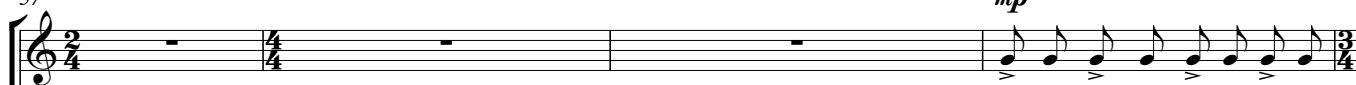
53

S. 
 good as the big ones that keep this coun-try great.

Bar. 
 By keep-ing things ex - act - ly the way that they are we'll find truth

Kbd. 
bright and light

57 *mp*

S. 

By keep-ing things ex-act-ly the

Bar. 

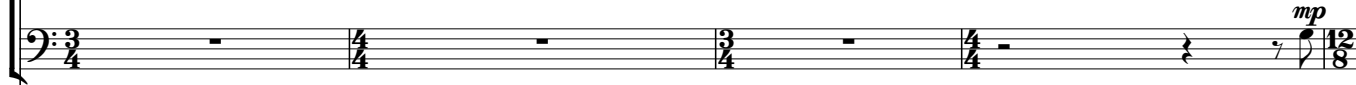
in the smal-est things that are just as good as the big ones that keep this coun-try great.

Kbd. 

61

S. 

way that they are we'll find truth in the smal-est things that are just as good as the big ones that keep this coun-try great.

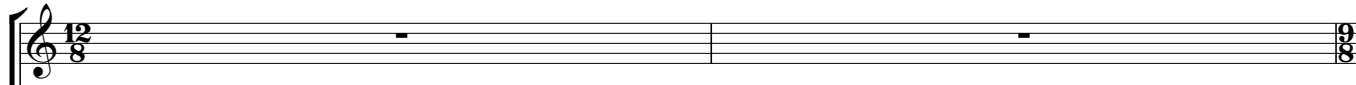
Bar. 

mp

By

Kbd. 

65

S. 

Bar. 

keep-ing things ex-act-ly the way that they are we'll find truth in the smal-est things that are just as good

Kbd. 

67

S. 

By keep - ing things ex - act - ly the way that they

Bar. 

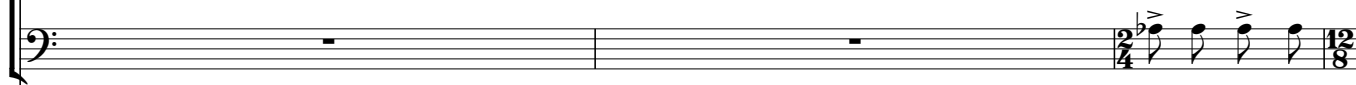
as the big ones that keep this coun - try great.

Kbd. 

69

S. 

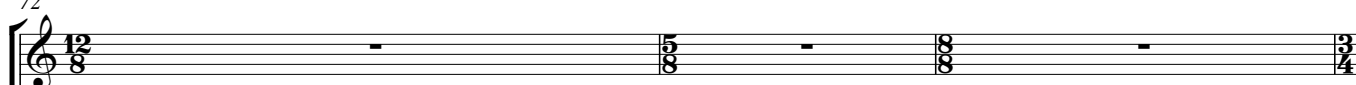
are we'll find truth in the smal-lest things that are just as good as the big ones that keep this coun-try great.

Bar. 

By keep-ing things

Kbd. 

72

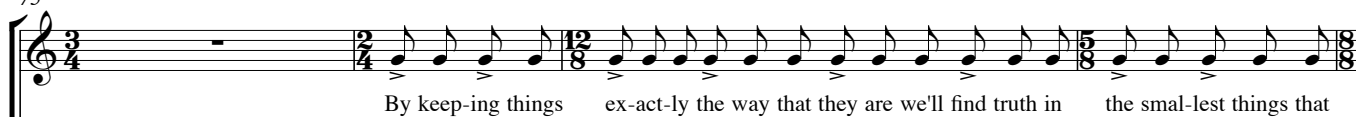
S. 

