

STEPHEN BARCHAN

TWO SONGS ABOUT SPIDERS

for solo soprano

(2010-11, rev. 2015-16/20)

First performance: Jane Manning (soprano)  
PLG Young Composers' Symposium & Concert 2011  
Park Lane Group  
Level 5 Function Room  
Royal Festival Hall  
Southbank Centre, London, UK  
6 November 2011

Duration: c.3 minutes

Programme note:

*Two Songs about Spiders* is a setting of two well-known nursery rhymes for solo soprano: *Little Miss Muffet* and *Incey Wincey Spider*. Cast in two movements, the piece lasts approximately three minutes and is dedicated to Jane Manning, who is rather fond of these eight-legged creatures.

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Texts:

Little Miss Muffet

Little Miss Muffet  
Sat on a tuffet,  
Eating her curds and whey;  
There came a big spider,  
Who sat down beside her  
And frightened Miss Muffet away.

*The Oxford Dictionary of Nursery Rhymes*  
ed. Iona and Peter Opie (Oxford: OUP, 1997)

Incey Wincey Spider

Incey Wincey spider  
Climbed up the water spout;  
Down came the rain  
And washed the spider out:  
Out came the sun  
And dried up all the rain;  
So Incey Wincey spider  
Climbed up the spout again.

Constructed by the composer  
from the following sources:

*The Oxford Nursery Rhyme Book*  
Iona and Peter Opie (Oxford: OUP, 1955)

*Cakes and Custard*  
Brian Alderson (London: Heinemann, 1974)

*The Puffin Book of Nursery Rhymes*  
Raymond Briggs (London: Puffin Books, 2016)

for Jane Manning

# TWO SONGS ABOUT SPIDERS

STEPHEN BARCHAN

## 1. Little Miss Muffet

$\text{♩} = 90$

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

Soprano

Lit - tle \_\_\_\_\_ Miss Muf - - - fet Sat \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_ a

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

tuf - - - fet, \_\_\_\_\_ Eat - ing her curds and whey; \_\_\_\_\_

*becoming threatening* *mp* *f* *pp* *mf* *ff* *lightly* *mp*

There came a big spi - - - - - der, \_\_\_\_\_ Who

*mf* *dramatically* *f* *ff*

sat down be - side \_\_\_\_\_ her And fright - - - - - ened Miss

*becoming distant* *mf* *p* *mp* *p*

Muf - - - - - fet \_\_\_\_\_ a - way.

The musical score is written for soprano in a single system. It begins with a tempo marking of quarter note = 90. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The score consists of five staves of music. The first staff starts with a piano (*p*) dynamic and includes a five-measure rest. The second staff features a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic and a three-measure rest. The third staff includes dynamics from mezzo-forte (*mf*) to piano (*p*) and is marked 'lightly'. The fourth staff starts with mezzo-forte (*mf*), becomes 'threatening' with a forte (*f*) dynamic, then piano-piano (*pp*), mezzo-forte (*mf*), and fortissimo (*ff*), ending with a 'lightly' dynamic. The fifth staff begins with mezzo-forte (*mf*), becomes 'dramatically' with a forte (*f*) dynamic, and ends with fortissimo (*ff*). The final staff is marked 'becoming distant' and features dynamics from mezzo-forte (*mf*) to piano (*p*), then mezzo-piano (*mp*) and piano (*p*). The lyrics are: 'Lit - tle \_\_\_\_\_ Miss Muf - - - fet Sat \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_ a tuf - - - fet, \_\_\_\_\_ Eat - ing her curds and whey; \_\_\_\_\_ There came a big spi - - - - - der, \_\_\_\_\_ Who sat down be - side \_\_\_\_\_ her And fright - - - - - ened Miss Muf - - - - - fet \_\_\_\_\_ a - way.'

## 2. Incey Wincey Spider

♩ = 90

*joyfully mp* *mf* *sfz* *mf*

In - - - c - - - ey Win - c - - ey

rit. - - - - ♩ = 60

accel. - - - -

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

spi - - - der Climbed

(accel.) - - - - ♩ = 90

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

up the wa - - - ter

*raucously sfz* *playfully mp* *p* *mf* *slyly mf* *mp*

spout; Down came the rain

rit. - - - - ♩ = 60

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

And washed the spi - - - der

♩ = 90

*raucously*  
***sffz***

*sweetly*  
***mp*** ***mf*** ***f*** ***mp***

out: Out came the sun

***mp*** ***mf*** ***mp*** ***p*** ***mf*** *joyfully*  
***f***

And dried up all the rain; So In

***mf*** ***f*** ***mp*** ***p*** ***rit.*** ***p*** ♩ = 60

- cey Win cey spi der

♩ = 45 ***pp*** ***mf*** ***f*** ***nasal*** ♩ = 60 ♩ = 90

† Climbed

***mf*** ***f*** ***rit.*** ***ff*** ***f*** ***mf*** ***p*** ♩ = 60

up the spout a gain

\* As high as possible  
† Gradually reveal the word