



LOW TIDE
for mezzo-soprano and piano

Kurt Erickson

2020

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Kurt Erickson is currently serving as Composer-in-Residence with San Francisco performing arts organization LIEDER ALIVE!, writing and premiering new commissioned works for renowned singers on their subscription concert series. His *Here, Bullet* song set received First Prize in the 2020 NATS Art Song competition and has been premiered by some 25 + singers across the globe. An entrepreneurial artist, he has served over ten years in multi-year composer residencies with cathedrals, dance companies, performing arts organizations, and national shrines. Noteworthy premieres and commissions include: choral works premiered by the San Francisco Girls Chorus at Davies Symphony Hall, performances of this song set *Chicago Songs* performed across the US, premiere performances and radio interviews at the American Guild of Organists National Convention, and a commissioned work for soprano and orchestra to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Berkeley Community Chorus & Orchestra. He is a frequent performer with his wife, acclaimed soprano Heidi Moss Erickson.

kurterickson.com

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Low Tide



Premiered January 18, 2019 by soprano Carrie Hennessey and pianist Jennifer Reason in Sacramento, California. Benefit concert for the Sacramento Children's Chorus

Low Tide

by Anthony Jesse

The tide is so low now
All the mussels are exposed.

Crabs scuttle.
Sea slugs slip
through the mud
between the little pools.

It had seemed to crawl
out so slowly
while I was watching.

At five she wanted
to snuggle.
At sixteen even a hug
is awkward.

And she still has things
to learn,
so many things
to learn.

But not from me.

For me the gulls
have come
to crack me
on the weathered rocks.

And now she must dodge
them on her own.

This setting has special meaning for me, both as a father and as a personal friend of the poet. Anthony Jesse and I share many fond memories from our bohemian 20's living in San Francisco. He studied guitar at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, I was a pianist taking a gap year before graduate school. We shared a love of art, music, poetry, and

literature together in that magical time in one's life when anything and everything seemed possible. Now that I have my own family with teenage children, there is an added poignancy in setting this wonderful text written by a dear friend on a subject I know all too well.

—K.E.

Low Tide

Anthony Jesse

Kurt Erickson

Slow and spacious throughout ♩ = 55

Mezzo-Soprano

Piano *pp*

Make each chord in piano part shimmer and sound like bells

5

Mezzo

tide is so low now. All the mus-sels are ex -

Pno

8

Mezzo

- - posed. Crabs scut - tle. Sea slugs slip

Pno

11

Mezzo

through the mud be - tween the lit - tle pools_____

Pno

13

Mezzo

It had seemed to crawl_ out so

Pno

15

Mezzo

slow - ly_ while I was wat - ching.

Pno

17

Mezzo

At five she wan - ted to snug - - gle. — At

Pno

19

Mezzo

six - teen e - ven a hug is awk - ward. And she

Pno

20

Mezzo

still has things to learn, so ma - ny things to learn.

Pno

22

Mezzo

Pno

25

Mezzo

Pno

But not for me _____ For

27

Mezzo

Pno

me the gulls have come _____ to

8 - - -

29

Mezzo

crack me on the wea - thered rocks

Pno

8 - - -

31

Mezzo

And now — she must — — — — — dodge — — — — — them

Pno

33

Mezzo

on her own. — — — — —

Pno

36

Mezzo

The tide _____ is _____ so _____ low _____ now _____

Pno

37

Mezzo

Pno

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