

I Lost My Talk

Rita Joe

Jeff Enns

♩ = 96 never hurried

p

S. Ah ah ah ah

A. Ah ah ah

T. Ah ah ah

B. Ah ah ah ah

Pno. rehearsal only

...y talk
...alk you took away.

When I was a little girl At Shubenacadie school.
You snatched it away:

I speak like you
I think like you
I create like you
The scrambled ballad about my world.

Two ways I talk
Both ways I say,
Your way is more powerful.

So gently I offer my hand and ask,
Let me find my talk
So I can teach you about me.

solo - or a few voices

A

8 *mf*

I lost my talk The talk you took away

S. *mp* ah

A. *mp* ah

T. *mp* ah

B. *mp* ah

Pno.

When I was a

When I was a

p



14

S. *mp* lit - tle girl, I was a lit - tle girl At Shu - ben -

A. *mp* lit - tle when I was a lit - tle girl At Shu - ben -

T. *mp* At Shu - ben -

B. *mp* At Shu - ben -

Pno.

PERUSAL SCORE ONLY - PLEASE DO NOT COPY

B*f* più mosso

S. *f* a-ca-die school. You snatched it a-way; I speak like you, I th' like you

A. *f* a-ca-die school. ah ah ah

T. *f* a-ca-die school. You snatched it a-way; I speak lik I think like you

B. *f* a-ca-die school. ah ah ah

Pno.

poco rit. **a tempo**

S. I cre- ate_ like The scam - bled bal-lad, a-bout my world.

A. I cre- at ou The scam - bled bal-lad, a-bout my world.

T. I _ like you The scam - bled bal-lad, a-bout my world.

B. cre- ate_ like you The scam - bled bal-lad, a-bout my world.

poco rit.

C ♩ = 106

32 *mf*

S. Two_ ways I talk, two_ ways I talk, two_ ways talk,

A. *mf*
Two ways, two ways

T. *mf*
Two ways, ways

B. *mf*
Two_ ways I talk, tw talk, two_ ways I

Pno. C



38 *rit.*

S. two_ ways I talk. two_ ways I talk two_ ways I talk

A. I I talk two ways

T. I talk, I I talk two ways

B. two_ ways I talk, two_ ways I talk, two_ ways I

Pno. *rit.*

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D ♩ = 96

44

S. *mp* Both ways, both ways, both ways I say, *ff* Your way, —

A. *mp* Both ways, both ways, both ways I say, *ff* your way, —

T. *mp* Both ways, both ways, both ways I say, *ff* Your way, —

B. *mp* talk. — Both ways, both ways, both ways I say, *ff* Your way, —

Pno.



51

S. *molto rit.* your way, — your way is more pow - er - ful. *p* So

A. *f* your way, — your way is more pow - er - ful. *p* So

T. *f* your way, — your way is more pow - er - ful. *p* So

B. *f* your way, — your way is more pow - er - ful. *p* So

Pno.

molto rit.

E

58

S. gent - ly I of - fer my hand and ask,

A. gent - ly I of - fer my hand and ask, *mp* Let me find my

T. gent - ly I of - fer my hand and ask, *mp* find my talk

B. gent - ly I of - fer my hand and as'

Pno.

E

64

S. *mp* Let me find my talk So I can *mf* teach you a -

A. *mf* So I can *mf* teach you a -

T. *mf* So I can *mf* teach you a -

B. *mf* Let me find my talk So I can *mf* teach you a -

Pno.

69 rit. *p*

S. bout, a - bout me.

A. bout, a - bout me.

T. bout, a - bout

B. bout, a - bout me.

Pno. rit.



Rita Joe was born in the Hubenacadie Indian Residential School - close to Halifax, Nova Scotia - in 1944, at the age of 12. When Joe left the residential school, four years later, she no longer remembered the Mi'kmaq language. Rita Joe started writing in the 1970s. Her poem *I Lost My Name* was a plea to others to understand who she was, who her people were. Rita Joe would publish seven books in total. She was named to the Order of Canada, appointed to the Queen's Privy Council for Canada, and has been called the Mi'kmaq poet laureate. Her poem *I Lost My Talk* was also included in Canada's final Truth and Reconciliation Report, addressing the legacy of the residential school system.



Jeff Enns is a native of Waterloo Ontario where he grew up surrounded by music. He studied organ, viola and composition at Wilfrid Laurier University. He has won a number of composition competitions and had his music performed across North America, as well Ireland, the U.K and Japan. He has received many commissions from various choral groups such as Conrad Grebel College, St. Mary's RC Church Kitchener, Menno Singers, Inter-Mennonite Children's Choir and is the composer in residence for the Canadian Chamber Choir. He is presently music director of St. James Lutheran church in Elmira ON where he lives with his family and is a stay at home father of 2. Jeff also teaches violin at the Beckett School in Kitchener.

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