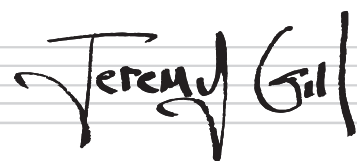


Ida by Lamplight

opera for five singers and piano



Jeremy Gil

Ida by Lamplight

opera for five singers and piano
libretto by Jerre Dye

Commission

commissioned by Chautauqua Opera Company

Workshop premiere

8 August 2025 at Elizabeth S. Lenna Hall, Chautauqua, NY by

Victoria Lawal Mrs. Talbot
Kathiana Dargenson Kate Kimball
Lindsay Weissman Ida Tarbell
Rosamund Dyer Mrs. McNeil
Seoyong Lee John Heyl Vincent

Miriam Charney Piano
Steven Osgood Conductor

Instrumentation

2 sopranos (Mrs. Talbot, Kate)
2 mezzo-sopranos (Ida, Mrs. McNeil)
bass-baritone (Rev. Vincent)
speaking role (Newspaper Kid)
piano

Duration

approximately 20 minutes

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commissioned by Chautauqua Opera Company

Ida by Lamplight

Jerre Dye

Jeremy Gill

When: 1886

Where: Chautauquan office, late at night

As the editor of The Chautauquan, it's IDA's duty to take on the arduous, time-consuming job of correspondence with the reading circles and the over 25,000 individual Chautauquan readers across the United States. She is passionate about having personal correspondence with each individual.

♩ = 184

Orchestra

f
appassionata

f

6

f

meno f >

12

f

18

ff

f

24 *IDA sits at her desk in the wee hours,*

ff *f*

8va

29 *painstakingly answering letters.* *mp, ma espr.*

meno f *tr* *p*

34 *mp* *mp*

(tr)

40

(tr)

46 *f*

f

52

Her associate catches her burning the midnight oil.

KATE:

57 *f*

K. Hea - vens! I - da! _____ You're still up?

senza tempo

a tempo (♩ = 184)

IDA remains engrossed in a letter. Obsessively.

64 *p*

K. I feared you were a pil - fer - er!

I. _____ IDA: *mp* (distracted)

My

69

I. lamp re - mains trimmed and burn - - - ing.

72 KATE: *f*

To bed with you! I in - sist_____ it!

77 IDA: *mp*

I_____ can't stop._____ *f, animated*
Just look at these!

83 *Holds up letters.* *mf*

Do - zens of them, e - - v'ry day.

88 *più f*

Let - ters... hun - dreds_ pi -

94 *ancora più f* *f*

I. -ling up. And all of them, all

100

I. of them de - serve an an - swer.

106 *(catching KATE's admonishment)*

I.

110 *f*

I. Don't look at me like that.

114 *f*

I. *f*

Be - yond my du - ties for this pa - per, I've been

fp

118 *meno f*

I. *meno f*

charged with cor - re - spon - dence. So here I am. I'm...

dim. *p*

123 *mf*

I. *mf*

cor - re -

pp *f* *f*

128 *mf* KATE:

K. *mf*

cor - re - spond -

I. *p* *frum* *più f* *meno f*

p *frum* *più f* *meno f*

132

K. *ing... yes, but there are li - mits,*

I.

p

trb

136

K. *I - da.____*

I. *I'll sleep when I'm*

mp (distracted)

(tr)

mf *mp* *p*

140

K. *KATE takes letters away from IDA. You are*

I. *dead.____*

f

p *ff*

tr

145 *IDA takes the letters back.*

K. *BUILT of stub - born - ness!*

148 *IDA: mf* *rit. a tempo (♩ = 184)*

I. *I pre - fer "per - sis - tence," thank you. ____*

154 *mp* *mp*

I. *I can't stop read - ing all ____*

160 *mp*

I. *these let - ters, each one its own*

166 *mf*

I. u - ni - verse, a fo -

più f *meno f* *p*

171 *mf* KATE:

K. They'll still be here come morn - ing, I - da.

I. reign land,

espr.

