

Words Matter 14-page preview

Life Must Be A Revue • Just That Kind Of Guy • Iowa Summer • You And Me • Clara Drum • Ordinary People • Handle Me With Care • How 'Bout St. Louis • Architecture Is Destiny • Hole-In-The-Head Blues • Nobody Knows • Time Will Tell • Musical Comedy Dream • The Road • Mirage • Secret Song • Chamber Music • Strange As It Seems • Manhattan

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WORDS MATTER

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So Much

SINGER - SONGWRITERS

ANYA TURNER

&

ROBERT GRUSECKI

More • My Chosen Family • Unplugged • Soon This Will All Be Over • The Alibi • I Am Such A Dreamer • That's Why I Love You • # Me Too • Glittering Prizes • Anonymous • Dude Gotta Go • Something New (in the New Year) • Don't Worry • Elizabeth 1918 • Stay Home • The New World Order • Second Wave • Come November • What I Miss • Ordinary

WORDS MATTER

the lyrics of

SINGER-SONGWRITERS

ANYA TURNER

&

ROBERT GRUSECKI

This book is a collection of lyrics, monologues, essays, photos
and other thoughts about singing and songwriting.

AnyaRobertMusic.com

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Cover and Book Designed by Anya Turner

Cover Photo by Robert Risko



Names, characters, places, events, and incidents in the lyrics and associated scripts and monologues are either fictitious or loosely based on real people and events.

First Edition, United States of America

INTRODUCTION

We love words and we love music and the marriage of the two results in song.
And, if you weave the two together perfectly, you get art.

Here we are in what are hopefully the last days of the pandemic of 2020-2021. Vaccines are being distributed, we're still wearing masks and keeping our distance, but spring is here.

The idea to write this book began to brew a number of years ago. There are recurring notes in journals that refer to "the lyric book project." The moment to write it arrived with the pandemic. We found ourselves at home with a lot of time together. After spending some of that time writing new songs we turned our attention to *Words Matter*.

We wanted to collect, in one place, proof of all the work we had done over many years: the lyrics, the monologues, the lead-ins; the thoughts, notes, and essays; the photos, the reviews, the people; the quotes that inspired and guided us; the stories we told and the stories that were told to us. In our writing we've taken inspiration from literature and history but our main source has been our lives.

Songs have lives. Our purpose here is to tell the story of those lives – how they came into being and the roads they've traveled.

This book is dedicated to all song lovers.

Anya Turner
Robert Grusecki
New York City
Spring, 2021



"Journeys end in lovers' meeting."
~ *Twelfth Night*, William Shakespeare

This book of lyrics includes a CD recording of selected songs. They are all title songs with the exception of the last song, which is from the #SongsOfComfort YouTube Music Video series.

Look for the headphone icon.



- 1) Ordinary People 4:31
- 2) You Loved Me 3:24
- 3) After All 3:46
- 4) Greetings From Yorkville 2:50
- 5) A Party 2:40
- 6) Labor Of Love 4:30
- 7) Dream On 4:01
- 8) Listen 3:56
- 9) Something New (in the New Year) 2:13

All of our songs are registered with ASCAP.



A & R Selfie, NYC 2019

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Photo: Connie Day

Chapter 1

Meeting On Musical Terms

ONE DAMN THING AFTER ANOTHER LIFE MUST BE A REVUE

Where did the journey begin? If we were publicists
we would compress our two histories and tell the story like this:

Anya (the girl from Iowa) and Robert (the guy from Chicago) met fresh out of college while working in a bohemian-style nightspot in Minneapolis. Their musical collaboration began while performing the songs of Noel Coward (*Mad About The Boy*) and Cole Porter (*I Get A Kick Out Of You*). After doing a second musical revue together, *Nice Faces Of 1943*, they parted ways for a brief time: she went West and he went East. They reunited and their professional collaboration blossomed into a personal relationship when they took to the road and expanded their repertoire to include the songs of Kern, Berlin, Gershwin, Rodgers & Hart, Arlen, Waller, Ellington, Styne, Bernstein, and Sondheim. The pair's musical travels ignited a desire to write new songs together which led them to New York's theatre and cabaret scene. Their New York debut, an evening of revue songs spanning the years 1917 – 1987 and entitled *One Damn Thing After Another*, featured the team's first original song, *Life Must Be A Revue*.

