

KENNEDY: The Universal Heart



A programme and concert in soulful remembrance of the late President of the United States, John F. Kennedy.

*22 November 1977
United Nations, New York*

INSIDE FRONT COVER
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KENNEDY :
The Universal Heart

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JOHN F. KENNEDY:
THE UNIVERSAL HEART

22 November 1977
Dag Hammarskjold Auditorium
United Nations, New York

Opening meditation
Sri Chinmoy, Director
United Nations Meditation Group

Tributes to John F. Kennedy:

H.E. Dr. Eamonn Kennedy
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of Ireland
to the United Nations

H.E. Mr. Zenon Rossides
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of Cyprus
to the United Nations

Ms. Patricia Reilly
(Former Peace Corps Volunteer in Liberia,
West Africa) representing ACTION

Mr. Donald Keys
NGO Representative, Planetary Citizens

Mr. Jeff Kamen
WPIX-TV News

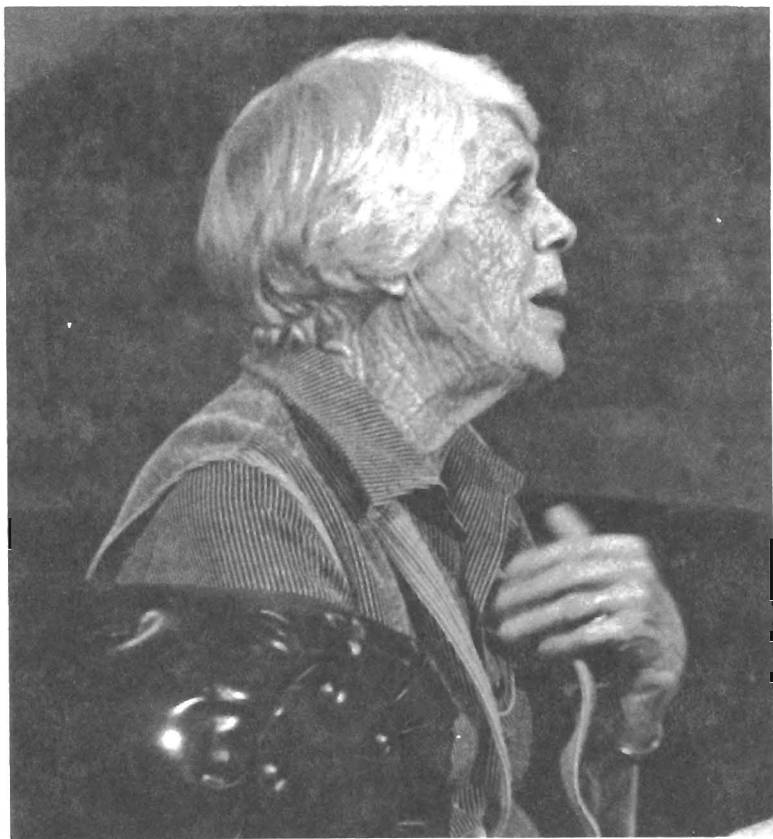
Recitations from Sri Chinmoy's book,
Kennedy. The Universal Heart

Six Songs
United Nations Meditation Group Singers

INTERMISSION

Musical Tributes to President John F. Kennedy

sponsored by the United Nations Meditation Group (1)



Statement received from Lillian Carter:

I'm really happy about that [the 22 November 1977 commemorative programme]. I think it's the greatest thing you can do—to pay tribute to the greatest President we've had so far—up to Jimmy. I really think it's a wonderful thing to do. You couldn't have picked a better man to pay tribute to than Kennedy.

22 November 1977



Speakers pause for a moment of silent reflection and meditation at the beginning of the evening. This part of the programme was broadcast live on WNBC-TV. From left to right: Mr. Donald Keys, Planetary Citizens representative; Ambassador Eamonn Kennedy from Ireland; Sri Chinmoy, U.N. Meditation Group Director; Ambassador Zenon Rossides from Cyprus; and former Peace Corps volunteer, Ms. Pat Reilly, representing ACTION.