177 (IDA:) *mf*

I. some proof of hope.

espr. *p* *più f* *meno f*

183 *mp*

I. And what they lack in scho - lar - ship, they

sempre p

189 *rit. poco a poco*..... *KATE: mp*

K. in heart, I know,

I. all make up in heart.

p

195 *meno mosso, ma energico* *poco a poco tornando al*

K. but..... *IDA obsessively looks for addresses, letter by letter.*

I. Penn - syl - va - nia,

mp

p

più

201 *più f*

I. O - re - gon, Mis - sis - sip -

207 *tempo* (♩ = 184) *ancora più f*

I. - pi, Il - li - nois... men and

213 *f* KATE: *f*

K. sparks ig - ni - ted... ..all a -

I. wo - men... ..all a -

218

K. *cross the na - tion... ..yes, they're flock - ing to our read - ing cour - ses.*

I. *-cross the na - tion...*

222

K. *...ma - ny bare - ly*

I. *...ma - ny bare - ly*

226

I. *li - te - rate!_*

230 *f*

I. *f*

Caught be - tween _____ the work of life and all the

234 *mf*

I. *mf*

things they long _____ to be. _____ Like this one...

IDA grabs a letter, finds the name. KATE rolls her eyes, conceding.

239 *mf* (imploringly)

K. KATE: *mf* (imploringly)

I - da. _____

I. *mf* *mp* *più f* *hushed, expectant*

Mis - sus... Mis - sus... _____ ...Tal - bot. Lis - ten...

p

246 $\text{♩} = 72$, *ma rubato* Mrs. TALBOT: Dear Chau-
 (IDA:) "Dear Chau-

252 -tau - quan, Greet - ings, friends. — Your cour - ses are a
 -tau - quan,

257 *stentando.....a tempo* *più f* Read - ing means the world to me,
 bless - ing to me. *più f* Read - ing means the world...
mf, espr. *p*

262 *espr.* *rit.....a tempo*

T. *but no one e - ver learned me how.*

I. *espr.* *(2)* *IDA corrects with a pen.*
but no one e - ver learned me how."

mf

266

T.

più f *p* *cresc.* *molto* *f*

269 *rit.....a tempo* *mp, intimo*

T. I

p

275

T. teach my - self at night. I learn my words by

I. IDA: *mp*
This part... "I _____ learn my words by

(p)

279

T. can - - dle - light, _____ a - lone...

I. *mf*
can - dle - light" her fa - m'ly fast a - sleep.

n. *p*

283

T. I am im - prov - ing e - v'ry day.

I.

espr.

rit.....a tempo

stent.....

a tempo

287 IDA hands KATE the letter. She takes it, looking.

(Mrs. TALBOT:)

T. *mf* Your

K. KATE: *mf* Ear - nest... ..to the bone.

I. (IDA:) *mf* And look at her dear hand. ...to the bone. Read on.

n. p

292

T. *mf* You've

K. (KATE:) *mf* "You've

espr. p

296

T. *più f* I *ad lib.* *stent.....*

K. *f* I ne - ver

colla voce p

a tempo

299 *f*

T. ne - ver dreamed I'd come so far.

K. dreamed I'd come so far.

f *espr.*

303 *rit.*..... *p, semplice* $\text{♩} = 168$

T. The tears are flow - ing as I write.

K. *p, semplice* The tears are flow - ing as I write."

I. IDA: *p, semplice* IDA disrupts the sentiment
"The tears are flow - ing as I write."

pp *f*

of the moment, grabbing another letter.

308 (IDA:) *f* $\text{♩} = \text{♩}$

I. And here's a - no - ther... Mis - sus... Mc - Neil:

ff

IDA points to the passage. KATE reads now. Fire catching.

312 (♩ = 84) KATE: *f*

K. "My hus - band, he DOES NOT ap -

315

K. - prove"

molto stent.....a tempo

Mrs. McNEIL:

319 *f*

Mc. My hus - band, he DOES NOT ap - prove of my pur - suit of

322 *f* *mp*

Mc. e - du - ca - tion. And yet, _____

325 *f* IDA: *f*

I. She "still per - sists."

Mc. and yet, I still per - sist. I must.

cresc.

