



AMERICAN CLASSICS

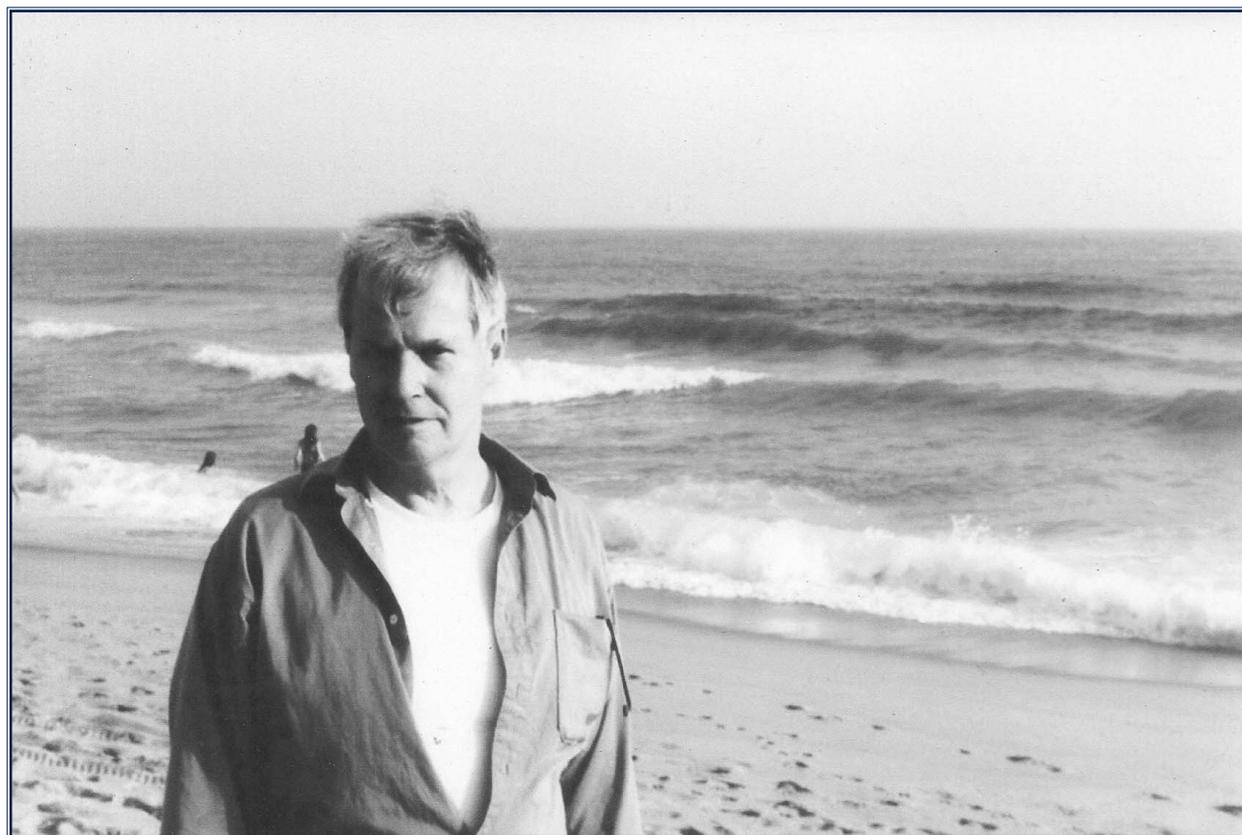


NED ROREM

Piano Album I

Six Friends

Carolyn Enger



Piano Album I

1 Song Without Words (1978) (For Jim, to help him on his birthday. With all my faith and most of my love)	1:19
2 Carol-Pastiche (1984) (To the only Jim in the world, this Carol-Pastiche to thank him for giving a point to the past seventeen years.)	0:55
3 Serenade for Two Paws (1985) (On Christmas with love from Ned. For Jim to teach to Sonny on rainy afternoons.)	1:41
4 Nineteen Measures for Jim (1986) (Nineteen years already...These nineteen measures, with their two lean voices, must symbolize the richness of those years. With love forever.)	1:21
5 Golden Notes on Nearing Fifty (1986) (For Jim at forty-nine, this mirror-image of Christmas 1986 because any mirror into which he gazes turns to gold.)	1:26
6 Another Little Song Without Words (1987) (For JH on another birthday. Since no words could even describe the depth of my feeling for you.)	1:10
7 This Serpentine Etude (1990) (Forever dear Jim: This Serpentine Etude is unrevised. But then, so is my feeling for you, which has merely augmented since first we met, 23 years ago this month.)	1:45
8 For a Perfect Friend (1991) (For Jim on Christmas Eve 1991)	1:49
9 Marriage Measures (1992) (To John Simon and Pat Hoag)	1:40
10 Snapshot of Jack (1992) (For Jack Mitchell)	1:57
11 For Jim (1993) (On Christmas Eve 1993 With love for longer than forever...)	1:35
12 A Little Waltz for Jim at Fifty-Five (1994) (For the only Jim in the world without whom I could not write this or any music.)	0:52
13 A Melody for Shirley (1994) (For Shirley with love from Ned today and forever. A note for every year.)	1:33

