

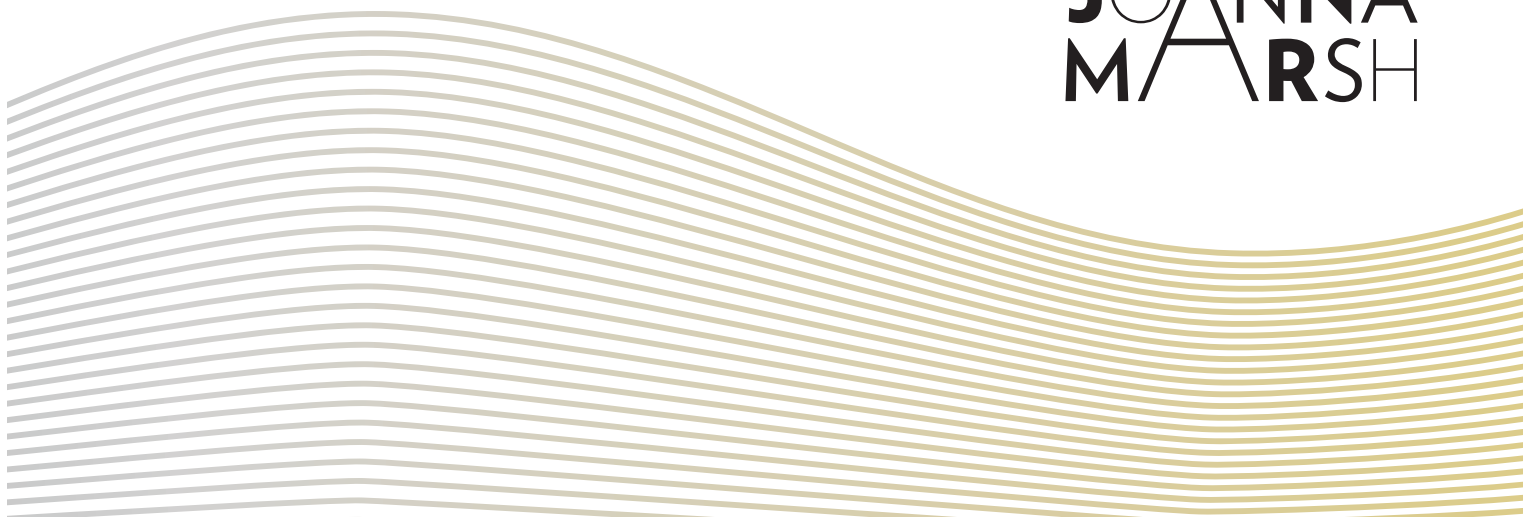
Joanna Marsh

# A Short Story of Falling

SSA and piano

sample  
copy

JOANNA  
MARSH



Sample  
copy

Joanna Marsh

**A Short Story of Falling** (June 2021)

SSA and piano

Duration c.4'30"

The commissioning of A Short Story of Falling was kindly supported by Dorico (NYCGB's Principal Innovation Sponsor) and Christine Evans.

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## A Short Story of Falling

It is the story of the falling rain  
to turn into a leaf and fall again

it is the secret of a summer shower  
to steal the light and hide it in a flower

and every flower a tiny tributary  
that from the ground flows green and momentary

is one of water's wishes and this tale  
hangs in a seed-head smaller than my thumbnail

if only I a passerby could pass  
as clear as water through a plume of grass

to find the sunlight hidden at the tip  
turning to seed a kind of lifting rain drip

then I might know like water how to balance  
the weight of hope against the light of patience

water which is so raw so earthy-strong  
and lurks in cast-iron tanks and leaks along

drawn under gravity towards my tongue  
to cool and fill the pipe-work of this song

which is the story of the falling rain  
that rises to the light and falls again

*Alice Oswald*

# A Short Story of Falling

Alice Oswald

Joanna Marsh

*♩ = 102 Lightly* *mp*

UNISON

It is the sto - ry of the fall - ing

PIANO

*p* con Ped.

5

*mf* *mp*

rain to turn in-to a leaf and fall a -

10

S. *p*

- gain it is the se - cret of a sum - mer

S. *p*

- gain it is the se - cret of a sum - mer

A. *p*

- gain it is the se - cret of a sum-mer, a sum - mer

*mp*

15 *mf* *f*

shower to steal the light, the light

*mf* *f*

shower to steal the light and

*mf* *f*

shower to steal the light and hide it,

*mf* *f*

20 *mp* *p* solo *mp* *mf*

hide it in a flower and ev - 'ry flower

*mp* *p* tutti *pp* *leggero*

hide it in a flower and ev - 'ry

*mp* *p*

and hide it in a flower

*mp* *p* *mp*

25 *tutti pp leggiero*

a ti - ny tri - bu - ta - ry from the ground flows

flower a ti - ny tri - bu - ta - ry from the ground flows

*tutti pp leggiero*

and ev - 'ry flower a ti - ny tri - bu - ta - ry from the ground

*pp*

28 *mf p*

green and mo - men - ta - ry is one of wa - ter's

*mf p*

green and mo - men - ta - ry is one of wa - ter's

*mf p*

flows green and mo - men - ta - ry one of wa - ter's wish -

*mf p*

31 *f* *mp*

wish - es and this tale hangs in a seed - head

*f* *mp*

wish - es and this tale hangs in a seed - head

*f* *mp*

- - es and this tale hangs in a seed - head

*mf* *mp* *mf*

35 solo tutti *mp* *mf*

small-er than my thumb - nail, if on - ly I a

solo tutti *mp* *mf*

small-er than my thumb - nail, if on - ly I a

solo tutti *mp* *mf*

small-er than my thumb - nail, if on - ly I a

*p* *mp* *mf*



39 *mp*

pas - - ser - by \_\_\_\_ could pass as clear as wa - ter \_\_\_\_ through a

*mp*

pas - - ser - by \_\_\_\_ could pass as clear as wa - ter \_\_\_\_ through a

*mp*

pas - - ser - by \_\_\_\_ could pass through a

*mp*

43 *pp* semi-chorus *mf*

plume of grass \_\_\_\_ to find \_\_\_\_ the sun - light

*pp* semi-chorus *mf*

plume of grass \_\_\_\_ to find \_\_\_\_ the sun - light

*pp* semi-chorus *mf*

plume of grass \_\_\_\_ to find \_\_\_\_ the sun - light

semi-chorus/solo

47 *mp* *mf*

hid - den at the tip to seed

*mp* semi-chorus/solo *mf*

hid - den at the tip turn - ing to seed a

*mp* semi-chorus/solo *mf*

hid - den at the tip turn - ing, turn - ing to seed a

*mp* *p* *mp*

51 *mp*

of lift - ing rain drip, rain drip, rain

*mp*

kind of lift - ing rain drip, rain

*mp*

kind of lift - ing rain drip, of lift - ing rain

55 *tutti pp*

drip then I might know like

*p* *tutti pp*

drip then I might know like

*p* *tutti pp*

drip then I might know like

*pp*

60 *mp* *mf*

wa - - ter how ba -

*mp* *mf*

wa - - ter how to ba -

*mp* *mf*

wa - - ter how to ba -

*mp* *mf*