

"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"

from

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Music by Conrad Cummings

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Soprano

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

Baritone

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

Keyboard

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

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

S.

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

5

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.

This block contains three staves. The soprano (S.) staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The bass (Bar.) staff has a bass clef and a key signature of one flat. The keyboard (Kbd.) staff has a treble clef and a bass clef, with a key signature of one flat. The music consists of eighth-note patterns. The lyrics "in the smal-lest things that are just as good as the big ones that keep this coun-try great." are written below the soprano staff. The keyboard part features sustained notes with grace notes above them. Measure 9 ends with a common time signature.

13

S. - - - - - | - - - - - | 3 8 - - | 4 8 - -

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.

This block contains three staves. The soprano (S.) staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The bass (Bar.) staff has a bass clef and a key signature of one flat. The keyboard (Kbd.) staff has a treble clef and a bass clef, with a key signature of one flat. The music consists of eighth-note patterns. The lyrics "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" are written below the soprano staff. The keyboard part features sustained notes with grace notes above them. Measure 13 ends with a common time signature.

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.

This block contains three staves. The soprano (S.) staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The bass (Bar.) staff has a bass clef and a key signature of one flat. The keyboard (Kbd.) staff has a treble clef and a bass clef, with a key signature of one flat. The music consists of eighth-note patterns. The lyrics "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 great." are written below the soprano staff. The keyboard part features sustained notes with grace notes above them. Measure 17 ends with a common time signature.

Kbd.

This block shows the keyboard (Kbd.) staff from the previous measure, continuing with eighth-note patterns and sustained notes with grace notes above them. The time signature changes between 4/8 and 5/8 throughout the measure.

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. - - - - | 3 - | 4 - | -

Bar. | B B B B B B B B | B B B B B B B B | 3 B B B B B B B B | 4 B B B B B B B B |

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. | B B B B B B B B | B B B B B B B B | 3 B B B B B B B B | 4 B B B B B B B B |

=

48

S. - | 3 7 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 | 7 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 | 3

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. | B B B B B B B B | B B B B B B B B | - - - - | 7 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 | 3

keep this coun-try great.

Kbd. | B B B B B B B B | 3 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 | 7 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 | 3 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 |

=

53

S. 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 | 7 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 | 2

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

Bar. | 3 - - - | 8 - - - | 4 7 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 | 2

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

Kbd. | 3 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 | 4 7 B B B B B B B B | 2

bright and light

Kbd. | 3 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 | 4 7 B B B B B B B B | 2

57

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

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

Bar. that keep this coun-try great.

Kbd.



79

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

Bar.

Kbd. *mp*



Kbd.

89 *mp*

S. *tacet 2nd time*
 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.

≡

93

S. |
 Bar. |
 Kbd. |

≡

95

S. |
 Bar. |
 Kbd. |

98

S. *mp*

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. 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. - - - - -

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.

III

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.

==

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

legato, heavy

mf

Kbd.

154

S.

mf

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

Bar.

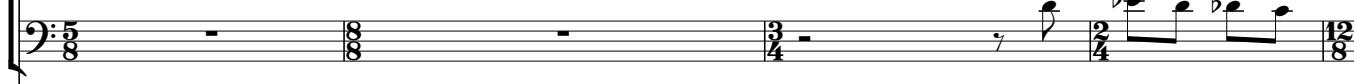
just as good as the big ones that keep this coun-try great.

Kbd.

158

S. 

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. 



162

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

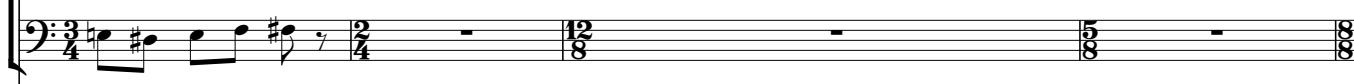
Kbd. 



165

S. 

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. 

169

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

Bar. By keep - ing things ex -

Kbd.

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

Bar.

Kbd.

f

By keep - ing things ex -

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.

Kbd.

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

185

S. keep this coun-try great.

Bar.

Kbd.

keep this coun-try great.

f

191

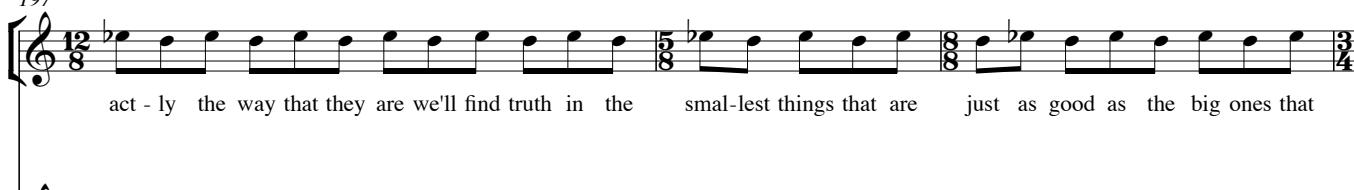
S. 

Kbd. 

By keep-ing things ex-



197

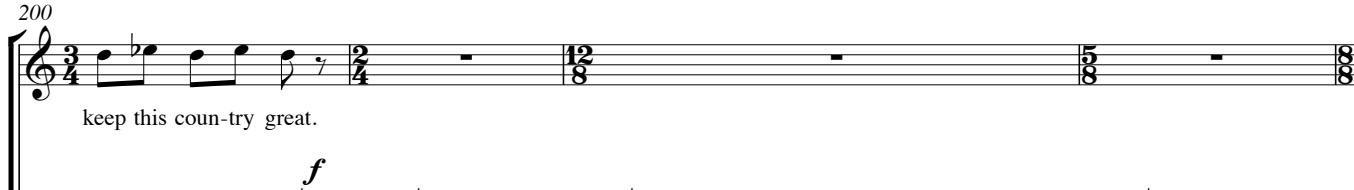
S. 

Kbd. 

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



200

S. 

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 things that are

Kbd. 

204

S. - - - - -

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

Kbd. - - - - -

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

207

S. - - - - -

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-tr

Kbd. - - - - -

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-tr

210

S. - - - - -

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

Kbd. - - - - -

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

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 for page 212 features three staves. The top staff is for the Soprano (S.) and the second staff is for the Bass (Bar.). Both staves show eighth-note patterns with grace marks. The third staff is for the Keyboard (Kbd.), showing eighth-note chords. The vocal parts have lyrics: "in the smal-lest things that are just as good as the big ones that keep this coun - try great." The score is in common time, with a key signature of one flat.