

# LAST NIGHT I TOUCHED HIM

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~ LYRICAL HAIKUS FOR TENOR VOICE ~



TEXT AND MUSIC BY:  
**JORDAN ALEXANDER KEY**

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Lyrical Haiku: *Last Night I Touched Him*

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Duration ca. 10 minutes

## **Last Night I Touched Him**

Haiku Cycle by: Jordan Key

Last night I touched him.  
My hand whispers on his chest.  
*My Confirmation!*

Does sin smell like sweat  
Or smell like his knotted hair?  
How then does love smell?

Never without fear!  
Our clasped hands profess our faith  
In the grocery store.

He said, "I love you."  
I hear those word in his arms  
As we fall asleep,

Today I was told  
By my Mother and Father,  
"Out! We don't love you."

Whose blood fills their cups?  
Do they taste the vanity  
In their broken bread?

Will God forgive me?  
I forgave God long ago.

## Program Note:

A small song cycle of haikus by the composer, *Last Night I Touched Him* reacts to the struggle of coming out as gay in a conservative, religious society. The haikus not only reflect on homosexual love, but also the fear, hate, and anguish that accompany love for many gays who come out and live in intolerant communities. Along with poetic portrayal of homosexual love and its struggle for tolerance is the internal conflict between the self and a god that is reported as loving but is frequently shown to be hateful. This piece explores the structure of haiku in music through short forms that juxtapose musically contradictory styles, textures, emotions, and musical references. “*Last Night I Touched Him*” is miniature drama of contrasts – a play between homosexuality and Christianity, sensuality and spirituality, love and hate.

# Last Night I Touched Him

## I. "Last Night I Touched Him"

Jordan Alexander Key  
Complete Premier November 2019

**Fervent** (♩ = 200)

Tenor

Piano

4 *f* Ecstatic, very expressive

Last night

7 rit. =108 *molto dolce mp*

I touched him, I touched him My

gentle, like a whisper

*p*

11 *p*

8 hand, my hand whis - pers on his chest:

14 *p* *very gentle* **molto rit.**

8 whis - pers, whis - pers. **molto rit.**

*pp*

17 **Fervent** (♩ = 200) *f* *declamatory*

8 My Con - - - fir -

**Fervent** (♩ = 200)

Slightly Faster (♩ = 140)

20 **molto rit.** . . . . . (♩ = 90) *mp*

ma - tion! Does sin smell like

**molto rit.** . . . . . (♩ = 90) *mp*

**Slightly Faster** (♩ = 140) (3+2) *mp*

23 *mf* chorale like, slightly sarcastic

sweat or smell like his knot - - ted hair?

*mf*

26

Does sin smell?

28 *p* *mf* *declamative question*

Does sin smell?

31 *mp* *wondering, freely* *rit.* *f*

How then does love smell?

35 *mp* *Slower* ( $\text{♩} = 70$ ) *quietly to one's self, mocking* *p*

like sin?



## II. "Never Without Fear"

39 **Agitated** (♩ = 150)

Musical score for measures 39-40. The system includes a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The piano part features a complex rhythmic pattern with triplets and slurs. Dynamics range from *pp* to *f*. The tempo is marked as **Agitated** with a quarter note equal to 150 beats per minute.

Musical score for measures 41-42. The vocal line begins with the lyrics "Nev - er with - out fear,". The piano accompaniment continues with triplets and slurs. Dynamics include *ff* and *shouted with anger!*. The tempo remains **Agitated**.

Musical score for measures 43-44. The vocal line continues with the lyrics "nev - er with - out fear!". The piano accompaniment features a descending triplet line in the right hand and a steady triplet accompaniment in the left hand. Dynamics include *ff*.

45 *f* *mp* (3+4) *mf*

8 Nev - er with - out fear! Our clasped hands, our

48 (4+3)

8 clasped hands.

(4+3)

50 *f* (3+4) *mp*

8 pro - fess our faith

*crazy, full of rage*

***ff***

52

8 Nev-er with-out fear, nev-er with - out fear!

***ff*** *wildly*

54

8 Nev - er with - out fear! in the gro - - - cer-y store.

*mp*

*mf*

*p*

57

8 Nev - er with - out fear!

***ff***

*mf*

***ff***

r.h.

l.h.