328 *f* KATE:

K. "Your cour - ses lend my days such hope."

Mc. Your cour - ses lend my days such

f *p*

330 *p* *cresc.*

Mc. hope,

p *cresc.*

333 IDA: *f*

I. The sa - - cred - ness of HU - MAN LIFE! _____

Mc. *f*
such hope.

336 (Mrs. McNEIL:) *f* **molto stent.**.....

Mc. My hus - band,

340 **adagio** **a tempo**

Mc. my hus - band needs me for the farm, be - cause we have no _____

343

Mc. *mf*
 child - ren. I do my course - work when I

mf
p
espr.

346

Mc. *mp*
 can. In fact,

meno f
pp
p

349

K. *f*
 KATE: "...to - day I read my book

Mc. *f*
 in fact, to - day I read my book while

f *accomp.*
p

353

K. while push - ing right be - hind the plow."

Mc. push - ing right be - hind the plow. *f* Where there's a will, there is a

f *accomp.* *p*

356 IDA: *f*

I. Hun - - dreds like this... e - v'ry day!

Mc. way. *f* My har - vest has al - rea - dy

p *f*

358 KATE: *f*

K. Cir - - cu - la - tion twen - ty thou - sand.

Mc. come. *f* Words have

p *f*

360 Mrs. TALBOT: $\leftarrow \text{♩} = \text{♩} \rightarrow (\text{♩} = 168)$ rit.....

T. ...mean - ing! reach - ing

K.

I. IDA: Wo - men reach - ing,

Mc. giv'n my life... ...mean-ing! reach-ing

p *p* *pp*

365 a tempo rit.....a tempo *mf*

T. cour - age strength in ac - tion,

K. (KATE:) *più f* ...pas - sion, cour - age, *mf* strength in ac - tion,

I. fueled by mis - sion... *mf* strength in ac - tion,

Mc. cour-age strength in ac - tion, *mf*

mp *p* *più*

poco rit. un poco accel.

372

T. *f* au - tho - ri - ty _____ *f* ...for - ces to _____ be

K. _____

I. *f* in - tel - lect, au - tho - ri - ty, all... *f* ...for - ces to _____ be

Mc. *f* in - tel - lect *f* ...for - ces to _____ be

f *meno f* *p* *cresc.*

378..... ♩ = 184

T. re - ckoned with! _____

K. _____

I. re - ckoned with! _____ *ff* Mo - men - tum... hope... _____

Mc. re - ckoned with! _____

ff *f* *p* *molto* *f*

384 **ff** (holding letters) stent.....
f

I. here, in our hands, Kate! — Sure - ly, —

390 $\text{♩} = 168$ KATE: **mp**

K. I do.

I. — you can sense that, too? And it could — change, —

397 $\text{♩} = 84$ **p** (she snaps her fingers aggressively with "THAT")

I. — like THAT!

G.P. G.P. G.P.

f, espr. **espr.**

pp

406

espr. **meno f** **espr.**

(pp) **(pp)**

414 rit.....

ancora meno

421 $\text{♩} = 72$ (IDA:) *p* *più*

I. That is why I can - not sleep. — These let - ters have... ig -

428 *mf*

I. - ni - ted me. — I have seen the best — in peo - ple. — I've

sub. p *pp* *p*

435 *f* **più mosso** ($\text{♩} = 84$)

I. al - so seen the worst. — And so, I re - main

pp *p* *p* *cresc.* *f* *tr*

441 *f* *rit.*.....

I. *vi - gi - lant. Op - ti - mis - tic. But with TEETH!*

445 *mp* $\text{♩} = 72$

I. *We all need one a - no - ther, Kate.*

449 *tempo ad lib.*

I. *The fu - ture be - lons to us all. If not, that fu - ture's not worth hav - ing.*

colla voce *un poco più f*

453 *più f* *energico* *sub.* $\text{♩} = 184$

I. *We've been called to serve... shed light in the dark - ness.*

456 **KATE:**
p

K. Lamp trimmed...

I. (IDA:) *mf*
 ...and burn - - ing, yes.

p

460 *mf* (lovingly / admiringly)

K. Born to be a jour - na - list.

I.

mf *p* *fp*

464 *mp*

K. Serve the com - mon good.

I. *mp*
 Serve the com - mon good.

(tr) *f* *meno f*
p

468

I.

poco cresc.

mp

f

472 (IDA:) *p, ma chiaro*

I.