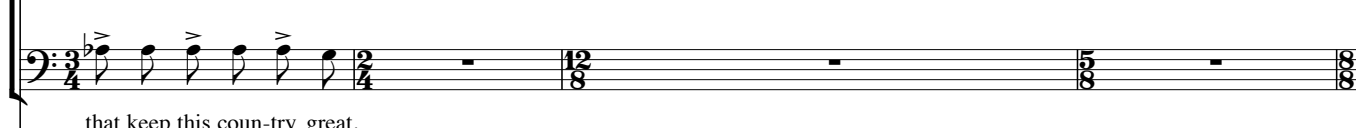
ex - act - ly the way that they are we'll find truth in the smal-lest things that are just as good as the big ones

Bar. 

Kbd. 

75

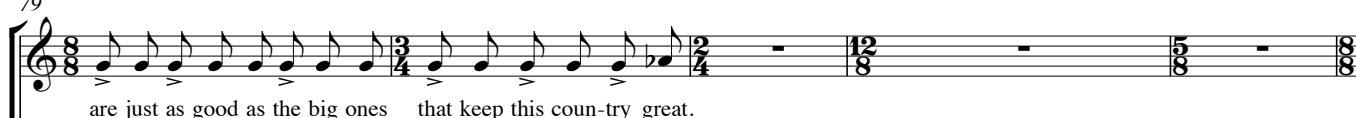
S. 

Bar. 

Kbd. 

==

79

S. 

Bar. 

Kbd. 

==

84

Kbd. 

89 *mp* — tacet 2nd time

S. *ba ba ba ba ba* *ba ba ba ba ba ba ba ba ba (etc.)*

Bar. *mp* 2nd time only *ba ba ba ba ba ba ba ba (etc.)*

Kbd. *mp*

93

S.

Bar.

Kbd.

95

S.

Bar.

Kbd.

98

mp

S. By keep-ing things ex - act - ly the way that they are we'll find truth in the

Bar. ba ba ba ba ba

Kbd. *mp*

103

S. *mp*
 smal-lest things that are just as good as the big ones that keep this coun-try great.

Bar. By keep-ing things ex -

Kbd.

107

S. *act - ly the way that they are we'll find truth in the smal-est things that are just as good as the big ones that*

Bar.

Kbd.

111

S.

Bar.

keep this coun-try great. By keep-ing

Kbd.

left hand very heavy, legato, and funky, like a tenor sax in a burlesque house band during a strip-tease

116

Kbd.

(mp)

ff

123

Kbd.

131

Kbd.

simile

139

Kbd.

146

Kbd.

151

Bar.

mf

By keep-ing things ex - act - ly the way that they are we'll find truth in the smal-lest things that are

Kbd.

legato, heavy

mf

154

S.

mf

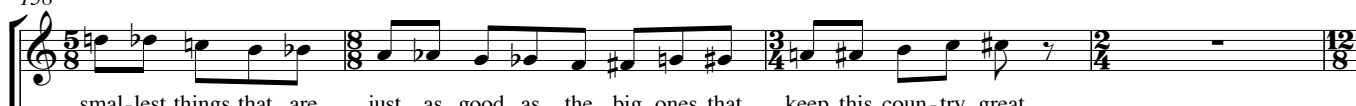
By keep-ing things ex - act-ly the way that they are we'll find truth in the

Bar.

just as good as the big ones that keep this coun-try great.

Kbd.

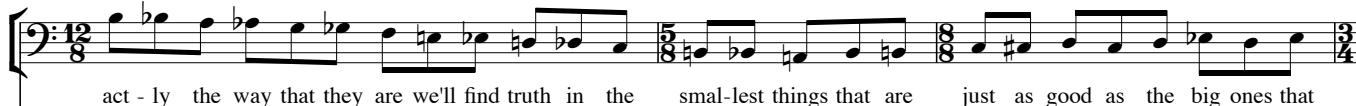
158

S. 

