

# LEAVING

Joan Rudel

Geoffrey Kidde

Mezzo-Sop.  $\text{♩} = 72$  *mp*

Flocks of ex-pect-ant cou-ples

Piano *p* *mf* *mp*

5 *mf*  $\text{♩} = \text{♩} (\text{♩} = 72)$

fly through the house ask - ing a-bout

*mf* 3 3

9 *p* *mp*  $\text{♩} = 72$

ask - ing a-bout heat - ing costs.

*pp* *mp* *f*

LEAVING  
*mp*

Her child-ren fly so - lo, em - bra cing

strang - ers groomed to fea - ther for - eign

nests.

Pots and pans no long - er punct - u - ate her days.

29  $\text{♩} = 72$   
*f* *p*  
She yearns now for strong wings to beat a-way si - - - len - ces

34 *mf*  
brok - en on - ly by songs she hears in her head,

39 *p* *mp*  
nurs - ery rhymes she can't for - get e - ven when she

45 *f* *p* *mp*  
can't re - mem - ber where she put her glas - ses.

49 *mp*

Once she sang a - bout — bun - nies in up - side down towns, —

52 *mf* *mp* *p*

rocked night warm bod - ies — wrapped in foot - ed pa - ja - mas — safe. —

56  $\text{♩} = 72$

62  $\text{♩} = 72$  *mf*

She al - ways tid - ied

65 *mp* *mf*

up — for o-thers. But ted-dy bears no long-er a-gi-tate ma-chine(s) where thread bare blank-ets and

*p* *mf*

68 *p* *mf* *f* (♩ = 72)

crib sheets once soaked. Tree hous-es un-hinge, swing sets rust — and creak

*p* *pp* *mf*

72 *p* *mp* *mp*

rust — and creak in so - ur rain, bump - ers cra-dle cars —

*pp* *mp* *p*

76 *p*

they drive a - way — a way — a way.

*pp*