

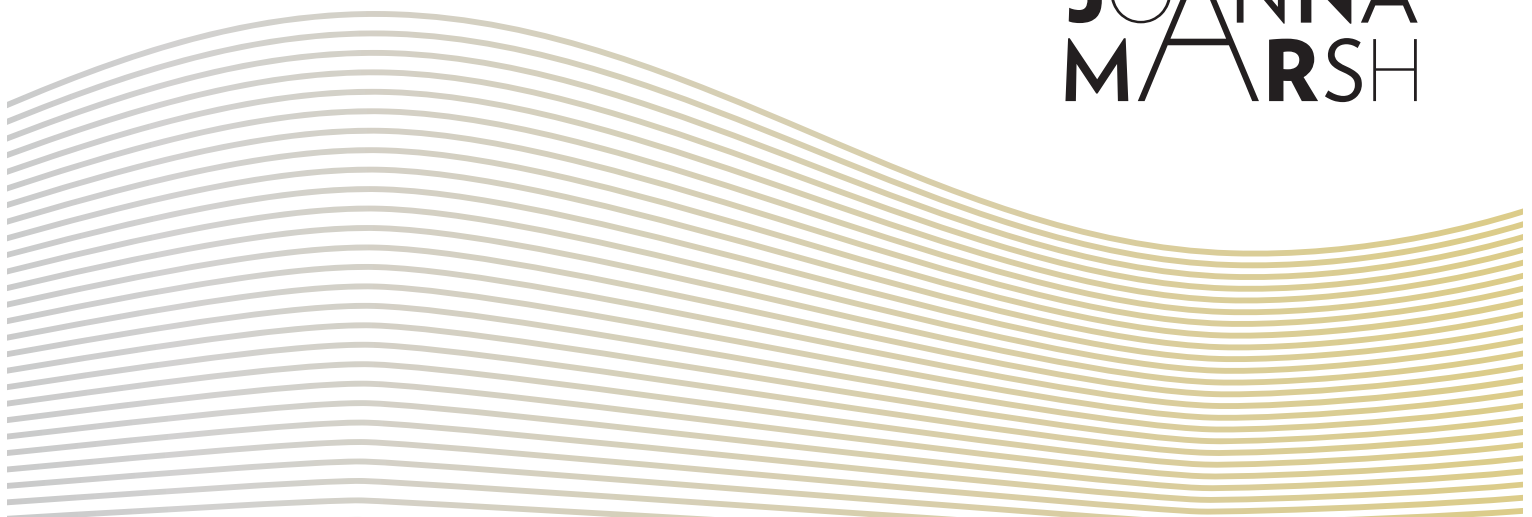
Joanna Marsh

Hands and the Hour

mixed voices unaccompanied

SSATBarB

JOANNA
MARSH



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

SOPRANO
 SOPRANO
 ALTO
 TENOR
 BARITONE
 BASS

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

Twi-light, and no-one's raised a hand to close the shut-ters yet. We have one
 Twi-light, and no-one's raised a hand to close the shut-ters yet. We have one
 Twi-light, and no-one's raised a hand to close the shut-ters yet. We have one
 Twi-light, and no-one's raised a hand to close the shut-ters yet. We have one
 Twi-light, and no-one's raised a hand to close the shut-ters yet. We have one

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
 hour, have one hour, ar-ri-vals and de-par-tures
 hour, we have one hour, lamp-lit hall and de-par-tures
 This lamp-lit hall between 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* *mf*

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

mf *f* *mf*

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

mf *f* *mf*

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

mf *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 *mf* rays of the sun,

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

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

mp the warm low rays of the

mp heat draws in-wards like a tent warm low rays of the

mp in-wards like rays of the



26

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

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

p sun day and the night, day and the night,

(mf) sun be-tween the day and the night, *p* day and the night,

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

p sun night-time, night-time,

31

mp day the night - time and the day. *pp* Light *mf* ling - ers

mp day and the night - time and the day. *pp* Light, light, *p* light *mf* ling - ers

mp day and the night - time and the day. *pp* Light, *p* light *mf* ling - ers

mp day and the night - time and the day. *p* Light, *mp* light *mf* ling - ers

mp and the night - time and the day. *p* Light, _____

mp and the night - time and the day.

36

mf in the parks *mp* pa - pers *mf* swirl - ing like leaves *p* not leaves _____

mf in the parks and squares *mp* small pa - pers *mf* swirl, swirl - ing like leaves *p* not leaves _____

mp in the parks and squares *mp* small pa - pers *mf* swirl - ing there like leaves *p* not leaves _____

mp in parks and squares *mp* pa - pers *mf* swirl - ing there like leaves *mp* not leaves but birds *p* not

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

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

41

not birds hands and the

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

but birds, not birds but hands day and the night,

leaves not birds but hands the night-time,

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

leaves birds hands the night-time,

46

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

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

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

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

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

the night-time, night-time and day,

56 *f* *mf* *rit.*

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

mf

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

f *mf*

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

f *mf*

flar - ing, while we cup our hands glow - ing can - dle - flame of

f *mf* *p*

flar - ing, while we cup our hands a - round flame of

f *mf* *p*

flar - ing, while we cup our hands of

Slightly relaxed tempo ♩ = 76

Pick up tempo slightly ♩ = 80

61

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

p home. So ma-ny hands, — *mp* hands, — so ma-ny hands, small

pp So ma - ny, *p* so ma-ny hands, *mp* small wing - spans, — so ma-ny

p home. *pp* So ma - ny hands, — *mp* so ma-ny hands, —

pp home. So — ma-ny hands, *mp* ma-ny hands — so ma-ny hands, — so ma-ny

pp home. So ma ny hands,

With care

66

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

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

mf ho - ver-ing *mp* Now win - ter is the glint - ing world,

mf wing - spans *mp* a - bove our fires. — *p* glint - ing world, sum-

mf wing-spans *mp* 'bove fires. — *p* The — sum-

mf 'bove *mp* fires. *p* Now win - ter — sum-

poco rit. *mf* *a tempo* *p* Pick up tempo slightly ♩ = 80

71

sum - mer the life to come and the day,

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

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

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

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

- mer life night-time, the

76

the night - time and the day.

night - time and the day, day.

- time, and the day.

day and the night - - time and the day.

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

night - time, day and the night, day.

* This note is optional and ad lib.

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