Bar. 

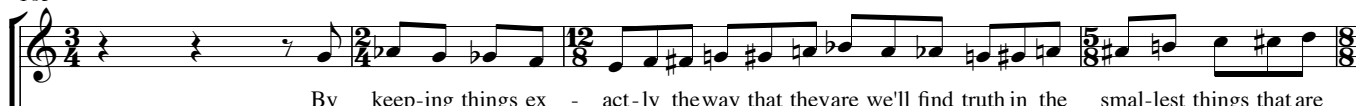
Kbd. 

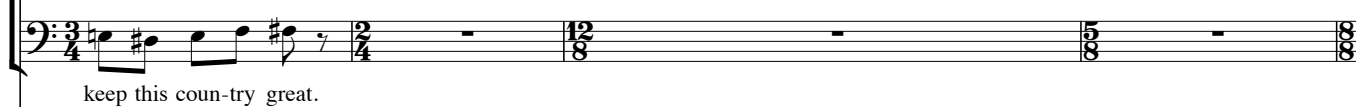
162

Bar. 

Kbd. 

165

S. 

Bar. 

Kbd. 

169

S. just as good as the big ones that keep this coun - try great.

Bar. *f* By keep - ing things ex -

Kbd. *f*

172

Bar. act - ly the way that they are we'll find truth in the smal-lest things that are just as good as the big ones that

Kbd.

175

S. *f* By keep-ing things ex - act ly the way that they are we'll find truth in the smal-lest things that are

Bar. keep this coun-try great.

Kbd.

179

S. *f*
just as good as the big ones that keep this coun - try great. By keep - ing things ex -

Bar. *f*
By keep - ing things ex -

Kbd. *f*

182

S.
act - ly the way that they are we'll find truth in the smal - lest things that are just as good as the big ones that

Bar.
act - ly the way that they are we'll find truth in the smal - lest things that are just as good as the big ones that

Kbd.

185

S.
keep this coun - try great.

Bar.
keep this coun - try great.

Kbd. *f*

191

S. *f* By keep-ing things ex -

Kbd.

197

S. act - ly the way that they are we'll find truth in the smal-lest things that are just as good as the big ones that

Kbd.

200

S. keep this coun-try great.

Bar. *f* By keep-ing things ex - act-ly the way that they are we'll find truth in the smal-lest things that are

Kbd.

204

S. *f* By keep - ing things ex - act - ly the

Bar. just as good as the big ones that keep this coun - try great. *f* By keep - ing things ex - act - ly the

Kbd. *f*

207

S. way that they are we'll find truth in the smal - lest things that are just as good as the big ones that keep this coun - try

Bar. way that they are we'll find truth in the smal - lest things that are just as good as the big ones that keep this coun - try

Kbd.

210

S. great. By keep - ing things ex - act - ly the way that they are we'll find truth

Bar. great. By keep - ing things ex - act - ly the way that they are we'll find truth

Kbd.

212

S. in the smal-lest things that are just as good as the big ones that keep this coun-try great.

Bar. in the smal-lest things that are just as good as the big ones that keep this coun-try great.

Kbd.

The musical score is written for Soprano (S.), Baritone (Bar.), and Keyboard (Kbd.). It is in B-flat major and 2/4 time. The score consists of three systems. The first system has two staves for Soprano and Baritone, and one for Keyboard. The second system has two staves for Soprano and Baritone, and one for Keyboard. The third system has two staves for Soprano and Baritone, and one for Keyboard. The lyrics are 'in the smal-lest things that are just as good as the big ones that keep this coun-try great.' The Soprano and Baritone parts are identical. The Keyboard part consists of a steady eighth-note accompaniment in the right hand and a steady eighth-note accompaniment in the left hand. The score ends with a double bar line.