14 A Talisman for Jim on Christmas Eve (1994) (Who am I, presuming to embellish the mighty Tallis? Yet who is Tallis in the shadow of Jim, who lights my whole world?)	1:19
15 On His Birthday (1995) (O Jim, I will love you forever...)	1:14
16 Ah Jim... (1995) (The mere words that traditionally adorn these offerings can no longer explain my crucial feeling for you. So now, the two sonic parallel lines that become three, then four, modestly symbolize eternal hope within.)	1:26
17 A Berceuse for Jim at Christmas (1997) (And for the most crucial three decades of my life. I love you.)	1:16
18 A Christmas Card for Mary and Rosemary (1997) (With love forever)	1:48
19 For a Perfect Sister (1997) (For Rosemary on Christmas Eve 1997)	1:21
20 A Sarabande for the Only Jim in the World (1998) (For Jim on his birthday with love forever.)	1:16
21 Sixty Notes for Judy (1999)	1:36
22 Seventy-seven Notes for Rosemary (1999)	1:00
23 Ninety-nine Notes to the Millennium (1999) (For Ben Yarmolinsky and the Friends and Enemies of Modern Music)	1:46
24 For Ben (1999)	2:51
25 Waiting to Get Well (2000) (To Eugene Istomin with love)	1:48
26 1 + 1 = 3 (2000) (Two people can make a third. This little Meditation consists of a 2-voice Invention of ten measures; a nine-measure Chorale Interlude; then the Invention again, now in 3 voices. With love for Jenny and Joel)	2:02
27 Forty Chords for Mark on April First (2001)	1:29

Six Friends

28 For Marian (2006)	2:22
29 For Barbara (2006)	1:37
30 For Rosemary (2006)	1:22
31 For Mary (2006)	1:30
32 For Don (2006)	1:39
33 75 Notes for Jerry (2007)	1:26

Ned Rorem (b. 1923)

Piano Album I • Six Friends

One of America's most distinguished composers, Ned Rorem grew up in Chicago and was educated at Northwestern University, the Curtis Institute, and The Juilliard School. He won the 1976 Pulitzer Prize for his orchestral suite *Air Music* and has composed numerous works in all genres. He has received particular acclaim for his over 400 art songs, many of which have become a part of the standard vocal repertory. He was hailed by *Time* magazine as "the world's best composer of art songs." Beginning with the 1966 publication of *The Paris Diary*, Rorem has also produced a steady stream of prose publications (largely diaries and essays) and has received equal acclaim as both writer and composer. About his work, he said: "I conceive all music vocally. Whatever my music is written for – tuba, tambourine, tubular bells – it is always the singer within me crying to get out."

This recording features the complete contents of a 2003 publication entitled *Piano Album I*, which collected for the first time a series of small piano compositions that date from 1978 to 2001¹. Also included on this release is a 2007 set of similar pieces, published under the title *Six Friends*. Largely composed as gifts for friends and colleagues, these beautiful miniatures contain the essence of the most lyrical side of Rorem's writing.

Rorem's musical language usually builds large structures from the aggregation of smaller parts, and most of his large-scale works contain numerous small movements. He is a master of the miniature—whether heard on their own or as parts of a larger work. The pieces in this piano album also form a sort of musical sketchbook, as nearly all became absorbed into other compositions. For the listener who knows a great deal of Rorem's output, hearing these pieces is a delightfully nostalgic experience as one constantly hears echoes of the other works. For the listener who does not have any prior experience, these beautiful gems create an atmosphere of tranquility and heartfelt tenderness.

Carson Cooman

As a preface to the published collection, Rorem wrote the following notes:

During the thirty-two years that Jim Holmes and I lived together, until he died in January of 1999, I would compose little pieces for him on special occasions. Each piece fits onto one page which I decorated in bright colors, and framed. I took to doing likewise for other friends and family too, and the present collection includes twenty-eight of these. Many of them I later incorporated into larger works.