"Shimmering . . . Expressive . . . Powerful . . . an evening of crisp, crackling precision . . . the act came together brilliantly. They also wrote two new songs that catch the mood and style of typical revue songs and give a contemporary touch to an apparently continuing tradition." ~ *John S. Wilson, The New York Times*



Top row: Robert Grusecki, Robin Wagner, Victoria Larson, Frank Birney
Bottom row: Jane Brody, Tom Sherohman, Anya Turner



Photo: Stephen Aucoin

Life Must Be A Revue

Written July 1987

First performance August 1987 at Jan Wallman's NYC in *One Damn Thing After Another*

Performed May 1988 at Don't Tell Mama NYC in *Life Must Be A Revue*


Recorded live at Jan Wallman's, October 1987

Published in *Sixteen Songs Songbook* (2021)

In 1987 we decided to present an evening of revue songs called *One Damn Thing After Another*. But we needed an opening number that would catch the feeling of what was to follow and set up our theme. So we wrote our first song together: *Life Must Be A Revue*, which attempts to capture the ever-changing nature of a musical revue. The titles of earlier revues* are scattered throughout our lyric.

★ LIFE BEGINS AT 8:40 ★ THE MADWOMAN OF CENTRAL PARK WEST ★
 ★ COMDEN ★ I. GERSHWIN ★ GREEN ★ HARBURG ★ HART ★

★ ALMANAC ★
★ BERNSTEIN ★
★ BERGSEN ★
★ ARLIN ★
★ AGER ★



ANYA TURNER

★ MISS 1917 ★
★ KERN ★
★ ONE DAMN THING AFTER ANOTHER ★
★ KLEBAN ★
★ MCBROOM ★
★ MCGINLEY ★

Anya Turner
sings
One Damn Thing After Another
an evening of revue songs
with Robert Grusecki, piano

★
Saturday August 8th
Two Shows: 9 and 11 p.m.
\$7 cover \$8 minimum

★
Jan Wallman's
restaurant cabaret
49 West 44th Street
dinner reservations: 764-8930

★ PORTER ★ RODGERS ★ STYNE ★ WODEHOUSE ★ YELLEN ★
 ★ SEVEN LIVELY ARTS ★ SMALL WONDER ★ TWO ON THE AISLE ★

* REVUE TITLES

1) At The Drop Of A Hat 2) New Faces 3) Straws In The Wind 4) Face The Music 5) Side By Side 6) Wake Up And Dream

Photo: Stephen Aucoin

LIFE MUST BE A REVUE

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The music is haunting
 The harmonies lush
 The lighting romantic
 The ambience plush
 Though the set-up is perfect
 The set-up is that
 At the drop of a hat
 It can change
 Amazing

Turntables turn
 And the scenery spins
 New faces appear
 And a new day begins
 So with utter conviction
 You play a new part
 Knowing right from the start
 It is change that keeps those

*Curtains flying, comics trying
 Lovers sighing sweet and low
 Writers sketching, dancers stretching
 Actors kvetching, on we go*

Prince Charming arrives
 Time to sing a duet
 Is it love at first sight
 Or another vignette

We are straws in the wind
 Blown together by chance
 Who can tell at a glance
 What will last forever

*Take your cue and make your entrance
 Try to put your pride aside
 Brace yourself and face the music
 Hope and fear live side by side*

Some see life as a novel
 Some picture a play
 Some imagine the opera
 Or story ballet
 I say life is a jumble of sketches and songs
 All tied up with a theme
 Namely, "wake up and dream"
 For I've lived enough dreams
 To be sure this is true
 I say life must be a revue
 Life must be a revue

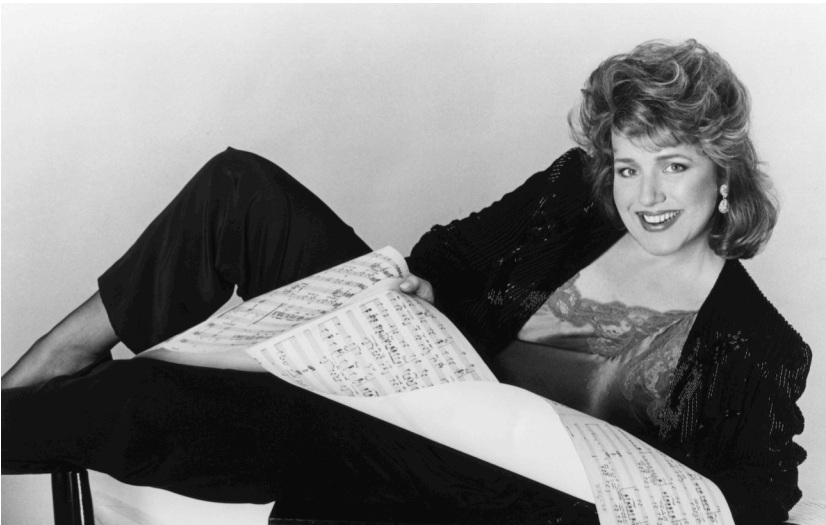


Photo: Stephen Aucoin