Sri Chinmoy: President Kennedy, prince of high idealism, freedom incarnate, lover of humanity, distributor of God's Light, dreamer of man's oneness-family in God's Existence-Reality, to you our gratitude-heart bows.



Sri Chinmoy bows in silent tribute to President Kennedy.



His Excellency Dr. Eamonn Kennedy
Ambassador of Ireland

(6)

His Excellency Dr. Eamonn Kennedy, Ambassador of Ireland: I am deeply moved by your invitation to take part in the commemoration of the fourteenth anniversary of the tragic death of President John F. Kennedy. As an Irishman and as the proud bearer of his name, I am sure you will appreciate the emotion which I feel.

John F. Kennedy was not, of course, the first U.S. President of Irish descent. I am proud to say that there have been at least twelve, some would say fourteen, Presidents of Irish origin. But he was the first President who descended from that immense, heartbreaking exodus of the Irish after the tragic Irish Famine in the middle of the last century, almost all of whom were Catholics. They came here in the hundreds of thousands, yes, indeed, in the millions, seeking the food and freedom denied to them at home. And this great land opened wide its mighty arms to receive them. It welcomed them in. It lifted them up. It held them to its heart. And it wiped away their tears. Across the Atlantic they came in the heaving coffin ships, leaving behind their ruined little fields, their starving villages, their broken homes. For it was for them that the Statue of Liberty, the Lady with the Lamp, carried the inspiring words at the great gate of New York:

*Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed, to me.
I lift my lamp beside the Golden Door.*

John F. Kennedy's great-grandfather was among those Irish emigrants of the last century. They possessed little when they came here of the world's material goods. But yet they carried in their toil-worn hands a pearl of great price. They carried the precious gift of their faith and an unswerving devotion to the principles of liberty. Perhaps they were poor in material things, but they were rich in spirit. They brought too a sense of humour, a love of family, a natural eloquence and a friendly informality, which are now almost an integral part of the American personality. And they were strong too in heart and hand and they helped to build the United States into what it still is today—the central citadel of Western civilisation, the mainstay of its defence, the chief hope of its survival.

John F. Kennedy seemed to enshrine all those qualities and when he came to Ireland in June 1963, fourteen years ago, he moved among us easily and gracefully as one of our own. As you will recall he had just before been to Berlin where in the shadow of the Berlin Wall, he electrified his audience by exclaiming: "*Ich bin ein Berliner!*" We knew better! We thought of him not as a Berliner but as a proud son of the County Wexford in the Southeast of Ireland, where his great-grandfather was born. And when he addressed a joint session of our Doyle and Senate on 28 June 1963, he recited the words of an old revolutionary ballad of County Wexford he loved so much:

*We are the boys of Wexford
Who fought with heart and hand
To burst in twain, the galling chain
And free our native land.*

I met John F. Kennedy that day in our Foreign Office and we spoke of Africa and Nigeria, where I was then Ireland's first Ambassador. We spoke of Ireland's links with the new nations represented here at the United Nations and I recalled that the President that day had said in our Parliament:

"The major forum for your nation's greater role in world affairs is the protector of the weak and voice of the small, the United Nations. From Cork to the Congo, from Galway to the Gaza Strip, from this legislative assembly to the United Nations, Ireland is sending its most talented men to do the world's most important work—the work of peace. In a sense, this export of talent is in keeping with an historic Irish role. But you no longer go as exiles and emigrants but for the service of your country and, indeed, of all men. . . . Twenty-six sons of Ireland have died in the Congo; many others have been wounded. I pay tribute to them and to all of you for your commitment and dedication to world order. And their sacrifice reminds us all that we must not falter now. The United Nations must be fully and fairly financed; its peace-keeping machinery must be strengthened; its institutions must be developed until some day, and perhaps some distant day, a world of law is achieved."

