

Matt Browne

**Feels like  
Old Times**  
*for Mezzo-soprano and Piano*

Text by Kim Davies

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*This work was composed as part of the American Opera Projects Composers & the Voice workshop.  
It was first performed by Blythe Gaissert, Mezzo and Kelly Horsted, Piano*

## **Text by Kim Davies**

All the ladies of the parish send  
their flowers  
their thoughts  
their prayers  
(but not themselves)

Don't you deserve to die  
like a star going out  
like the sun stopped shining?  
Don't you deserve to die  
on the ten PM news?

Shame to see you wither  
On a lonely vine  
In a good clean place  
In a good clean room.

Shame to see you wither  
Ashes to ashes  
Dust to dust.  
No one to miss you but me.  
I'll clean up.

Beep beep.  
Beep beep.

Hey, Mama!  
First time I seen you  
keep time.  
First time I seen you  
on time.

You used to talk but you never did listen.  
Now you're stuck with me,  
The last Catholic you raised,  
The last Catholic in all of Hamtramck.  
You never did listen but now you don't  
talk.

Feels like old times.  
Feels this way all the time.

Beep beep.  
Beep beep.

Hey, Mama!  
Slack jaw makes sense now.  
Cancer signed all your checks.  
A medical martyr now, not just  
A drunk housewife.  
Red hair from the bottle  
Red face from the bottle  
Oh man, old man death  
Looks so good on you.

Feels like old times.  
Feels this way all the time.

Beep beep.  
Beep beep.

Duration: c. 7:30

**[www.mattbrownecomposer.com](http://www.mattbrownecomposer.com)**

# Feels like Old Times

for Mezzo-soprano and Piano

Kim Davies

Matt Browne

**Restrained** ♩ = 72

Mezzo-soprano

Piano

*pp* stoic and metronomic

not too much Ped.

M-S.

Pno.

6

M-S.

Pno.

10

12

*pp*

All the la - dies \_\_\_\_\_ of the pa - rish

M-S. *send their flowers their thoughts their prayers*

Pno.

14

M-S. *Spoken: bitter, slightly gloating* **21** *p*  
*(but not them-selves) Don't you de-serve to*

Pno.

18

M-S. *mf*  
*die like a star go-ing out like the sun stopped shi ning?*

Pno. *p mf mp f*  
*Ped. 3*

22

M-S. *p*  
 Don't you de-serve to die

Pno. *f* *mf*

26 *Ped.*

M-S. *f* **30**  
 on the ten P M news?

Pno. *ff* *mp* *pp*

29 *Ped.*

M-S. *p*  
 Shame to see you wi - ther

Pno.

33

M-S.  On a lone - ly vine In a good clean place In a good clean room.

Pno.  37

M-S.  44 *p* Shame to see you wi- ther.

Pno.  42

M-S.  ash - es to ash - es Dust to

Pno.  46

M-S. *pp*  
 dust. No one to miss you but

Pno.

49

M-S. **53**  
 me. I'll clean up.

Pno. *pp*

53

*Spoken: annoyed, but stoic*

M-S. *pp* mechanical, but slightly nostalgic  
 Beep beep. Beep beep.

Pno.

57

61

M-S. *f bitter* 3  
Hey ma- ma!

Pno. *pp* *fff* 3 *8va*

61

Ped. 3

M-S. *ff*  
— First time I seen you — keep time. —

Pno. *mp* *sub. fff* *8va* 3 *mp* 3

64

Ped. 3 Ped.

M-S. *f*  
First time I seen you on time.

Pno. *f* *ff secco* *mp* *8va* *8vb* 3 3

67

Ped. 3



71

M-S. *mf* You used to talk but you ne - ver did list - en...

Pno. *fff* *sub. p*

M-S. *f* Now you're stuck with me, The last Catho lic you raised.

Pno. *sub. mf* *f*

M-S. *mf* The last Catho lic in all of Ham tra mck. (mick) You

Pno. *sub. mf* *ff* *p* *fff* *mf* *fff*

Ped.

**poco rit.** . . . . . **84** **A tempo**

M-S. *mp* *p*  
 ne-ver did list-en but now you don't talk. Feels like

Pno. *fff* *f* *mp* *p*

80

M-S. *Spoken: bitterly desolate*  
 old times Feels this way all the time.

Pno. *pp*

85

**93**

M-S. *ff*  
 Beep beep. Beep beep. Hey Ma ma!

Pno. *sub. fff* *fffz*

91

M-S. Slack jaw makes sense now. Can-cer signed all your checks.

Pno. *mf* *ff* 6

95

M-S. Ame-di-cal mar-tyr now, not just A drunk house wife. Red hair from the bot-tle

Pno. *p* *f* *mf* *ff* *mf* *ff* 3

97

M-S. Red face from the bot - tle

Pno. *mf* *ff* 6 3 8<sup>vb</sup>

100

M-S. *fff*  
Oh man,

Pno. *fff* *8va*

102 (8)

M-S. *Spoken: growling, acidic* **107** ♩ = 60  
old man death looks so good on you.

Pno. *pp* *8vb*

104 (8)

M-S. *p*  
Feels like old times.

Pno. *p* *8vb*

111 (8)

M-S. *Spoken*  
Feels this way all the time.

Pno. *pp*

115

M-S. *pp* *ppp*  
Beep beep. Beep beep.

Pno.

119