Song Without Words is reused in a Concerto called *Remembering Tommy. Carol-Pastiche*, re-titled *Rex Tremendae*, is reused in *Organbook II*.

Serenade for Two Paws (the paws were those of Sonny, our pet Bichon) was incorporated into *Diversions for Brass Quintet ... Nineteen Measures and Golden Notes* are both used in the large choral work, *Goodbye My Fancy*.

Another Little Song Without Words is also used in the *Diversions* as well as in *Organbook II* (as *Pie Jesu*).

For a Perfect Friend became the second movement (subtitled *Child Holding a Dove*) of my *String Quartet No. 4*.

This Serpentine Etude was (I think) later absorbed into some organ work ... *Marriage Measures*, a wedding gift to John Simon and Pat Hoag in 1992, was recast in *An Oboe Book*.

Snapshot of Jack, later used in *Three Women* (as background to a monologue by Claire Bloom), and later still in the trio, *Pas de Trois*, was for photographer Jack Mitchell.

For Jim and *A Little Waltz* became the fifth and eighth movements of the *String Quartet No. 4 ... A Melody for Shirley* was a birthday present to Shirley Gabis Perle in 1994.

A Talisman for Jim, based on *O Nata Lux* of Thomas Tallis, was a Christmas offering in 1994. The following year, *On His Birthday* became the theme of *Six Variations for Two Pianos*.

¹ Editorial note: In the published score of *Piano Album I, Another Little Song Without Words* (No. 6) is followed by *For Jim with More Than Love On Christmas Eve*. However, as this piece is scored for organ, it is excluded from this recording.

The *Berceuse* was also used again, but I've forgotten where. However, *A Christmas Card for Mary and Rosemary* – my niece and sister – became the first movement of the 1998 *Double Concerto for Violin and Cello with Orchestra*.

For a *Perfect Sister* and *Sarabande* were also absorbed into larger works. *Sixty Notes for Judy*, written for Judy Collins' sixtieth birthday, was used in *An Oboe Book*, as was *77 Notes for Rosemary*, conceived for my sister's seventy-seventh birthday.

Ninety-nine Notes to the Millennium was made for The Friends and Enemies of Modern Music ... For Ben, in memory of Ben Weber, was recast into a song called *The Bed* in the cycle *Another Sleep*.

Waiting to Get Well was an exercise for Eugene Istomin during a convalescence, and was used in the chamber suite called *Nine Episodes*, as was *1+1=3*, originally conceived when my friends, Jennifer Bilfield and Joel Friedman, were expecting their first child.

Forty Chords for Mark (for Mark Taylor) became a movement in *United States: Seven Viewpoints for String Quartet*.

Ned Rorem

Dedicated to my parents, Horace and Elaine Enger, with all my love and gratitude, to my beautiful loving husband Marc Mishaan, whose love nourishes and supports me, and to Ned Rorem, with love. Special thanks to Dr. Marc Silverman for his invaluable guidance and encouragement, to Carson Cooman for introducing me to the piano music of Ned Rorem, and to Maestro Thomas Briccetti, who introduced me to Ned Rorem's writings so many years ago.

Carolyn Enger

Carolyn Enger



American pianist Carolyn Enger is committed to distinctive and memorable concert experiences. In the New York area she has performed concerts at many venues, including Carnegie's Weill Recital Hall, Lincoln Center's Bruno Walter Auditorium, the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, and the Tenri Cultural Center. Her repertoire ranges from European masterworks to new discoveries, with a particular focus on works by American and Israeli composers. Furthering her interest in creative concert experiences, she has developed a multimedia concert programme about the Second World War, combining music, literature, and images, centering on the lives of *Mischlinge* – Half-Jews, in Germany, before, during and after the Holocaust. Carolyn Enger's debut album, *In Evening Air*, includes music of Beethoven, Scriabin, Hanson, Copland, Lowell Liebermann, and Ned Rorem. Inspired by her work while recording this album, she delved deeper into Rorem's pieces for piano and fell in love with his miniatures. After hearing her world premiere recording of his complete *Piano Album*, Ned Rorem thanked her for the "wonderful performance of my music". Carolyn Enger is a Steinway Concert Artist. www.carolynenger.com

Ned
ROREM
(b. 1923)

Piano Album I • Six Friends

1-27 Piano Album I (1978-2001) 41:15

Six Friends 9:56

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Carolyn Enger, Piano

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Cover photograph of Ned Rorem by James Dowell



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