President Kennedy soon after returned to Washington and I went back to my post in Lagos. It was only a few months later, in the Lagos twilight, at 7 p.m. on 22 November 1963, that we heard the heart-rending, unbelievable news. The darkness seemed to spread that night, not only on the lagoon in Lagos, but on all our bright hopes for a better world. It seemed as if the world stood still, stunned with sorrow, and humanity said with

Horatio when Prince Hamlet died: "Now cracks a noble heart! Good night, sweet Prince, and flights of angels sing thee to thy rest."

But, ladies and gentlemen, no one is really gone from us as long as his hopes live on in all our hearts. No one has really left us as long as the ideals he lived and worked for are shared by ordinary, decent people in every land. The hopes John F. Kennedy kindled for the deprived and the downtrodden, not only here but abroad, march on. We know this is so—that the aspirations of Birmingham, Alabama, are linked now with the hopes of Soweto in South Africa, that human rights are now an essential element in foreign policy and that the role of the United Nations as the best organised hope of suffering humanity is stronger now than ever. No, Mr. Chairman, he is not really gone. For the bright hopes he nourished leap up in all our hearts and minds tonight.

His Excellency Mr. Zenon Rossides, Ambassador of Cyprus: Dear friends, I was very much moved by what my colleague and friend, the Ambassador of Ireland, Dr. Kennedy, said. And he was moved when he was saying those things and his deep emotion, sincere emotion, was passed on to us. There is nothing, perhaps, in the life of a human being as treasured, as high, as entrancing and satisfying as the communion of the spirit. It has potentialities and realities that are not even dreamed of. It is wide, it is powerful; it is a power in our world of today, particularly needed in a time of nuclear bombs and moral degradation, in a time of anarchy and insecurity in the world. Now, when this communion of the spirit comes to men who lead nations, it plays an important role in moving the world in the right direction.

I was privileged to spend time with John F. Kennedy as Ambassador in Washington for some time and particularly during the visit of my President, Archbishop Makarios, when he was invited for a three-day stay in Washington. I had the privilege of achieving closer contact with President Kennedy in the course of conversations on various matters. And then I was very much impressed by his obvious inclination towards spirituality. At that time, 1961 to 1962, the problem of the day was the nuclear testing in the atmosphere. There was, in some quarters, a resumption of that testing although there was agreement not to test in the



His Excellency Mr. Zenon Rossides
Ambassador of Cyprus

atmosphere. The tendency in the United States was to do the same, to start testing in order to keep up. When I was speaking with President Kennedy, I said perhaps a better idea was, instead of antagonizing other nations by equal testing, to show magnanimity and set an example of not testing in spite of what others did. I said that by his example and by the elevation of the spirit that it showed, there could be better results. And there would be no danger, because he could always resume it again.

He responded in the kindest way. He said, in practise it was not possible; it was already too late. The testing by the United States had already started. But he showed so much concern, he wished so much that it had been done the other way, that I was deeply impressed. I thought, this is a man who would lead the United Nations and the world to a better life, to better understanding, to a peace and security that would come from the spirit of man and therefore be more secure than all agreements. Regrettably, his unexpected death, caused by who knows what, came. It is perhaps the fate of all men that are great to find their death. Such was the death of Socrates. Such was the death of Christ.

But the death of Socrates created a philosophy, the Greek philosophy, that went on through the ages and lives even today. The death of Jesus Christ on the cross created a spiritual element in life, a spiritual element which brought virtue, love, forgiveness, and all that is positive and good in life. So the death of that one inspired and great man has inspired millions of people through the ages.

I have felt the need for this element of spirituality for many years, and I am glad it is emerging and coming out to the fore, as we are witnessing today and as we have witnessed in another important event, another significant event: the overwhelming election of President Carter on a platform for open diplomacy, on a platform promulgating virtues, ethical values and moral principles. The people of the United States have expressed themselves, in the most emphatic and official way. They stand for moral principles, for ethical values, for openness and virtue instead of the underhanded duplicity of the materialistic age. This duplicity can no longer find its place in a world of interdependence, which is being brought closer and closer by the achievements of science and technology.

