

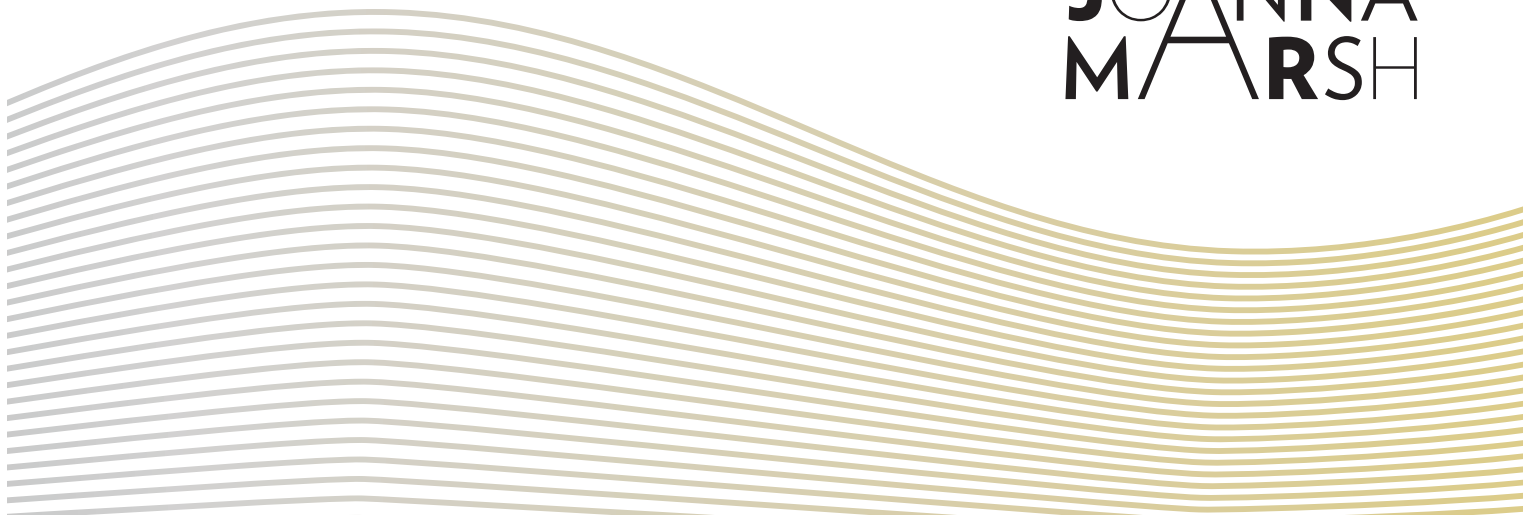
Joanna Marsh

Hands and the Hour

mixed voices unaccompanied
(AATTBB)

Sample
copy

JOANNA
M/ARSH



Hands and the Hour

Poem by Jane Draycott

Twilight, and no-one's raised a hand
to close the shutters yet. We have one hour,
this lamplit hall between arrivals and departures
between the day and night-time,
night-time and the day.

Bright illumination all along our street
the body's heat draws inwards
like a tent lit up, like the warm low rays of sun
between the day and night-time,
night-time and the day.

Light lingers in the parks and squares
small papers swirling there like leaves
not leaves but birds, not birds but hands
between the day and night-time,
night-time and the day.

On the cusp of dark the evening star appears
hope's matchlight flaring, while below we cup
our hands around the glowing candle-flame of home.
(between the day and night-time,
night-time and the day).

So many hands, small wingspans hovering
above the low fields of our fires. Now winter
is the glinting world, summer the life to come
between the day and night-time,
night-time and the day.

Joanna Marsh

Hands and the Hour (June 2025)

mixed voices unaccompanied
(AATTBB)

Duration c.3'30"

Hands and the Hour is the first work of a three part choral collection by Joanna Marsh called *Winter's Garland*, comprising her pre-existing *In Winter's House* and two settings of specially commissioned poems by Jane Draycott: *Arrival at the Lantern Festival* and *Hands and the Hour*. The two new works were co-commissioned by Chanticleer and Zero8, and premiered in the USA on 29 November 2025 by Chanticleer at the Center for the Arts, George Mason University, Fairfax, Virginia, and in Europe on 5 December by Zero8 at the LVSO Concert Hall in Vilnius, Lithuania.

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Hands and the Hour

Jane Draycott

Joanna Marsh

With grace and movement ♩ = 86

ALTO 1

ALTO 2 *mf*
We have one

TENOR 1 *mf* *p* *mf*
Twilight, and no-one's raised a hand to close the shut-ters yet. We have one

TENOR 2 *mf* *p* *mp*
Twilight, and no-one's raised a hand to close the shut-ters yet. We have one

BASS 1 *mf* *p* *mp*
Twilight, and no-one's raised a hand to close the shut-ters yet. We have one

BASS 2 *mf* *mp*
Twilight, and no-one's raised a hand to close the shut-ters, the shut-ters yet.

