

for Lucy

# AVUNCULAR

Rodney Jones, poetry  
Frank Stemper, music

♩ = 54 (Tempo I) informal, conversational

LUST-- (ST) He told us (LLL)--LUST he told us He told us lust would turn

♩ = 68 (Tempo II)  
suddenly bold, dramatic, formal

LUST turn trans - mo-gri-fy\_\_ LUST to a\_\_ plu-ral ver-sion of mo-ther

LOVE LLL - --LUST --(st) LOVE\_\_ Friend-ship im - proved on that. A few at

six-ty\_\_ would give more than they kept for them - selves. LOVE\_\_\_\_ LOVE But

Tempo II (suddenly dramatic...)  
subito

par-ents LOVE they had an ex-pi-ra-tion date LIKE LOVE par-ents they had an ex-pi-

ra-tion date like FISH or MILK. LIKE FISH or --rrrRRRLL - LUST LIKE they were

\* all glissandi should be subtle and come toward the end of the duration of the first note, into the second.  
(more of a stylish affectation)

43 *mp* *mf* *mp*

LIKE they were LIKE Je - ho - va with Je - sus. One day they looked up and their

49 *p* *mf* *dolce p* *mp*

*Continuing, but more upbeat optimistic (partly swung)*

du-ties were done — looked UP DONE LOVE How LATE — he saw — his — LLL

58

—LATE —("t") his or-phan's por-tion of LIGHT — LATE LIGHT LLL —LATE LIGHT LOVE

65 *f*

HE SAW HIS LIGHT and the spi-ri-tual LIFE was made sur-ro-gate Pa-ci-fi-ers and pla - ce-bos.

**Tempo II**  
(dramatic)

70 *mp* *p* *f*

LIFE — spi-ri - tual LIFE How LATE he saw his or-phan's por-tion of LIGHT trans-

**Tempo I**

76

mo - gri-fyu his — ex-pi-ra-tion DATE —(t) and the spi-ri - tual LIFE LOOKED UP LOVE

*(exaggerate and have some fun with the "L's")*

81

LIGHT LOOKED LIKE

82 *molto rit.* *f* *a tempo (Tempo I)* *p*

*(time - ad lib)*

Looking down, from a stature of sadness, — Suddenly, look UP at the audience (first with eyes only) with a subtle but enlightened look of mischief and rejuvenation

LATE LIFE LOVE LUST DONE. LIFE

*(staging/acting directions -in a different TYPE- are only suggestions)*

86 *cresc.* ----- *f*  
*feel the double-time pulse*

spi-ri - tual LIFE LATE LIFE LATE LOVE \_\_\_\_\_ FISH or MILK on ly per-spec-tive had

*Discovering*  
 pondering, calculating  
 -eyes upward, finger  
 on cheekbone-  
*mp*

92 *mf*

mean-ing now he told us Space-Time the an-ti - hu - bris \_ and the HOPE [\*HOPE] \*\*and the

99 *mf* *f*  
*as an aside, directly to the audience preparing them for the next line -1st finger up, as when making a point-*

HOPE he might still Mar - ry if [\*IF] \*\*Gen-rel e - lec - tric stayed UP stayed UP [\*UP?]

*giddy thankful -big smile-*  
*Suddenly louder, monstrous guttural, LUSTY, gritty, perhaps infused with a menacing, crusty, laugh*

*clueless. -squint eyes-then....*

106 *mf*

[\*UP!!] [\*—LLLUST] \_\_\_ \*\*he might still mar - ry and be - come some fif - ty - five-year-old's

110 *f* *mf* *subito pp* *mf* *subito p*  
*Confidentially, knowingly -look at the audience and wink, nod or "Groucho" your eye-brows-*

smi - ling smi - ling (he told us) eigh - ty se - ven-year-old son in law.

\*diamond noteheads [AND WORDS IN BRACKETS] indicate speech

\*\* shift abruptly from speech back to song - like flicking a switch.