



2006

## The Letter

Benjamin Johnson  
*Illinois Wesleyan University*

Follow this and additional works at: [https://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/music\\_compositions](https://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/music_compositions)



Part of the [Composition Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

Johnson, Benjamin, "The Letter" (2006). *Compositions*. 23.  
[https://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/music\\_compositions/23](https://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/music_compositions/23)

This Article is protected by copyright and/or related rights. It has been brought to you by Digital Commons @ IWU with permission from the rights-holder(s). You are free to use this material in any way that is permitted by the copyright and related rights legislation that applies to your use. For other uses you need to obtain permission from the rights-holder(s) directly, unless additional rights are indicated by a Creative Commons license in the record and/ or on the work itself. This material has been accepted for inclusion by faculty at Illinois Wesleyan University. For more information, please contact [digitalcommons@iwu.edu](mailto:digitalcommons@iwu.edu).

©Copyright is owned by the author of this document.

# *The Letter*

*for tenor voice and piano*

*Benjamin Johnson*

ILLINOIS WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY  
THE AMES LIBRARY  
BLOOMINGTON, IL

ad 1  
.J65  
L48  
2006

*...for another life...*

# The Letter

Benjamin Johnson

$\text{♩} = 50 \text{ bpm}$

*pp* *poco cresc.*

Reo. ...

(voice = free, expressive dynamics)

5

8

Tooth brush and socks ra - zors and soap six

5

*mp* *pp* *mp*

... \* Reo. ...

9

8

days worth of clo thing that work in-ter-change-a - bly \_\_\_\_\_ Web ster, The Bi - ble a

9

*ppp* *mf* *mp*

... \* ... Reo.

# The Letter

4

13

8 jour - nal and Stein beck all bound up with kite string a tem - ple of thought but no mu sic, no

13

*p*

...

*Leo.*

17

8 mu sic. Wrist watch a flash - light ev - 'ry size bat ter - y ex -

17

*ppp* *mp*

*Leo.* *Leo.* \* *Leo. ...*

21

8 cept for the round — kind all still in the packag ing, can - dy and cross - words

21

*mf* *sub p*

8va — — —

... *Leo.* *Leo.* *Leo.* \* *Leo.* \* *Leo.* \*

25

news - pa-pers mag-a-zines a hand - me down no - vel that I'll nev-er fin-ish but no

*mp*

Ped. \* Ped. \* Ped. \* Ped. \*

28

mu - sic no mu - sic and no-thing but ho - urs to

*p pp mf*

Ped. ... \* Ped. ...

31

tra - vel and think and re - mem - ber the may - bes and what ifs and whys of my

*mp p*

... \* Ped. Ped. ... \*

34

youth and each mo-ment with out — you turns fas-ter to memo ry

*f* *mf* *p*

8va

8va

Reo. \* Reo. \* Reo. ... ... \* Reo. \* Reo. ...

38

un - til the ho - urs and months pass - ing by are just still frames of truth.

*mp* *pp* *f*

8va

8va

... \* Reo. ... ... \*

42

Nine - ty-six dol-lars three

*p*

8va

8va

Reo. \* Reo. \* Reo. \* Reo. \* Reo. ...

46

8 I.-D.s and a card that proves I've earned two tenths of a free cup of cof-fee

46 *8va-*

*pp* *f*

... Ped. \* Ped. \*

50

8 sun glas-ses rain coat a tick-et to an-y-where shoe la ces matches, twelve un sharpened pencils but no

50 *15ma* (black keys) *8va-*

*mp* *p*

Ped. \* Ped. \* *8vb-* Ped. ... \*



54

8 mu sic, no mu - sic.

54

15<sup>ma</sup> - , 8<sup>va</sup> - - - , 8<sup>va</sup> - , (black keys)

*pp* *p* *f* *mf*

*Red.* \* *Red.* \* *Red.*

58

8 and this I can't op - en un -

58

15<sup>ma</sup> - - ,

*pp* *mp*

\* *Red.* ...

62

8 til I've ar-rived — there and I know I should feel like a child — on Christ mas but it's

62

15<sup>ma</sup> - - ,

*pp*

... \* *Red.* ...

66 *rit.* *a tempo*

on - ly Sep-tem-ber and each day I'm old - er and I know what kinds of things can not be

... \*

*mf*

*Red.*

69

said face to face. and you say its sil ly to leave all that music ev'ry song I hear some-how was

*p* *mp*

\* *Red.* \* *Red.* \*

73

writ ten for you. And though I must go now for hun-ger and sleep this let-ter like its

*mf* *p*

*8vb* *Red.* \* *8vb* *Red.* ...

77  
8  
auth - or will find some - one new. \_\_\_\_\_

77  
pp  
3  
... \* Leo. ...

(8<sup>vb</sup>)

81  
8  
Tooth brush and socks ra - zors and soap six days worth of clo - thing that work in - ter chang - a - bly

81  
p

... \*

85  
8  
Web - ster, The Bi - ble a jour - nal and Stein - beck all

85  
mf mp  
Leo. Leo. \* Leo. \* Leo. \* Leo. \* Leo. \*

88 *allargando*

bound up with kite string a tem-ple of thought and that's

*8va* *f dim. 3* *3* *3* *3* *ppp*

*Ped.* \* *Ped.* \* *Ped.* ...

91 *rit. a tempo*

ev'ry thing that's ev'ry thing except...

*mp* *pp* *15<sup>ma</sup>* *8<sup>va</sup>*

... \* *Ped.* \* *Ped.* \*

96 *8<sup>va</sup>* *3*

*f* *mp* *n*

*8<sup>va</sup>* *Ped.* ...

... \*