5 *mf*
We have one hour, be-tween ar - ri - vals and de - par - tures

hour, one hour, be-tween ar - ri - vals and de - par - tures

hour, this lamp-lit hall be-tween ar - ri - vals be-tween the

mf
hour, have one hour, this lamp-lit hall ar - ri - vals and de - par - tures

mf
hour, we have one hour, lamp-lit hall be-tween ar - ri - vals and de - par - tures

mf
This lamp-lit hall be-tween ar - ri - vals and de - part

10 *p*

and the day, be-tween the day, the night-time and the

p

the night-time, the night-time, day and the night, and the

p

day and the night, day and the night, day and the night.

p

day and the night, day and the night, day and the night - time and the

p

the night-time, the night-time, the night - time. _

p

night-time, night-time, the night - time. _

16 *mf* *f* *mf*

day. Bright all a - long 'long our street the bo-dy's

mf *f* *f* *mf*

day. Il - lu - mi - na - tion all a - long our street the bo-dy's

mf *f* *mf*

Bright il - lu - mi - na - tion all a - long our street the bo - dy's

mf *f* *mf*

day. Bright il - lu - mi - na - tion a - long our street the bo - dy's

f *mf*

Il - lu - mi - na - tion all a - long our street the bo - dy's

mf

All a - long our street the bo - dy's

21

mp heat like the warm rays of the sun, *mf*

f heat draws in-wards like a tent, *mp* warm rays of the sun, *mf*

8 heat draws in-wards like the warm rays of the

heat like a tent warm rays of the sun

heat draws in-wards like warm low rays of the

in-wards like rays of the

26

f the sun and the day, *p* be-tween the

f the sun the night-time, *p* the night-time,

8 sun be-tween the day and the night, *p* day and the night,

day and the night, *p* day and the night,

sun the night-time, *p* the night-time,

sun night-time, *p* night-time,

31 *mp* *pp* *mf*

day the night - time and the day. Light ling - ers

mp *pp* *p* *mf*

day and the night - time and the day. Light, light, light

mp *pp* *p* *mf*

day and the night - time and the day. Light, light ling - ers

mp *p* *mp* *mf*

day and the night - time and the day. Light, light ling - ers

mp *p* *mf*

and the night - time and the day. Light, light

mp

and the night - time and the day.

36 *mf* *mp* *mf* *p*

in the parks pa - pers swirl - ing like leaves not leaves

mf *mp* *mf* *p*

in the parks and squares small pa - pers swirl, swirl - ing like leaves not leaves

mp *mf* *p*

in the parks and squares small pa - pers swirl - ing there like leaves not leaves

mp *mf* *mp* *p*

in parks and squares pa - pers swirl - ing there leaves but birds, not leaves

mp *mf* *mp* *p*

in parks and squares small pa - pers swirl - ing like leaves not leaves but birds, not

mp *mf* *mp*

small pa - pers swirl - ing like leaves not leaves but birds,

41

mf *f* *p*

not birds hands and the

mf *f* *p*

but birds, not birds but hands the night-time,

mf *f* *mp*

but birds, birds but hands day and the night,

mf *f* *p*

but birds, not birds but hands the night-time,

mf *f* *mp*

leaves, not leaves, not birds but hands be-tween the day and the night,

mf *f* *p*

leaves birds hands the night-time,

46

f *mf* *p*

day, the night-time and the day, night-time and the day, and the

f *mp*

day and the night, and the day, night-time and the day.

f *mf* *p*

day and the night-time, day and the night, and the day, and the

f *mf*

the night-time, day and the night-time and day.

f *mf*

day and the night, night-time, day and the night-time and day.

mf *p*

the night-time, night-time and day, and the

51

day. Cusp of dark the eve - ning star hope's —

p On the cusp of dark the eve - ning star, star ap-pears hope's match-light *f*

day. Cusp of dark the eve - ning star ap-pears hope's — *mf*

p On the cusp of dark the eve - ning star ap-pears hope's match-light *mf*

The eve - ning star ap-pears hope's match-light *(mf)*

day. The eve - ning star ap-pears *(mf)*

56

f flar - ing, — *mf* be - low we cup our hands a - round can - dle - flame of *rit.*

mf flar - ing, be - low we cup our hands a - round the glow - ing can - dle - flame of

mf flar - ing, while be - low we cup our hands a - round the glow - ing can - dle - flame.

f flar - ing, while — *mf* we cup our hands a - round the glow - ing can - dle - flame of

f flar - ing, — *mf* while we cup our hands a - round — *p* flame of

f flar - ing, — *mf* while we cup our hands *p* of

Slightly relaxed tempo ♩ = 76

Pick up tempo slightly ♩ = 80

61 *p* *p* *mp*

home. So ma-ny hands, — so ma-ny hands, small wing -

p *mp*

home. So ma-ny hands, — hands, — so ma-ny hands, small

pp *p* *mp*

So ma - ny, so ma-ny hands, small wing - spans, — so ma-ny

p *pp* *mp*

home. So ma - ny hands, — so ma-ny hands, —

pp *mp*

home. So ma - ny, so ma-ny hands, — so ma-ny hands —

pp

home. So ma - ny hands,

66 *mf* *p* *With care*

- spans ho-ver-ing. Now win - ter is the glint - ing world,

mf *p*

wing - spans ho-ver - ing — 'bove our fires. win - ter is the glint - ing world,

mf *p*

wing - spans ho-ver-ing a - bove our fires. Now win - ter is the glint - ing world,

mf *p*

ho - ver-ing glint - ing world, sum -

mf *mp* *p*

a - - bove our fires. — The — sum -

mp *p*

'bove fires. Now win - ter — sum -

Pick up tempo slightly ♩ = 80

71 *mp* *poco rit.* *mf* *a tempo* *p*

sum - mer the life to come and the day,

mf *p* *mp*

sum-mer the life to come the night-time, day the

mp *mp*

sum - mer the life day and the night, day and the night -

mf *mp*

- mer the life to be-tween the day and the night - time, day and the night,

mf *mp*

- mer life to come the night-time, day, the

mf *mp*

- mer life night-time, the

76 *mp* *ppp*

the night - time and the day.

ppp

night - time and the day, day.

ppp

- time, and the day.

ppp

day and the night - - time and the day.

ppp

night - time, day, the night - time day.

ppp

night - time, day and the night, day.

* This note is optional and ad lib.

Sample
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