These achievements of technology constitute a threat to the very survival of mankind, but they can also be used as the springboard for spiritual uplifting. The spirit cannot be manipulated. The spirit is the connection of man with God; the connection of man—to put it in more scientific words—with the flow of the universe, with the constellations, with the harmony and balance which rules the world. Through the spirit, man communicates with what is noble, with what is great and with what may lead him to life eternal—to individual life eternal and to the survival of the human species in a nobler world.

Now to say a few words about John F. Kennedy: He was loved by the people because of his spiritual element—not because of what he did, but because of what he was, what his mind was. People feel when there is a spiritual element present and they

are attracted by it. They are attracted and they have confidence because of it. They don't like the cleverness which is full of duplicity and, in some way or other, produces results like a magician. This kind of result is temporary and negative; it leads nowhere but to destruction. But the spirit in man is what gives value to the human being, a value that makes him different from other creatures on this planet.

Kennedy was endowed with this spirituality. Not only his charisma, but also the fact that he came from Ireland is relevant here. We in Cyprus feel that there is some connection between us and the people of Ireland. Because of our history and position, we somehow or other consider Ireland as an elder sister. And that's why I felt always for President Kennedy this sort of link. But that was a secondary sort of thing. The important thing was the spirituality of the man.

The best memorial that we could offer to that great man, that great man of virtue and statesmanship, both international and national, is to work for peace . . . to work for legal order in the world. And we can, for the U.N. Charter is there. If we follow the Charter, we can get legal order in the world. But that means we cannot be selfish. Spirituality can never be selfish, and that's why we need spirituality in the leadership of men. That is also the reason I trust that, with God's help, the advent of Carter—a man elected for his spiritual ideals and religious convictions—will set an example in the world for progress in spirituality, an example similar to the one set by President Kennedy also. Thank you.



Ms. Patricia Reilly
Representative of ACTION

(16)

Ms. Patricia Reilly, Representative of ACTION:
Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. At the end of a long day of campaigning for the presidency in October of 1960, Senator John Kennedy met with a group of students in Ann Arbor, Michigan, in what we later referred to as a rap session. He asked them how they'd feel about spending a couple of years of their lives helping people in less affluent nations of the world.

Hardly an idle campaign whimsy, the idea captured the imaginations of Americans of all ages from coast to coast and the response was overwhelmingly affirmative. Within six months, the concept had a name worthy of the idealism from which it sprang: the Peace Corps. And Americans were flocking to recruiting booths on college campuses and in public buildings to lend their support in making the idea a reality.

The idea of a large-scale foreign service effort composed of volunteers was not a new one in 1960. It had been discussed, studied and composed by scholars and government leaders for a couple of decades. But it took John Kennedy, with his keen sense of the American mood, to realise it was an idea whose time had come. That there was a need for technical assistance in developing countries was never in question. What John Kennedy uniquely realised was a need in our own society for a positive cause, an avenue through which people could channel their enthusiasm, tempered by training,

toward productive ends. He saw the urgent need for cross-cultural understanding and knew it could best be achieved by uniting different cultures toward mutual goals. In the process they would experience one another's life-styles, speak each other's languages, and learn each other's skills. He appealed not only to America's sense of duty but to its quest for challenge and adventure and knowledge of global conditions.

When the first group of Peace Corps volunteers left for Ghana in 1961, they were charged with three objectives: to help meet the needs of their host country for trained manpower, to promote a better understanding of the American people among the people being served and to promote a better understanding among Americans of their hosts. For their efforts, the volunteers received training in the skill they were to perform, extensive lessons in another language and a living allowance with which to support themselves. In the fifteen years since, the Peace Corps has sent 70,000 volunteers in over 350 separate capacities to eighty different countries. Much has changed in that time: national attitudes, personal values, developmental priorities. But the initial objectives remain the same: cross-cultural understanding and technical assistance. And perhaps the simplicity of its purpose is the key to the Peace Corps' survival. Because it was designed to meet the needs expressed by host countries, the Peace Corps has had to constantly change and expand its programming to meet the very diverse needs of those countries. The first volunteers were teachers and road builders. Today they are agriculturists, business advisors, artisans, musicians, engineers, health

workers, architects, home economists, geologists, foresters and community organisers as well. Because volunteers strive to replace themselves with host country nationals, the need for the Peace Corps has diminished in some countries. Because of its proven effectiveness, the request for volunteers has increased in others.

