

The Ballad  
of  
John Fitzgerald Kennedy

Final Edition

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The Ballad  
of  
John Fitzgerald Kennedy

Final Edition

Cornelius F. Lyon Jr.  
(The C Lyon)

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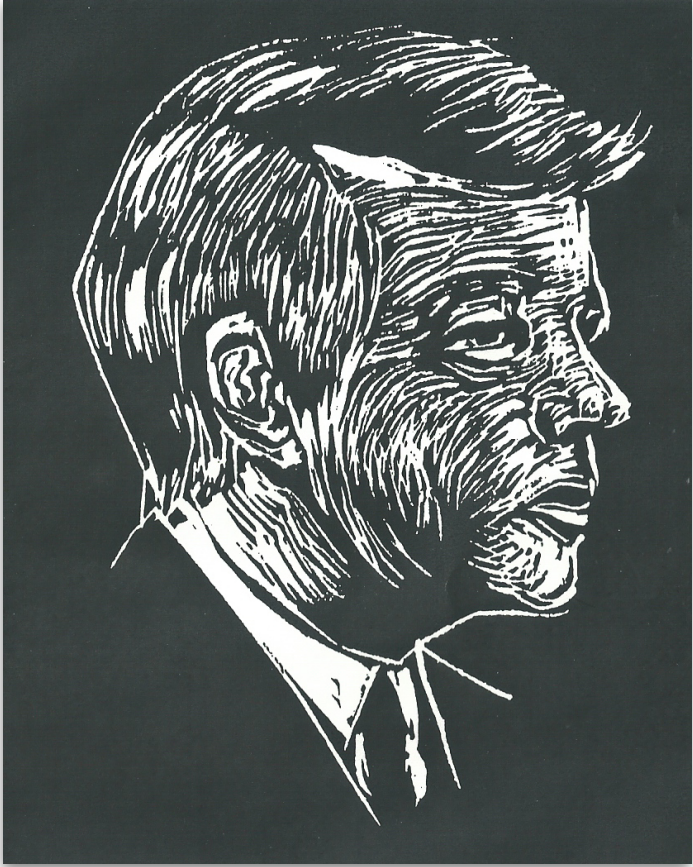
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The C Lyon  
Horseheads, NY

[www.TheCLyon.com](http://www.TheCLyon.com)

I dedicate this book to my grandmother,  
Ora Little.



Woodcut by Helen Seigal

The second son  
Of old Joe Kennedy  
Was born in Boston, Mass.  
And  
Blessed he was  
A handsome lad  
With  
Irish captain class.

In youth  
He played on Plymouth Rock  
With older brother  
Joe.  
In school  
He read of charging knights  
In  
Books like Ivanhoe.

He gravely tripped  
In Hitler's land  
When he was twenty-three  
And inked  
"Why England Slept."  
So when  
The cruelest, meanest, noble  
War began,  
He linked the fleet  
To keep our nation  
Free.

Assigned  
To P.T. 109  
His crew were told to press,  
The ships  
In Backett Straight  
And sink  
The Tokyo Express.

While  
On patrol  
One  
Triple **noir**, dark, lonely  
Pacific night  
To cease supplies through,  
A Japanese destroyer  
Saaaaaaaaaaaaawed  
His plywood boat

In  
t w o  
ww  
w w w  
w w w  
w w w  
w w w w  
w w w w w  
w w w w w  
w w w w w w w

Because  
He saved his men  
And kept them  
From the enemy,  
He won  
The Navy and Marine...

# Chorus One

$\text{♩} = 120$

7 **G7** **C**  
All the  
A - ward for gall-an - try.

7 **F** **C** **G7** **C**  
U. S. A. the U. S. A. the U. S. A. loved J. F. K.

11 **G7** **C**  
Yes, we did! Oh, we did! How, we did! And

14 **F** **C** **G7** **C**  
J. F. K. and J. F. K. he loved the U. S. A.

18 **G7** **C** **G7**  
Yes, he did! Oh, he did! How, he did love the U. S.

23 **C**  
A. A. A.

He  
Looked around our  
Blue, marvelous, marble mark  
And  
Saw that it was  
Birches  
B  
E  
N  
T  
And dreamed of all  
He could do  
If only  
He were president.

A Catholic!  
A Catholic never had  
The slightest,  
slimmest, slimmest, slimmest,  
sliver  
Of a chance,  
So  
Went a scholar's myth.  
But  
After all the votes  
Were in,  
He was  
Our  
Thirty-fifth.

His  
New Frontiers  
Were armed to fight  
The enemies  
Of man.  
He wanted to eliminate  
The hunger  
In our land.

He  
Offered to our  
Hemisphere  
The army of our wealth.  
And seeded planes  
with  
Corps of Peace  
To sugar  
High  
Its health.

He  
Made the Russian fleet  
R  
E  
T  
R  
E  
A  
R E T R E A T  
E  
T  
R  
E  
A  
T  
Their Cuban missile sites  
And  
Guaranteed that humankind  
Would  
Have its civil  
Rights.

The moon,  
The moon.  
The moon,  
He torched the lunar race  
And  
Watered well the will  
That

B  
E E E  
A A A  
M M M  
E E E  
D D D

A dream, dream, dream  
In  
Spaaaaaaaace,  
In  
Spaaaaaaaaaaaaace.

