

The Waterwheel: A Tale of Tears

Juhan Puhm
and
Paul Yee

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Grandmother: [spoken] The Waterwheel: A Tale of Tears

Child: [spoken] Tell me, Grandma, tell me now.
Where does the water come from
To work our waterwheel?

An old lumbering waterwheel

♩ = 88 (just the slightest, slightest bit wobbly) (just the tiniest almost imperceptible glitch so the slight heaviness of the first beat, "the passage of time" is understood) , Bring out slightly

The musical score consists of three systems of piano accompaniment. The first system (measures 1-5) is in 5/4 time, starting with a piano (*p*) dynamic and a tempo of 88. It features a bass line with a 3+2 feel and a treble line with a wobbly, lumbering quality. The second system (measures 6-10) is in 5/4 time, with a tempo change to *mp subito!* and a dynamic change to *mf subito!*. The third system (measures 11-14) is in 6/4 time, starting with a *mp* dynamic, followed by a *rit.* section, and ending with a *molto rit.* section and a first ending (*l.v.*).

Grandmother: [spoken] High in the sky
Roams a lonely dragon
Weeping for it's children
Grown, and fled far away.

It's tears fall to earth,
Fill the oceans
And feed the fish.

It's pain drenches the mountains,
Flows over rivers
To come spin our wheel.

Chorus 1

16 ♩=58 Beautifully Rocking

mf The dra - gon is weep - ing for child - ren long gone — Let's make

The dra - gon is weep - ing for child - ren long gone Let's make

mf

Red.

a kite Shaped like a dra - gon

a kite Shaped like a dra - gon

Winds a - wak - en and car - ry it home — Lets make

Winds a - wak - en and car - ry it home Winds a - wak - en and

a kite Shaped like a dra - gon

car - ry it home (close the "m" here) Shaped like a dra - gon

rit.

p (echo)

p

l.v.

Child: [spoken]

A kite's new wings
 Are caught in the clouds,
 Ripped by angry currents
 As day turns to night.

Looming far below is land
 One slip and it's death.
 The only way to go is
 Is higher and homewards.

Chorus II

32 ♩=44 Gentler and slower

p The drag-ons are weep - ing For fam-ilies a - part

Hmm (throughout)

Ped.

Let's look to the sky Blow forth good wish - es High to the heav - ens

p

rit.

Where tears are fall - ing

rit.

l.v.

(lift pedal)

Grandmother: [spoken]

A mother's tears are magic.
They caress paper and string.
A wooden kite springs alive,
Breathing fire and steam.

Clouds fall under him.
He glides with newborn strength.
His scales are sparkling
Like a rainbow of flames.

Chorus III

49 ♩=35 ♪=104 Even slower and very freely

p Ah (throughout)

The dra-gons are fly - ing In blue sap-phire pure

p Ped.

54 Sun - beam to sun - beam They leap and soar Crash-ing like o - cean surf

59 light-er than air (long pause)

(long pause) *p*

(long pause) *accel poco a poco*

p cresc poco a poco

slow arpeggio

Chorus IV

♩=58 Beautifully Rocking

64

mf The dra-gons are fly-ing A - bove sun and moon

The dra-gons are fly-ing A - bove sun and moon

69

Moth - er and child One less the oth - er Is a

Mo - ther and child One less the other Is a

74

wheel with - out wa - ter with no-where to turn Mo - ther

wheel with - out wat - er with no-where to turn Wheel with - out wa - ter with

78

and child The dra-gons are fly - ing A - bove sun and moon_ The dra-gons are fly - ing the

no-where to turn The dra-gons are fly - ing A - bove sun and moon_ The dra-gons are

82 *decresc poco a poco* **rit.** (long)

dra-gons are fly-ing the dra-gons are fly-ing the dra-gons are fly-ing

fly-ing the dra-gons are fly-ing the dra-gons are fly-ing the dra-gons are fly-ing

decresc poco a poco (hold past singers dropping out) l.v. (long)

Child: [spoken]

Tell me, Grandma, tell me now.
What is a dragon?

The Waterwheel joins the Kite

86 ♩ = 84 (as before but only this one time)

p

Ped. (hold pedal down almost throughout)

91 Getting slower and slower Like a kite disappearing from view *8^{va}*

decresc poco a poco

95 (8) *15^{ma}* Very, very slowly

ppp *ppppp* Play these notes but push down the keys so slowly that no sound comes out.