The acceptance which Peace Corps volunteers feel today in seventy countries is as warm as it was in Ghana fifteen years ago. Here at home, the Peace Corps no longer captures daily headlines. It is no longer a curious fact that people will go overseas to work for two years on subsistence allowances. National attention has variously focused on the causes more immediate to the personal lives of Americans.

In 1971 the Peace Corps was incorporated with domestic relief efforts under the umbrella organisation of ACTION, and many Americans assume that it is no longer in existence. But that is not true. One has only to scratch the surface of Congress, Federal and local government, education institutions, international development agencies and community organisations across the United States, and former volunteers appear. Ask them how the Peace Corps affected their lives, and at the very least they will say it changed their way of looking at things. Many will attest to acquiring a sense of purpose in their lives, a need to translate the skills and values they learned in the Peace Corps into solutions to problems here at home.

They'll speak of their continuing identity with the country they served and of their desire to communicate their perceptions of that country with friends and associates here at home.

The Peace Corps may not get the press it did in the early days but the fact that people still join the Peace Corps every day is testimony to the fact that John Kennedy's perception of the American spirit is as true today as it was sixteen years ago. While the existence of the Peace Corps is not always apparent to the average American, its presence is more dramatically evident in the countries in which volunteers served. One has only to travel to any of the countries in which the Peace Corps has worked to hear people talk of a volunteer who served in their village five or ten or fifteen years ago as though it were yesterday. They'll point to a school or a clinic, a well or a road, and tell you the name of the volunteer who was associated with it. They'll speak with family feeling of a stranger who was among them for only several years, and in many of the most rural situations, where world politics has little effect on everyday life, you'll find people who can tell you about the father of the Peace Corps.

When John Kennedy sponsored the Peace Corps in 1961, he could not have envisioned the personal identity he would always have with this organisation. It was, after all, approved by Congress and funded by the Foreign Aid budget. But to thousands of people, particularly overseas, it will always be Kennedy's Peace Corps. It has been called the living memorial to his memory, for through the Peace Corps he touched the lives of people in the developing world in a very personal way. They saw in the sponsor of the Peace Corps a man who empathised with their condition and did something tangible about it. I was constantly reminded of this bond as a volunteer in West Africa, where I saw the Kennedy Memorial Hospital in

Monrovia, Liberia, the Pont du Kennedy in Niger, for example, and even more telling, a magazine picture of the man hung in the place of honour on a corrugated tin wall of a house in a tiny African village. Thank you.



Mr. Donald Keys
Representative of Planetary Citizens

(22)

Mr. Donald Keys of Planetary Citizens: Sri Chinmoy, excellencies and friends, John Fitzgerald Kennedy was a future tree for the family of mankind, broken suddenly by the wild storms of our world, while still a sapling. There was no time for his flowers to bloom, no time for the fruits of his life to ripen. Our grief is inconsolable. It was a snap that echoed in the hearts of all mankind. Our minds unbelieving, dumb. The seeds of the future had barely been sown. Crucifixion is visited not only on our historic Christ, but on our Gandhis, our Kings and our Kennedys.

How much he did in the short time allotted! He broke the iron trap of fear and suspicion which locked itself onto great countries, with his address at American University. He launched a space race, which he hoped would be the peaceful competitive substitution for an arms race.

Now the gulf is bridged. The future burns bright again in a new hero, so alike in name, with the same values and purposes and goals for humanity. No such great person as John Kennedy leaves this world in such a way without the occurrence of something which we do not yet fully understand. Somehow what he was and what he is becomes universalised and, in a rarified essence, qualitatively becomes the property of us all. We are grateful that John Kennedy came. We are grateful for John Kennedy's time among us. And we are grateful for the heritage of John Fitzgerald Kennedy which lives among us. Thank you.