He  
Lamped the world  
And introduced his Anti-Testing Plan  
And over  
Ninety leaders legend...

# Chorus Two

$\text{♩} = 120$

7 **G7** **C**  
All the  
The first a - to - mic ban.

7 **F** **C** **G7** **C**  
U. S. A. the U. S. A. the U. S. A. loved J. F. K.

11 **G7** **C**  
Yes, we did! Oh, we did! How, we did! And

14 **F** **C** **G7** **C**  
J. F. K. and J. F. K. he loved the U. S. A.

18 **G7** **C** **G7**  
Yes, he did! Oh, he did! How, he did love the U. S.

23 **C** **C**  
A. A. A.

To walk  
Or run a Kennedy mile  
Became  
The rage of every age,  
And artists  
By the hundreds sketched  
The presidential stage.



Homage to JFK  
Sculpture by The C Lyon  
94" X 41" X 53"  
1988

He served a thousand days  
And sailed in Dallas  
With his wife.  
While waving and sailing

H  
I  
G  
H  
H  
I  
G  
H  
H  
I  
G  
H  
H  
I  
G  
H

Up, up, up  
In Camelot,  
A mindless, mealy  
Marksman  
With an X  
Took his life.

A nation's love  
Is not a vest against  
The shells of hate.  
Because  
He left  
A brilliant, brilliant, brilliant  
Green,  
He heart broke every state.  
A monument of tears  
Were shed the day...



He  
Made ancient spirits rise  
So surfaced once again,  
Our Father's thoughts of peace  
On Earth  
Goodwill towards men.



Because he ached for a fairer state  
With unsurpassable times,  
Eternal is his name.  
Because he flashed  
A whiter, whiter, whiter  
Light,  
Eternal is his fame.  
Because he gave his life...

# Chorus Four

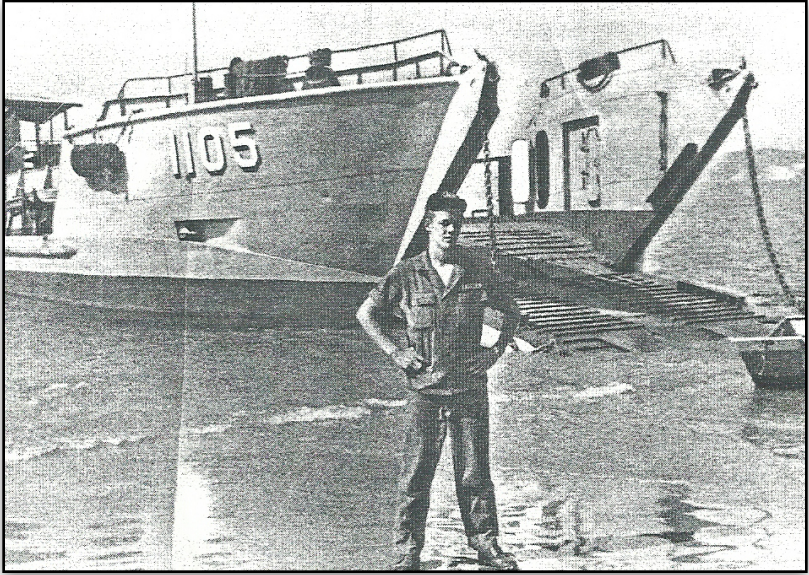
$\text{♩} = 120$

G7 C

E - ter - nal is his flame.

Close song with 11 harmonics on 5th string, 12th fret.





The C Lyon at the shore of the Yellow Sea

## **About the Author**

Cornelius (Pepsi, to those who know him best) was born in Elmira, New York. At the age of nineteen, he joined the United States Air Force. It was while stationed in Korea that he was ‘flashed.’ A word he uses to describe the moment of revelation in his life. After spending forty-five months on active duty, he was determined to overcome his ignorance.

While working as a grinder, drill press operator, rivet fitter, punch press operator, laborer, bartender, dishwasher, painter, dry waller and paperhanger, he received an Associate in Arts degree from Corning Community College, a Bachelors of Science in Education from Mansfield State University, and a Masters degree from Elmira College.

He taught pupils with special educational needs at the Watkins Glen Middle School in Watkins Glen, New York for thirty years and retired in 1999. After retiring, he became a full time sculptor. The C Lyon Sculpture Garden now has over seven hundred and fifty outdoor abstract steel sculptures, located on forty acres of manicured paths, making it one of the largest sculpture gardens in America.

In the winter he builds classical guitars and creates contemporary glass at the Corning Museum of Glass Studio.

## **Acknowledgements and Thanks**

I want to thank my wonderful daughter, Roxanne Lyon Timberlake, for this wonderful Father's Day present. She took beaucoup time off from homeschooling her children, working at her businesses, volunteering, gigs, and a myriad of other commitments to help me finish and publish the Final Edition of my Kennedy Ballad. I especially want to thank her for her patience in putting up with my guitar playing and singing to help me score the choruses so they would flow seamlessly throughout the ballad. I am one fortunate father to have such a marvelous, caring, and talented daughter.

Peace and harmony to all who read my ballad.

*Hear The C Lyon perform his ballad on YouTube.com by searching "Ballad of John F. Kennedy" or "Cornelius Lyon."*