I re - mem - ber, clear as day, when the spark in me was

pp

fp >

pp

478

I.

plan - ted. _____

(p)

mf

poco

molto

← $\text{♩} = \text{♪}$ → ($\text{♩} = 92$) , molto stentando

483 $\text{♩} = 84$

I.

I was just a lit - tle girl. Au - gust in the Am - phi - thea - tre,

p

meno

487 *rit.*..... *tenuto* *tempo ad lib.* *energico*

I. wood - en ben - ches, ach - ing backs. Re - v'rend John Heyl Vin - cent

490 *più f*

I. stand - ing up there. His ser - mon... re - vo - lu - tion - a - ry.

poco più f *mp*

493 *a tempo* (♩ = 84) Rev. VINCENT: *mf*

V. "All de - no - mi - na - tions come..."

(her vision of VINCENT)

mf *p* *pp* *mf*

*Come, and Let Us Sweetly Join (C. Wesley, O. Gibbons)

498

V. *più f* *meno*

young — and old, — Jew and Gen - tile, — bond

pp

p

502

V. — and free, — black and

mf *pp* *p*

506

V. white, work or trade, — and all o -

8va *p* *mf* *pp*

poco rit. a tempo

510

V. *mp*

- pi - nions, _____ all God's child - ren

8va

poco *mp* *p*

p *pp*

513

T. Mrs. TALBOT: *mp* *p* poco stent.

"All _____ God's child - ren, all _____ God's child - ren..."

Mc. Mrs. McNEIL: *mp* *p*

"All _____ God's child - ren, all _____ God's child - ren..."

V. *p*

wel - come here..." _____ "All God's child - ren..."

8va

p

a tempo

517 *p* *poco* *poco*

T. shin - ing fa - - ces hope so clear - - ly

IDA (*still recalling*): *mf*

I. all those fer - vent, up - turned fa - ces, shin - ing in the morn - ing sun

Mc. *p* *poco* *poco*

shin - - ing fa - - ces hope so clear - ly

V.

521 **tempo l'istesso**

T.

I. *mf*

I see them, e - ven now, so clear - - ly. This sense of

Mc.

V. *mf*

All de - no - mi - na - tions come...

f *p sempre*

524

mf

T. I am not a -

I. hope.

Mc. *mf* Where there's a will, there is a way.

V. *mf* all God's child - ren *mf* all God's

mf *mf*

526

T. - lone can - - -

K. *mf* KATE: This sense of hope.

I.

Mc. *f* I still per - sist *mp*

V. child - ren all God's

mp *mp*

528 *mf*

T. *mf*
dle - light by can - dle - light

K. *mf*
Hope set in - to mo - tion.

I. *mf*
Hope set in - to

Mc.

V. *mf*
child - ren

530 *f*

T. *f*
I ne - ver dreamed I'd come so far.

K. *f*
We've come so

I. *f*
mo - tion.

Mc. *f*
My har - vest has al - rea - dy come.

V. *p*
all God's child - - ren

p *molto* *f* *p*

532

T. *f* "All God's child - ren wel - come here..."

K. *f* far. "All God's child - ren wel - come here..."

I. *f* "All God's child - ren wel - come here..."

Mc. *f* "All God's child - ren wel - come here..."

V. *f* "All God's child - ren wel - come here..."

All God's child - ren wel - come here..."

f *fp*

535

T. *n*

K. *n*

I. *f* *più f* All are wel - come was the mes - sage. It IS the mes - sage, to this

Mc. *n*

V. *n*

poco cresc.

