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Classic

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LAURA NAZIMEK}{ACQUIESCE

*Those old, old fingers
posed anciently over the piano
as if you had been a musical pharaoh
and we buried your whole scene beneath the earth.*

*But life still ticks and tocks,
seeping through your leathery collapsed veins
and I find myself strangely fixated
with your persistence to press upon
those stuck and yellowed keys.*

*Suddenly your hands remind me
of the scaly toes of a stubborn bird--
madly clawing at a branch which is
far too smooth and broad to ever grasp.
Scratching and wailing downward into classic redundancy.*

*Your fingernails are stale
and poke insistently out from your bones
tapping slowly against the keys
as if the song you compose
is really an exercise in breathing.*

*I stare,
but am horrified by the plucking.*

KEITH CUNNINGHAM){CLASSIC

(Nominated, staff art award, for above and shield on back cover)

