

MY BOAT

Voice and Piano

Poem by RAYMOND CARVER

Music by BRUCE TRINKLEY

Raymond Carver, the well-known American author, is most famous for his short stories. But he also wrote poems, many of which exhibit the same strengths and interests of his stories, featuring common men and women and their life experiences. Carver was born in Oregon in 1938 and lived in various parts of the United States. His companion for the last decade of his life was the poet Tess Gallagher. They lived in Port Angeles, in Washington State, on the shores of Puget Sound, where undoubtedly Carver frequently sailed - with artist friends, writers, painters and poets, and, of course, Tess.

My Boat

*My boat is being made to order. Right now it's about to leave
the hands of its builders. I've reserved a special place
for it down at the marina. It's going to have plenty of room
on it for all my friends: Richard, Bill, Chuck, Toby, Jim, Hayden,
Gary, George, Harold, Don, Dick, Scott, Geoffrey, Jack,
Paul, Jay, Morris, and Alfredo. All my friends! They know who
they are.*

*Tess, of course. I wouldn't go anyplace without her.
And Kristina, Merry, Catherine, Diane, Sally, Annick, Pat,
Judith, Susie, Lynne, Annie, Jane, Mona.
Doug and Amy! They're family, but they're also my friends,
and they like a good time.
There'll be a place on board for everyone's stories.
My own, but also the ones belonging to my friends.
Short stories, and the ones that go on and on. The true
and the made-up. The ones already finished, and the ones still
being written.*

*Poems, too! Lyric poems, and the longer, darker narratives.
For my painter friends, paints and canvases will be on board
my boat.*

*We'll have fried chicken, lunch meats, cheeses, rolls,
French bread. Every good thing that my friends and I like.
And a big basket of fruit, in case anyone wants fruit.
In case anyone wants to say he or she ate an apple,
or some grapes, on my boat. Whatever my friends want,
name it, and it'll be there. Soda pop of all kinds.
Beer and wine, sure. No one will be denied anything, on
my boat.*

*We'll go out into the sunny harbor and have fun, that's the idea.
Just have a good time all around. Not thinking
about this or that or getting ahead or falling behind.*

My Boat

For Voice and Piano

Poem by Raymond Carver (1938-1988)*

from *Where Water Comes Together with Other Water* (1984)

Music by Bruce Trinkley

Spirited and exuberant ♩ = 112 *mf* proudly

Voice: My boat is be - ing made to

Piano: *ff* *con pedale* *dim.* *mp*

4 or - der. Right now it's a-bout to leave the hands of its build-ers. I've re-

p *sub. p*

8 *cresc. poco a poco* served a spe - cial place for it down at the ma - ri - na. It's going to have plen - ty of

cresc. poco a poco

11 *f*

room on it for all my friends: _____

mf cresc. *f* *mf dim.*

15 *mp cresc. poco a poco*

Rich-ard, Bill, Chuck, To-by, Jim, Hay-den, Gar-y, George, Har-old, Don, Dick, Scott,

p cresc. poco a poco *simile* *mp*

18 *mf* *f*

Geof-frey, Jack, Paul, Jay, Mor-ris, and Al-fre - do.

mf *f*

21 *ff* *f poco marcato* *rit. e dim.*

All my friends! They know who they are. _____

ff *f poco marcato* *rit. e dim.*

Quasi recitative ♩ = 88

25 *p* tenderly *mp* *p*

Tess, of course. I would-n't go an-y-place with - out her. And Kris -

p tenderly *mp* *p*

29 *cresc. ed accel. poco a poco* **Tempo primo** ♩ = 112

ti - na, Mer-ry, Cath'-rine, Di-ane, Sal-ly, Ann-ick, Pat, Ju - dith, Su-sie, Lynne,

cresc. ed accel. poco a poco

32 *f*

An - nie, Jane, Mo-na. Doug and A-my! They're fam - i-ly, but they're al - so my

f *sonore*

36 *poco rit.* *a tempo* *rit. e dim.*

friends, and they like a good time. (spoken) There's room on my boat for just about everyone. I'm serious about this!

poco rit. *a tempo* *rit. e dim.*

Waltz tempo ♩ = 128
holding back *a tempo*

5

40

mp

There'll be a place on board for ev - 'ry-one's stor - ies.

ten. *p* *mp*

46

My own, but al - so the ones be - long - ing to my friends.

p

52

mf *mp*

Short stor - ies, and the ones that go on and on.

mf *mp*

58

cresc. *mf*

The true and the made - up. The ones al - read - y

cresc. *f* *mf*

64 *mp* *mf* proudly

fin - ished, and the ones still be - ing writ - ten. Po-ems, too!

71 *mp*

Lyr - ic po - ems, and the long - er, dark - er nar-ra-tives.

78 *mf*

For my paint - er friends, paints and can - vas - es will be on board my boat.

84 *molto allarg.* *mp* *mf* Easy 2 $\text{♩} = 76$

We'll have fried chick-en, lunch meats, chee-ses, rolls, French bread. Ev'-ry good thing that my

89 **Waltz tempo** ♩ = 152 *f*

friends and I like. And a big bas - ket of fruit, in case

f *con pedale*

94 *mf*

an - y - one wants fruit. In case an - y - one wants to

dim. *mf*

100 *mp* *holding back* *moving ahead*

say he or she ate an ap - ple, or some grapes, on my boat. What -

mp

104 *freely, magnanimously* *reassuringly*

ev - er my friends want, name it, and it - 'll be there.

mp colla voce

111 *moving ahead* *holding back* *mp* *espressivo* *mf* *poco accel.*

So-da pop of all kinds. Beer and wine, sure. No one will be de-nied an - y - thing, on my

p *mp* *p* *espressivo*

8vb - - -

116 *f* **Sailing tempo** ♩ = 88 *mf* *rapturously*

boat. We'll go out in-to the sun - ny

mp *mf* *mp*

con pedale

119 *mp*

har - bor and have fun, that's the i - de - a, Just

Slightly slower ♩ = 80
nostalgically

122

have a good time all a - round. _____ Not think - ing a - bout this or

mp *rit.* *p* *nostalgically*

125

that _____ or get - ting a - head or fall - ing be - hind. _____

128

cantando *rit.* *pp*