(24)

Mr. Jeff Kamen
News Reporter, WPIX-TV

Mr. Jeff Kamen, of WPIX-TV: Sri Chinmoy, Ambassador Rossides, Ambassador Kennedy, friends, I am here because I owe a great debt to John Fitzgerald Kennedy, like countless young Americans do. It really wasn't until his inaugural address that it even occurred to me, as a person, that I owed something to someone other than myself. It never really came through to me, that besides perhaps the most intimate relationships of my family, there was anything else in life that deserved consideration by me. Yet somehow, while I was sitting there with those earphones on my head, taking in the President's speech to excerpt it for transmission to the outside radio stations for which I worked, something triggered inside of me—something good, something decent, something profound. Those are important times. With the Grace of God we all have those moments. John Kennedy gave me one, my first one.

And now I find myself assigned these days almost fulltime at the United Nations, covering a very difficult time in the development of the world and also a very hopeful time, as you have all seen in the past week. I am reminded not only on this day, the anniversary, but many times during the year, of the need for selfless service. It is only in that selfless service that I personally have found true inner satisfaction. And again for that, I, like so many others, am grateful to John F. Kennedy and grateful to you. Thank you.

Statement received from Senator Edward M. Kennedy:

I appreciate very much your kind invitation to attend the special tribute to President Kennedy on November 22nd. Although I would like to join you this evening, previous commitments in Boston will make it impossible for me to accept. My family is deeply touched by your remembrance of President Kennedy.

With best wishes and my thanks for the book of poetry by Sri Chinmoy.

Sincerely,

Edward M. Kennedy

Statement received from His Eminence, Cardinal Terence J. Cooke, Archbishop of New York:

All Americans recall John F. Kennedy as a man of peace and justice. His concern for minority Americans should prompt us to renew our own zeal for those of God's family who are less fortunate.

The Catholics of New York remember President Kennedy in their thoughts and pray that he may enjoy the eternal Peace which eludes us all on earth.



*Statement received from Nobel Peace Prize
winner Ms. Betty Williams of Ireland:*

Sorry I can't be with you; it was not because I
didn't want to, but the pressure of work did not
allow it.

To all those who work for humanity I send my
regards and a simple message:

Love and Peace.

Betty Williams

*Excerpts from Kennedy: The Universal Heart by
Sri Chinmoy.*

UNIQUE

Kennedy is unique.
Why?
God kindled him with His Dream.
On him God showered
His Blessings divine,
Thickly,
Lavishly,
Significantly.

Kennedy is unique.
Why?
God threw on him
The burden of the world at large,
Smilingly,
Consciously,
Inevitably.

Kennedy is unique.
Why?
His soul visioned Tomorrow's Dawn,
Far beyond the flight of imagination,
Far above the strongest investigation,
Deep within the core of transformation.

Kennedy is unique.
Why?
He pined with his bleeding heart
To free the world
From the spiked wounds of life.
This eyeless earth of ours
Will burst into glorious bloom:
He saw this diamond truth,
While dreaming,
Struggling,
Daring.

NEVER WAS HE ALONE

Never was he alone.
Tragedy and sovereignty,
Catastrophe and victory,
Freely in him were grown.

Never was he alone.
God's bright Promise and Bliss,
Earth's wild ignorance and her kiss,
Lavishly in him were grown.

ALONE HE STOOD

Alone he stood

Above all storms of life.

He stood alone

To challenge pain and strife.

Alone he stood

To feed a blooming race.

He **stood** alone

To change earth's tearful face.



(32)

ONE TWO THREE

One
Two
Three
Bullets free.

One
Two
Three
Kennedy:
Eternally,
Mystically,
A sky-kissing Tree,
A fathomless Sea.