## III. "He said I love you"

59 **Sweetly** (♩ = 60)

**Sweetly** (♩ = 60)

*p* like bells

*pp*

*Ped. ad lib.*

62 *molto dolce, full of love*  
*mp*

*molto dolce, full of love*  
*mp*

He said, he said, he said, "I love

65 *p* *p* very gentle

*p* *p* very gentle

you." I hear

*pp*

67

*mf*

I hear those words in his arms

*p*

*mp*

*p*

*Red.*

*ethereal, from the heavens*

70

*mp*

*rall.*

(Hmm)

*rall.*

*very gentle, small bells*

\*

73

*p*

*pp*

(♩ = 40)

as we fall as - leep.

(If one can, sing upper note quietly in falsetto. Otherwise sing bottom note)

### IV. "We don't love you"

**Raging** (♩ = 180)

76 *f* Full of hate and fear

*ff*

To - day, To - day

80

I was told

82

Told by my Mo - ther and Fa - ther

Told by my Mo - ther and Fa - ther

*ff* frantic

84

**Slower** (♩ = 80)

*sfz* shouting, full of hatefull rage

85

"Out! We

**Slower** (♩ = 80)

like daggers

**Movement II Tempo** (♩ = 150)

*ff*

87

don't love you!"

**Movement II Tempo** (♩ = 150)

*f* raging, full of hate

89

8

91 *mocking, snide, spiteful* *mp*

"Je - sus don't love you."

*p mad, insane*

8

93 *mp slightly insane*

Whose \_\_\_\_\_

8



96 *f*

blood? Whose blood

98 *mp*

whose blood fills their cup?

*f* *p*

8<sup>va</sup>

100 *p* *f* full of anger *p*

Do they taste the van - i - ty

*ff* *pp*

Sos.

103 **Menacing** (♩ = 60)

*p* *spiteful*  
(use hard consonants) *fp* *ff*

in their bro - ken bread?

105 **A Tempo, Raging** (♩ = 180)

**A Tempo, Raging** (♩ = 180)

106

*ff*

108

Musical score for measures 108-110. The system includes a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The key signature is one flat (B-flat major or D minor). The time signature is 5/16. Measure 108 features a vocal rest and piano accompaniment. Measure 109 includes a vocal rest and piano accompaniment with a forte (*ff*) dynamic marking. Measure 110 features a vocal rest and piano accompaniment with a time signature change to 8/16.

111

Musical score for measures 111-113. The system includes a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The key signature is one flat. The time signature is 6/16. Measure 111 features a vocal rest and piano accompaniment. Measure 112 includes a vocal rest and piano accompaniment. Measure 113 features a vocal rest and piano accompaniment with a time signature change to 6/8.

114

Musical score for measures 114-116. The system includes a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The key signature is one flat. The time signature is 6/8. Measure 114 features a vocal rest and piano accompaniment. Measure 115 includes a vocal rest and piano accompaniment with a forte (*ff*) dynamic marking. Measure 116 features a vocal rest and piano accompaniment with a time signature change to 6/16 and a triplet of eighth notes.

# V. "Will God forgive me"

116 **Ethereal** (♩ = 50) **A Little Faster** (♩ = 60)  
*molto dolce*  
*mp*

**Ethereal** (♩ = 50)  
*like heavenly chimes*

Will God, will God, \_

**A Little Faster** (♩ = 60)

*p*

*pp*

121 **rall.** *mf* *beautiful, strident, clear, passionate, without any apology*

will God for - give me? \_ I for-gave God \_

**rall.**

*pp*

124 *mp* *more sweetly, forgiving* **Resting, a tempo** (♩ = 50) **poco rall.** *p* *pp*

long, long a - go. ...?

**Resting, a tempo** (♩ = 50) **poco rall.** *very gentle* *hauntingly sweet* *8va* *pp* *ppp*

*pp* *ppp*

*Ped.*