

LOVE AFTER 1950

A Song Cycle for Mezzo-Soprano and Piano

Boy's lips (a blues)

Rita Dove*

Libby Larsen

Slow sway, languid, blue (♩ = 56-60)
quietly

mp

rit. **a tempo**
as a warm memory

In the wa - ter - heav - y

7

nights be - hind grand - moth - er's porch we knelt in the

*"Adolescence," originally published as "Adolescence-I" in *The Yellow House on the Corner*. Copyright © 1980 by Rita Dove. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

10 *mf*

tick - ling grass - es, — we knelt — in the

rippling *p*

12 *mf* *p* **push ahead**

tick - ling grass - es and whisp - ered:

14 **a tempo** *mf*

Lin - da's face hung be - fore us, pale — as a pe -

16

can, _____ and it grew wise as she said: _____

f

freely, slowly
18 *sensually, revealing a truth* *savoring the thought*

"A boy's lips _____ are soft as ba-by's skin," mm, _____ soft as ba-by's skin. _____

p *mf*

20 **a tempo** ($\text{♩} = 56-60$)

with a certain amount of freely savoring the words, to the end

The air _____ closed o-ver her words.

sensually, blues piano *gently* *p*