Sri Chinmoy

= 120 Moderate music by Sri Chinmoy

One two three bul-lets free. One two three

Ken-ne-dy: e-ter-nal-ly, mys-ti-cal-ly

A--- sky--- kiss-ing--- Tree, a fa--thom-less

Sea----- One two three bul-lets

free One two three Ken-ne-dy: e-ter-nal-ly,

mys-ti-cal-ly Ken-ne-dy.

(33)

KENNEDY AND THE WORLD

Kennedy's hope was the world.
 Its hope was Kennedy.
 Kennedy's life was the world.
 Its promise was Kennedy.
 Together they breathe through Eternity.

Sri Chinmoy

♩ = 104 Moderate music by Sri Chinmoy

Ken-ne-dy's hope was--- the--- world.

Ken-ne-dy's hope was-- the-- world. Its hope was

Ken-ne-dy Ken-ne-dy's life was-- the-- world

Its pro-mise was---- Ken---ne---dy To-ge-ther

they breathe----- through----- E-ter-

ni-----ty. Da capo without repeats

"My fellow inhabitants of this planet: let us take our stand here in this assembly of nations. And let us see if we, in our own time, can move the world towards a just and lasting peace."

John F. Kennedy

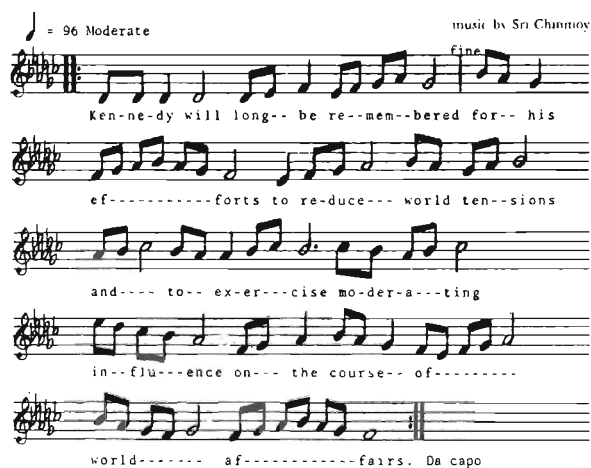
$\text{♩} = 84$ Moderate-slow MUSIC BY STEPHEN CHAPMAN

My-- fel-low in-ha-bi-tants of--- this- pla-net:
let-- us take--- our---- stand----- here---
in-- this as--sem--bly--- of--- na--tions.
And let-- us see---- if--- we in our--- own time
can move--- the world-- to wards-- a just---
and---- last----ting peace

(35)

"He will long be remembered for his efforts
to reduce world tensions and to exercise a
moderating influence on the course of world affairs."

U Thant
12 March 1964

 = 96 Moderate music by Sri Chinmoy

Ken-ne-dy will long-- be re--mem--bered for-- his

ef-----forts to re-duce--- world ten--sions

and--- to-- ex-er---cise mo-der-a---ting

in--flu---ence on--- the course-- of-----

world----- af-----fairs. Da capo

(36)

ASK NOT

Ask not what your country
can do for you,
Ask what you can do
for your country.

John F Kennedy

$\text{♩} = 72$ Music by Sri Chinmoy

Ask----- not----- what----- your-----
coun-----try----- can----- do----- for----- you-----,
you-----, you----- ask-- what--- you----- can-----
do--- for--- your----- coun-----try-----

(37)

"President Kennedy was mortal like the rest of us. Not so his place in history, where he will live as a great leader who sought peace at home and abroad and who gave his life as a true martyr in the service of his country and of all mankind."

U Thant

♩ = 138 Moderate music by Sri Chinmoy

Pre-si-dent Ken-ne-dy was----- mor-----tal-----
 like----- the rest-- of----- us Not--- so-----
 his place--- in---- his-----t'ry where he will
 live----- as a great----- lea-----der-----
 who---- sought-----^(rit) peace----- at--- home-----
 (a tempo) and----- a-----broad----- and--- who-----
 gave--- his----- life----- as--- a
 true---- mar-----tyr in--- the-----
 ser-vice of----- his--- coun-try and--
 of---- all----- man-----kind-----



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Inside Back Cover
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(back cover)