

Alex Temple

I CAN'T GO TO FLORIDA

(2025)

for soprano sax and piano
(transposing score)

commissioned by Nick May

ABOUT THE PIECE

I Can't Go to Florida was written for Nick May's I Exist Project, which is dedicating to commissioning new works by queer composers. The piece has "secret" lyrics, which comment on the current state of anti-LGBTQ+ legislation in the state and the moral character of the governor who has signed them into law. There's also a section where I reminisce about a nice trip I took there as a teenager.

These lyrics aren't actually sung or spoken by the performers, but correspond to the notes of saxophone melody. They can be printed in the concert program for the audience to follow along with — or, if the performance is taking place in a venue where such a blunt statement might provoke a censorious reaction from those in power, the audience can be verbally directed to find the lyrics on my website.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

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THE SECRET LYRICS

I can't go to Florida because
They might throw me in jail
Just for using the bathroom—
And on top of that,
It would be a men's jail!

In June, 2025, a trans woman
Named Marcy Rheintgen
Was arrested for using the women's bathroom
At the Capitol in Tallahassee.
The charges were dropped, but still...

Ron DeSantis is a noxious pile
Of toxic waste, and so
Are his ideological brethren!

Did you know he was a lawyer at Guantánamo Bay?
And that according to Harper's Bazaar,
He just laughed at the prisoners being tortured.

And now he's brought his trademark sadistic attitude
To the business of running the state!

When I was fifteen,
And still ostensibly a boy,
I went to visit my long-distance girlfriend
In the suburbs of Miami.
We went to Hot Topic,
And made out to Fauré's Requiem.

But now the Miami suburbs are one of the places
Where rainbow crosswalks
Were erased by the Florida Department of Transportation.
They did the same thing to the Pride Memorial Crosswalk
In Orlando,

And posted cops around it
To prevent it from being repainted.

So I can't go to Florida right now,
But maybe someday all of us will take over the damn place,
And turn it into a queer utopia!
Yeah!

I CAN'T GO TO FLORIDA

f
♩ = 152 *defiantly upbeat*

I can't go to Flor - i - da be - cause they might throw me in jail just for

ff
defiantly upbeat

mp

5 *ff* *stentorian*

u - sing the bath - room - and on top of that, it would be a men's jail!

ff

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8 **(A)** $\text{♩} = 108$
mp contemplative

In June, twen - ty — twen - ty -

mp *p* *pp* *p* *sneaky*

12

five, a trans wom - an — named Mar - cy Rheint - gen was ar -

mp *mp*

14 $\text{♩} = 104$
pp ominous

rest - ed for u - sing the wom - en's bath - room at the Cap - i - tol — in

pp strange and luminous *sim.* *sim.*

8vb *sim.*

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17 *p* *lighter* *mf* *mp*

Tal - la - has - see. The char - ges were dropped, but still...

p *lighter* *mp* *pp*

B

20 ♩ = 152 *ff* *punk dgaf energy*

Ron De - San - tis is a nox - ious pile of tox - ic waste and so are his

ff *mp*

24 *f* *angry* *Accel.*

i - de - o - log - i - cal breth - ren! — Did you

ff *f*

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♩ = 160

27 *ff* *mf*

know he was a law - yer at Guan - tá - na - mo Bay? And that ac - cord - ing to Har - per's Ba -

angry *ff* *mf*

30 *ff* *mp* *Rit.* *more somber* *p*

zaar, he just laughed at the pris - on - ers — be - ing tor - tured.

ff *mp* *more somber* *p* *ff*

33 **C** *A tempo* *ff* *prickly* *f*

And now he's brought his trade - mark sa - dis - tic at - ti - tude to the

prickly

36 *ff*

busi - ness of run - ning the state!

mf *ff*

40 **(D)** ♩ = 84 *mp* wistful

When I was fif - teen,

p wistful, with rubato

pedal ad lib through m. 51

43

and still os - ten - si - bly — a boy, — I went to vis - it — my

I Can't Go to Florida

45

p

long - dis-tance girl - friend in the suburbs of Mi - a - mi.

47

pp

We went to Hot Top - ic, and made out to Fau - ré's Re - qui-em.____

distant

pp

E

50

mp more somber

But now _____ the Mi - a - mi

sneaky

p

53

sub - urbs are one of the pla - ces where rain - bow cross - walks were e -

mp

Accel.

55

rased by the Flor - i - da De - part - ment of Trans - por - ta - tion.

pp *ominous*

pp *strange and luminous* *sim.*

8vb *sim.*

58

They did the same thing to the Pulse Me - mo - ri - al Cross - walk in Or -

f

F

61

♩ = 160

ff prickly

lan - do, and post - ed cops a - round it to pre -

ff prickly

Detailed description: This block contains the musical notation for measures 61 through 63. It features a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line starts with a whole note 'lan - do,' followed by eighth notes for 'and post - ed cops a - round it to pre -'. The piano accompaniment includes chords and melodic lines in both hands. The tempo is marked as quarter note = 160. The key signature has one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. A circled 'F' indicates the key signature.

64

vent it from be - ing re - paint - ed.

mechanical

Detailed description: This block contains the musical notation for measures 64 through 66. The vocal line continues with 'vent it from be - ing re - paint - ed.' and includes triplet markings over the notes. The piano accompaniment features complex triplet patterns in both hands. The tempo remains quarter note = 160. The key signature has one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4.

67 (G) $\text{♩} = 152$

defiantly upbeat

So I can't go to Flor -

70

- i - da right now, but may - be some-day all of us will take o - ver the damn place,

73 Rit.

and turn it in - to a queer u - to - pi - a! ____ Yeah!

8va