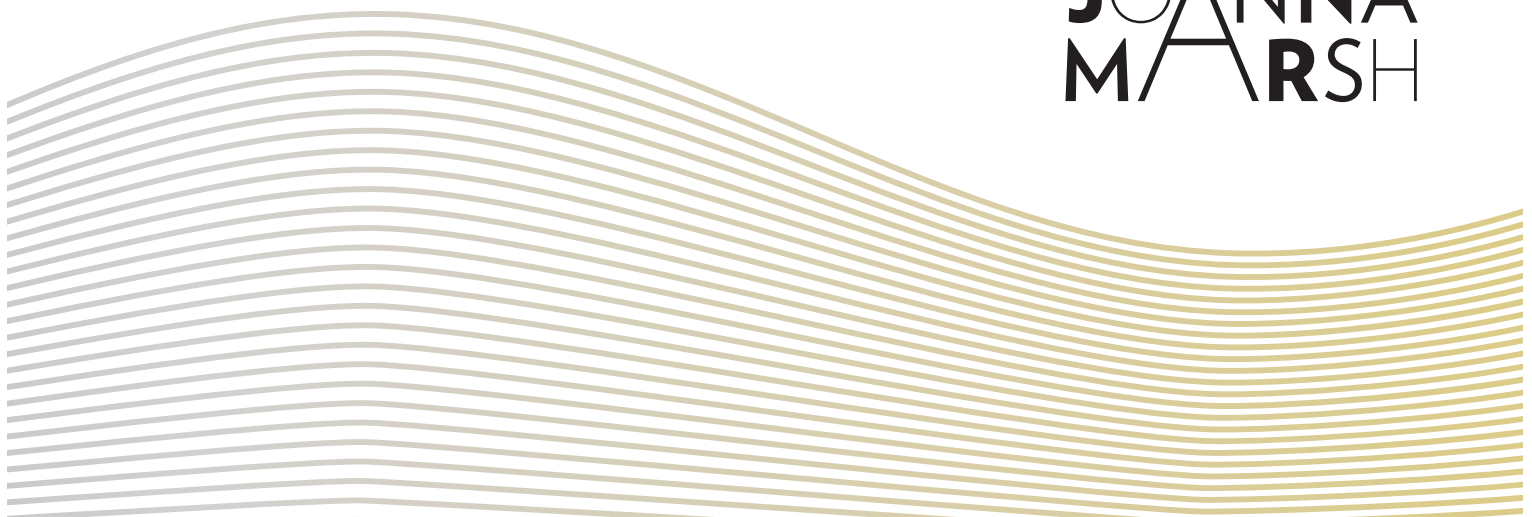


Joanna Marsh

A Short Story of Falling

SSA and piano

JOANNA
MARSH



Joanna Marsh

A Short Story of Falling (June 2021)

SSA and piano

Duration c.4'30"

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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*

65

f

- lance, to ba - - lance the weight of hope

f

- lance, to ba - - lance the weight of hope

f

- lance, how to ba - - lance the weight of hope

f

70

solo *mp*

a- gainst the light,

solo *p* *mp*

the light of pa - tience,

p *pp*

76 *p* *mp*

light of pa - - -

solo *mp*

a-gainst the light of pa - - -

mp

the light of pa - - -

81 *pp* tutti *mf*

- tience wa - ter,

pp tutti *mf*

- tience wa - ter,

pp tutti *mf*

- tience wa - ter,

86 *f*

wa - ter and lurks in cast iron tanks and

f

wa - ter which is so pure so earth-ly strong — cast iron tanks and

f

wa - ter which is so pure so earth-ly strong and lurks in — cast iron tanks

90

leaks a - long — wa - ter

leaks a - long, a - long drawn un-der gra-vi - ty to -

and leaks a - long, and leaks — a-long gra-vi - ty to -

94

to-wards my tongue wa - - - ter pipe - work

- wards my tongue to cool and fill the pipe-work

- wards my tongue, my tongue to cool the pipe - work,

99

sub. *p* *pp* *mp*

— this song which is the

sub. *p* *pp*

of this song

sub. *p* *pp*

pipe - work song

sub. *p* *pp* *mp*

104

p *mf*

sto - ry of the fall - ing rain and ris - es to the light,

p *mf*

and ris - es to the light,

p *mf*

and ris - es to the light

109

solo *mp* tutti *pp*

and falls, and falls a - gain.

tutti *pp*

and falls a - gain.

solo *mp* tutti *pp*

and falls, and falls a - gain.

p

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