

John Link

Lost Jewelry

for Mezzo-Soprano and Piano
poem by Hilda Raz

PROGRAM NOTE

"Lost Jewelry" is a setting for mezzo-soprano and piano of Hilda Raz's poem of the same name. In my setting I have tried in various ways to dramatize the poem's remembrance of a lifetime's worth of losses and the consolations that accompany them in the memory.

—J.L.

Duration: ca. 8:00.

Lost Jewelry

My grandmother's diamond chip ring
set in filigree platinum, given to mark
my sixteenth birthday, a family gift
of transition. Carelessly removed
and returned to its box, dropped
into a suitcase I didn't lock
for a trip I took by air, on top.

My best friend's dead mother's watch
removed and dropped on the bedside table,
stolen by my boyfriend. Who else?
My first golden hoop – one of a pair
bought at Pharaoh's Jewelry Store, slipped
from my ear while swimming
in a friend's lake. NOT removed
for vanity when the bikini snapped shut,
sacrificed to that place of my greatest happiness.

My wedding ring – green gold filigree –
thrown from a moving car into perfect grass.

Lapis lazuli earrings torn from my lobes
by my own hands, dropped from a bridge
into icy water.

My grandmother's wedding ring
she flushed along with her spouse,
a family legacy that story,
now mine.

My second wedding ring, heavy
old 22k gold, irregularly beveled
by the jeweler's art, put off, unlucky,
to be cleansed by earth or flame
next generation, or sold. Now
hidden in velvet, eclipsed in darkness
in metal, behind locks, behind bars.

My birthday watch from Papa,
pink gold, tiny. "She's too young!"
cried Mom. I was. Gone.

The marcasite star on a silver chain.
I have it still. Fifty years. Don't I?

A double pearl ring from Daddy.
Which? The large or the small?
Same price. I'm fifteen. Shopping
together. The big one. The top
pearl cracks.

— Hilda Raz

Lost Jewelry

Poem by Hilda Raz

Music by John Link
(2003)

Mezzo-Soprano

$\bullet = 88$

mp

My

Piano

p

5

$\bullet = 100$

grand - moth-er's dia - mond chip ring set in fil - i - gree plat - i - num,

mp *p*

8

mp sub.

giv - en to mark my six - teenth birth - day,

mp sub.

11 *mf* *mp*

a fam - i - ly gift of trans - i - tion. —

14 *mf*

Care-less - ly re - moved — and re - turned to its box, dropped in - to a suit - case I

17 *mp*

did - n't lock for a trip I took by air, — on

17 *mp* *p*

20 *mp* < *mf*

top. My best friend's dead mo - ther's

f

mp cresc.

23 *f* *mf* < *mp*

watch re-moved and dropped on the bed - side ta - ble,

f < *mf*

mp

26 *mf* < *f* *mp* *poco rit.* *accel.* *mp* <

sto - len by my boy - friend. — Who else? My

mf < *f* < *p*

poco rit. *accel.*

29 *a tempo* *mf* *mp*

first gold - en hoop— one of a pair bought at Phar - aoh's Jewel - ry Store,

31

slipped from my ear while swim - ming in a

34 *mf* *mf*

friend's lake. — NOT re - moved — for van - i - ty when the bi -

37 *mf* *f*

ki - ni snapped shut, sac - ri - ficed to that place of my great - - - est

37 *mp cresc.*

40 *mf* *p*

Tempo I ♩ = 88

happ - i - ness. — My wed - ding ring—

40 *f* *p*

45

green — gold fil - i - gree—

45

Meno mosso (♩ = 66)

49 *pp*

thrown from a mov - ing car in - to per - - - fect

pp

p

53

grass.

accelerando

53

Tempo II (♩ = 100)

57 *mp*

La - pis la - zu - li ear - rings—

mp

f sub.

57

60 *mp*

torn from my lobes by my own hands, dropped from a bridge in - to

63 *f*

i - cy wa - ter. My grand - moth - er's wed - ding ring

66 *f*

she flushed a - long with her spouse, a

69 *mp* *p*

fam - i - ly leg - a - cy that stor - y, now mine.

69 *mf* *mp*

72

72 *p*

76 *p* *mf*

My se - cond wed - ding ring, heav - y old twen - ty two car - et

76 *p* *mf*

80 *p* *mp* *mf* *mp*

gold, ir - reg - u - lar - ly bev - eled by the jewel - er's art,

84 *mf cresc.*

put off, un - luck - y, to be cleansed by earth or

87 *f* *p*

flame next gen - er - a - tion, or sold.

90 *p* *mp* *p*

Now hid-den in vel - vet, e-clipsed in dark - ness

94 *p*

in me-tal, be - hind locks, be-hind bars. My

98 *mp* *p* *mf*

birth - day watch from Pa - pa, pink gold, ti - ny. "She's too

102 *f* *p sub.* *p*

young!" cried Mom. I was. Gone. The mar - ca-site star —

107 *mp* *mf* *f* *poco allargando*

on a sil - ver chain. I have it still. Fif - ty years.

111 *p* *p* *Tempo I* (♩ = 88) ♩ = 60

Don't I? A dou - ble pearl ring from Dad - dy.

115

Which? The large or the small? Same price. I'm fif - teen.

119

Shop - ping to - geth - er. The big one.

> pp

123

The top pearl cracks.

p

New York, Feb. 17, 2003