

The Dragonfly Song

from *The Ecstasy of Rita*

Music: Victor Davies
Words by George Ryga

The FATHER turns to RITA JOE, talking slowly, and painfully.

Adagio ♩ = 84-86

FATHER: *mf*

1

5

once seen a drag-on - fly break - in' its shell, to get its

9

wings. _____ It was float - in' on wa - ter, _____ an' it

13 *poco a poco cresc. e accel.*

musical score for measures 13-15. It features a vocal line in bass clef and a piano accompaniment in grand staff (treble and bass clefs). The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The tempo/mood is *poco a poco cresc. e accel.*. The lyrics are: "crawled up on a log, Then it dug its feet".

16 *(sempre cresc.)*

musical score for measures 16-18. It features a vocal line in bass clef and a piano accompaniment in grand staff. The tempo/mood is *(sempre cresc.)*. The lyrics are: "in - to the log, an' it pulled un - til the". A dynamic marking of *(mf)* is present in the piano part.

19 *f* about $\text{♩} = 100$

Adagio $\text{♩} = 72$

musical score for measures 19-21. It features a vocal line in bass clef and a piano accompaniment in grand staff. The key signature has one flat. The tempo/mood is *Adagio* with a metronome marking of $\text{♩} = 72$. The lyrics are: "shell bust o - ver its neck, an'". A dynamic marking of *f* is present in the piano part. The time signature changes from 6/8 to 6/4.

22 *accel.* *mp* *accel.*

slow - ly, its wings slipped out of the shell - like

He shows with his hands at each stage of the story, how the dragonfly got its freedom

25 *f* *Adagio* ♩ = 84-86

that! Such

29

wings I ne - ver seen be - fore

33

fold - ed and so fine, _____

36

like

thin

glass, _____

and

38

ossia

poco rall.

Tempo

white in the mor - ning

sun _____

42 Adagio ♩ = 84-86

mf

It spread its wings so

mf

This system contains measures 42 through 45. It features a vocal line in the bass clef and a piano accompaniment in the grand staff. The piano part consists of a steady eighth-note accompaniment in both hands. The lyrics are "It spread its wings so".

46

slow - ly an' then, the wings

This system contains measures 46 through 48. The tempo remains Adagio. The piano accompaniment continues with the same eighth-note pattern. The lyrics are "slow - ly an' then, the wings".

49

accel.
cresc.

mf

o - pened an' be - gan to flut - ter just like

mp *mf* *cresc.*

This system contains measures 49 through 51. The tempo changes to *accel.* and the dynamics include *mf* and *cresc.*. The piano accompaniment features a more complex texture with chords and moving lines. The lyrics are "o - pened an' be - gan to flut - ter just like".

♩ = 120 *sempre to end measure 65*

52

p *f* *p subito*

that see! Hes - i - tant at first then

f *p subito* *cresc. poco a poco*

56

stron - ger an' then, the wings beat - in' like that,

59

made the drag - on - fly's bod - y — qui - ver,

f

62

ff

rall

un - til the shell fell off its back!

This is for Perusal only

67

Moderato

mf

poco a poco cresc.

An' the dra-gon-fly flew up

poco a poco cresc.

72

up

up

in - to the white sun

The FATHER reaches up with his hands, releasing the imaginary dragonfly into the sun

76 *f* *ff*

to the green sky _____ to the sun _____

81 *mp*

fas - ter an' fas - ter High - er

his final words torn out of his heart.

85 *p*

High - er _____ High - er.