Wednesday, January 30, 2019 6:19 AM

If music can be passed on
like brown eyes or a strong
left hook, this melody
is my inheritance, lineage traced
through a title track,
displayed on an album cover
that you pin to the wall
as art, oral history taught
on a record player, the lessons
sealed into the grooves like fact.
This is the only myth I know.
I sit on the hardwood
floors of a damp November,
my brother dealing cards
from an incomplete deck,
and I don't realize that this
moment is the definition
of family, collective memory
cut in rough-textured tones,
the voice of a horn so familiar
I don't know I'm listening,
Don't know I'm singing,
a child's improvisation
of Giant Steps or Impressions
songs without lyrics
can still be sung.

Genetics / Family

Soft vs. Aggressive

History / Past

Memory - Family lines

Childhood / Teen years

Album as Family Portrait

Negative Connotation

Poverty / Struggle

Misery / Uncomfortable

Cold / Poor

Incomp. Fam / Brokenness

Transition / Coldness

Death / Indecisiveness

What is family?

Family

Harshness

Jazz

- Blues - Good Vibes

can still be sung.

Shift

In six months, when my mother
is 2,000 miles away, deciding
if she wants to come home,
I will have forgotten
this moment, the security
of her footsteps, the warmth
of a radiator on my back and you
present in the sound of typing
your own accompaniment,
multiphonics disguised as chords
in a distant room, speakers set
on high to fill the whole house
with your spirit, your call
as a declaration of love.

Shift

But the music will remain.
The timeless notes of jazz
too personal to play out loud,
stay locked in the rhythm
of my childhood, memories fading
like the words of a lullaby,
come to life in a saxophone's blow.
They lie when they say
music is universal—this is my song,
the notes like fingerprints

- Blues
- Chill
- Relaxing
- Good Vibes
- Smooth
- Painful

Name of Pain / Conflict

Time moves forward

Memory / Warmth & Good

Bad vs. Good

Betrayal

Loudness or Volume

Family

Timeless (Music vs. Memory)

All will be ok.
All will go on.

This is my song

Sharp / Harsh

Unique

the notes like fingerprints — Unique
as delicate as breath. Complicated
I will not share this air
with anyone
but you. Father