

A series of seven thick, black, hand-drawn vertical lines of varying lengths and slightly irregular edges, positioned on the left side of the cover.

**KIAN RAVAEI**

**IDEAL  
CONVERSATION**

for voice and piano

**ÆI** edition



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## COMPOSER'S NOTE

This song takes its words from one of many early American books of etiquette and “manuals of politeness.” Much of the advice in these books aim to suppress the voice by dictating how loudly one may speak, for example, or by controlling what words emerge from the voice. It is sad but unsurprising that most of this advice is directed toward women, and even more sad and unsurprising that many of the rules set forth in these century-old manuals continue to be enforced.

*duration ca. 4”*

“Ideal conversation should be a matter of equal give and take, but too often it is all ‘take.’”

(Emily Post, *Etiquette in Society, in Business, in Politics and at Home*)



to Julia Johnson

# IDEAL CONVERSATION

KIAN RAVAEI  
(2020)

♩ = 108 sempre

*spoken, normal  
volume, leisurely pace \*)*

*cut off by pno.*

Voice

I - deal conversa - tion should be a matter of—

Piano

*ff* *3* *sf* *sub. p legato*

(senza *Red.*) little or no *Red.*

4

*sub. ff pesante* *ff* *3* *sf*

*8va* *Red.* *senza Red.*

7

*8va* *martellato* *fff* *p*

*l.h.* *f nagging* *r.h.* *6* *8va*

I - deal con -

\*) Always speak with natural speech rhythm, even when speech rhythms are notated precisely.

2

11

-ver—

*f* 3 3 3 *ff* 3 *sf* *f* 5 5 5

14

*sub. p legato*

*sub. ff pesante*

*ff* 3 *sf*

little or no *Red.*

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

*Sost.* senza *Red.*

17

I - deal—

*p* *fff* 6 *f* 3 3 3

8<sup>va</sup> *martellato*

8<sup>va</sup> *ff*

21

*ff* 3 *sf* *ff pesante* *sub. p legato*

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

little or no *Red.*



24

increasingly frustrated, speaking  
faster and louder, competing with pno.

I - deal conver - sation should be—

*f* *ff* *< sf* *ff* *pesante*

senza *Red.* *8ba* *Red.* *Sost.*

28

a matter of e - qual—

*p legato* *fff* *8va* *martellato* *f* *l.h.*

little or no *Red.* *6* *8ba* *senza Red.*

32

I - deal conver - sation should be a— a

*ff* *< sf* *f* *ff* *pesante*

*8ba* *Red.*

4

36

faster, louder, and more frustrated  
with each utterance

matter of equal give and— I - deal conver - sa—

*ff* *sf* *sub. p legato* *fff* *martellato*

senza *Red.* little or no *Red.* *8va* *8ba* senza *Red.*

41

should be a mat - ter— a mat - ter of— e -

*f* *f* *ff pesante*

*3* *5* *3*

*8ba* *Red.*

46

yelling, as fast as possible

pause and breathe, as though  
collecting yourself

-qual give and— I - deal conversation should be a matter of equal give and take,

*ff* *sf*

senza *Red.*

51

as the beginning (normal  
volume, leisurely pace)

but too often it is all— take.

*ff* *martellato*

*8va* *8ba*