538 **tempo l'istesso** (KATE:) *mp*

K. *mp* An i - dea

I. day!

fp *pp* *chiaro*

540 *mf*

K. with vi - ta - li - ty. Bold.

I. *mf* Vi - - sion - a - ry.

542

K. *mf* *mp*

I. *mf* *mp* As - ser - tive... e - spe - cial - ly for

p

poco rit.....♩ = 72

(a private laugh, then...)

mp (simply)

544

I. Me - thod - ists. — But

548

I. can this vi - sion hold, dear Kate? — Can it hold, I won - der? —

555

I. *mp, intimo* This is what I ask my - self. — *f, energico* Do we have the for - ti - tude? —

561

K. KATE: (holding correspondences) *mp* The sa - cred - ness of life. — *poco rit....a tempo*

I. That's what keeps me up at night. —

567 *accel.*..... ♩ = 92 ← ♩ = ♩ → (♩ = 184) *p* *rf*

K. lamp trimmed... and

I. lamp trimmed... and

cresc. *tr* *fp*

572 Mrs. TALBOT: *(gently)* *p* *rf*

lamp trimmed and burn - ing

K. *poco* burn - ing

I. *poco* burn - ing

Mc. Mrs. McNEIL: *(gently)* *p* *rf*

lamp trimmed and burn - ing

V. Rev. VINCENT: *(gently)* *p* *rf*

lamp trimmed and burn - ing

577

T.

K. *KATE pulls up a chair.*
May I join you?

I.

Mc.

V.

581

T. *p* *poco rf*
lamp trimmed and

K.

I. *mp*
Yes, you may.

Mc. *p* *poco rf*
lamp trimmed and

V. *p* *poco rf*
lamp trimmed and

p

587

T. *burn - ing*

Mc. *burn - ing*

V. *burn - ing*

The sun begins to rise.

Red.

p *mp*

592

T. *pp* *poco*
lamp trimmed and burn - ing

Mc. *pp* *poco*
lamp trimmed and burn - ing

V. *pp* *poco*
lamp trimmed and burn - ing

A look / gesture of solidarity (KATE and IDA).

mf *8va* *poco* *pp*

598

T. *p, ma energico*
lamp trimmed

Mc. *p, ma energico*
lamp trimmed

V. *p, ma energico*
lamp trimmed

(tr) They get to work.
p, ma energico

601

T. *poco* lamp trimmed and burn - - ing *p* lamp trimmed and *poco*

KATE: *pp* (interior) burn - - ing *pp* burn - - ing

IDA: *pp* (interior) burn - - ing *pp* burn - - ing

Mc. *poco* lamp trimmed and burn - - ing *p* lamp trimmed and *poco*

V. *poco* lamp trimmed and burn - - ing *p* lamp trimmed and *poco*

un poco più f *più f*

604

T. *mp*
burn - - ing lamp trimmed lamp trimmed and

K. *p*
burn - - ing

I. *p*
burn - - ing

Mc. *mp*
burn - - ing lamp trimmed lamp trimmed and

V. *mp*
burn - - ing lamp trimmed lamp trimmed and

più f ancora

607

T. *mf* *p*
burn - - ing lamp trimmed and burn - ing burn - ing

K. *mp* *p*
burn - - ing burn - ing burn - -

I. *mp* *p*
burn - - ing burn - ing burn - -

Mc. *mf* *p*
burn - - ing lamp trimmed and burn - ing burn - ing

V. *mf* *p*
burn - - ing lamp trimmed and burn - ing burn - ing

cresc. *sub. p*

610

T. *cresc.*
burn - ing burn - ing burn - ing burn - ing burn - ing

K. *cresc.*
- ing burn - ing burn - - ing burn - ing burn - - ing burn - -

I. *cresc.*
- ing burn - ing burn - - ing burn - ing burn - - ing burn - -

Mc. *cresc.*
burn - ing burn - ing burn - ing burn - ing burn - ing

V. *cresc.*
burn - ing burn - ing burn - ing burn - ing burn - ing

613

T. *ff*
burn - ing

K. *ff*
- ing burn - - - ing

I. *ff*
- ing burn - - - ing

Mc. *ff*
burn - ing

V. *ff*
burn - ing

NEWSPAPER KID (spoken):
GET YOUR CHAUTAUQUA DAILY!

Sost.

616 *fp* \wedge

T. burn - ing

K. burn - ing

I. burn - ing

Mc. burn - ing

V. burn - ing

p *sempre* GET YOUR CHAUTAUQUA DAILY!

fp \wedge *p*

mp *mf*

619 GET YOUR CHAUTAUQUA DAILY! GET YOUR CHAU-

f

622 -TAUQUA DAILY!

cresc. *ff*