

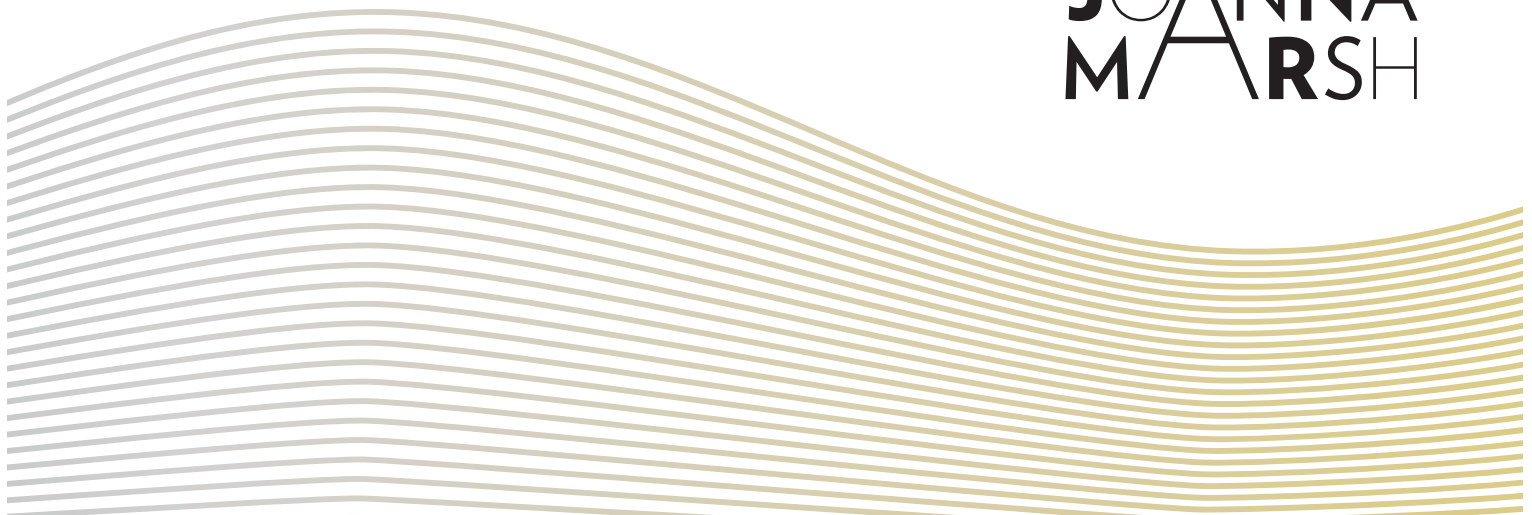
Joanna Marsh

**A Short Story of Falling**

SSA and piano

Sample  
copy

JOANNA  
M/ARSH



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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[www.joannamarsh.co.uk](http://www.joannamarsh.co.uk)

## 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,

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

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

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

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

- 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, \_\_\_\_\_

76 *p* *mp*

light of pa - - -

solo *mp*

a-against 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,

*p* *pp* *mf*

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.



Sample  
copy

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