

# Raindrop Prelude

Prelude to Beethoven's Piano Sonata No. 23  
"Appassionata" in F minor, Op. 57

For solo piano

áine  
mallon



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For solo piano



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Composed for Michael McHale  
Duration c.8"

Raindrop Prelude was commissioned in 2020 by Moving On Music, with support from the Arts Council of Northern Ireland



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The glistening water calms me

The reflection of the clouded moon watches over deep  
waters filled with life, that will soon be disturbed from  
slumber

The wind skims the water and droplets start to fall, sweetly  
at first

They place themselves delicately on the water,  
creating circular shapes in the undulating waves, adding to  
its energy,  
little by little.

The rhythmical motion of the waves is hypnotising; its  
crash a comforting constant



# Raindrop Prelude

Áine Mallon

The note(s) in each box should be repeated with tempo and dynamics fluctuating in waves; like droplets falling; dynamics should fluctuate between pp - mp.  
Each box should last c.20 seconds

c.1 min

Silently depressed

(pp-mp)

Sost. Ped.

Gradually depress and release in continuous waves.

Ped.

Transition

12/8

12/8

♩ = c.120

2

*p*

Like raindrops;  
With space; Very free

Left hand not strictly measured; shimmering

With pedal

3

4

5

*mp*

2

6

*p*

Musical notation for measures 6-7. The right hand features a melodic line with slurs and accents. The left hand plays a dense, rhythmic accompaniment of sixteenth notes.

7

Musical notation for measures 7-8. The right hand continues the melodic line. The left hand maintains the rhythmic accompaniment.

8

14  
8

*mp*

Musical notation for measures 8-14. The right hand has a long slur over measures 8-9. The left hand continues the accompaniment. Measure numbers 14 and 8 are indicated at the end of the system.

9

*rit.* *8va* *poco a poco accel et crescendo*

*sub.p* *pp* *mp*

Sost. off *Ped.* *Ped.*

Musical notation for measures 9-10. Measure 9 is marked with a ritardando and includes a piano sostenuto pedal instruction. Measure 10 is marked with a piano fortissimo and includes a piano sostenuto pedal instruction. A dynamic hairpin shows a crescendo from piano to mezzo-piano. A *8va* instruction is present above the right hand. A box highlights the final notes of measure 10.

c. 30 seconds

11

*molto accel*

*8va* *mf* *ff*

3/4 3/4

Musical notation for measures 11-12. The right hand has a *8va* instruction. The left hand plays a rhythmic accompaniment. Dynamics range from mezzo-forte to fortissimo. The time signature changes to 3/4 for both hands.

♩ = c.60  
Totally free

(8)

12

*ff*

(Totally free;)  
Right hand continues on as if separate from left

(8)

13

*mf*  
*Cantabile*

(8)

14

*rit.*

(8)

15

*rit.*

(8)

16

*rit.*

(8)

17

mp

ff

3 3 3 3

This system contains measures 17 and 18. The right-hand part features a continuous sixteenth-note arpeggiated pattern. The left-hand part has a half note in measure 17, followed by a series of triplets in measure 18. Dynamics include *mp* and *ff*.

(8)

18

ff

This system contains measures 18 and 19. The right-hand part continues the sixteenth-note arpeggiated pattern. The left-hand part has a half note in measure 18 and a quarter note in measure 19. The dynamic is *ff*.

(8)

19

This system contains measures 19 and 20. The right-hand part continues the sixteenth-note arpeggiated pattern. The left-hand part has a half note in measure 19 and a quarter note in measure 20.

(8)

20

(b)

This system contains measures 20 and 21. The right-hand part continues the sixteenth-note arpeggiated pattern. The left-hand part has a half note in measure 20 and a quarter note in measure 21. A flat (b) is indicated above the first note of the right-hand part in measure 20.

(8)

21

This system contains measures 21 and 22. The right-hand part continues the sixteenth-note arpeggiated pattern. The left-hand part has a half note in measure 21 and a quarter note in measure 22.

22

23  $\text{♩} = 144$

Sost. off

26  $\text{♩} = 208$   
Almost imperceptible  
Poco a poco crescendo

Silently depressed

Sost. Ped.

30

35

40 (8)

Musical score for measures 40-44. Treble clef, 7/8 time. Right hand: eighth-note patterns with accents. Left hand: eighth-note accompaniment with a triplet in measure 44.

45 (8)

Musical score for measures 45-49. Treble clef, 7/8 time. Right hand: eighth-note patterns with accents. Left hand: eighth-note accompaniment.

50 (8)

*mp*

Ped.

Musical score for measures 50-53. Treble clef, 7/8 time. Right hand: eighth-note patterns with accents. Left hand: eighth-note accompaniment with a long melodic line. Pedal marking "Ped." spans measures 52-53.

54 (8)

*sub.pp*

*mp*

*8va*

Ped.

Musical score for measures 54-57. Treble clef, 7/8 time. Right hand: eighth-note patterns with accents. Left hand: eighth-note accompaniment with a long melodic line. Dynamics "sub.pp" and "mp" are marked. An "8va" marking is present. Pedal marking "Ped." spans measures 54-57.

(8)  
59 **molto rit.**

**molto rit.** *mf* *f* *accel.*  
Ped.

62 **♩ = c.60 Forceful**

**ff**

63

64

65

rit. . . . .

66

♩=208 With anticipation

rit. . . . .

67

*sub.p*

70 ♩ = c.60 Yearning

*p* Grow from nothing

71

72

73

Poco meno mosso; rubato

rit.

74

Musical score for measures 74-75. The right hand has a melodic line with slurs and ties, and the left hand has a simple accompaniment. A 'rit.' marking is present at the end of measure 75.

A tempo; (♩ = c. 60)

76

*mp*

Musical score for measures 76-77. The right hand has a melodic line with a triplet. The left hand has a dense, rhythmic accompaniment. A 'mp' dynamic marking is present.

77

*pp* *mp*

Musical score for measures 77-78. The right hand has a melodic line with a triplet and some grace notes. The left hand has a dense, rhythmic accompaniment. Dynamic markings 'pp' and 'mp' are present.

78

Musical score for measures 78-79. The right hand has a melodic line with a triplet. The left hand has a dense, rhythmic accompaniment.

rit.

79

Musical score for measure 79. The right hand has a few notes, and the left hand has a dense, rhythmic accompaniment. A 'rit.' marking is present above the staff.

80

10

*pp*

Silently depressed

Ped.

Sost. Ped.

81

82

83

Transition

The note(s) in each box should be repeated with tempo and dynamics (mp - pp) fluctuating in waves;  
 Each box should last c.10 seconds;  
 Like droplets falling

c. 30 seconds

84

*(mp-pp)*

Ped.

Gradually depress and release in continuous waves.

c. 12 seconds

Straight into 1st mvmt  
 of *Appassionata*;  
 Sostenuto pedal lift with  
 first note of *Appassionata*.

85

*pp*