

# Little Things

*for solo piano*

PERUSAL

Joshua Ballance

2020

# Preface

*Little Things* was written as a response to Rolf Hind's call for postcard pieces during the COVID-19 pandemic. If anything positive has come from this period, for me it has been finding enjoyment in small pleasures I would typically dismiss as trivial, or not worthy of my time. Baking bread, tending to my plants. Trapped inside I've found structure and direction in these activities, which are both individually creative, and yet leave so much outside of my control.

The starting point for this piece was re-reading Philip Larkin's *Love Songs in Age*, from *The Whitsun Weddings*. As is often the case with Larkin's poetry he uses a small, menial object—the protagonist's songbooks—as a starting point for a reflection on more profound subject matter, the failed promise of love. Whilst Larkin moves through youthful optimism to a typically pessimistic resolution, I hope that *Little Things* might preserve at least a little optimism.

# PERUSAL

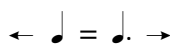
Duration: c. 45"

for Rolf Hind

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Floating (♩ = c. 50)



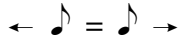
*ppp*  
*p* wistful  
Ped.

poco rall.

*ppp*  
*mf* Determined (♩ = c. 50)  
Ped.

PERUSAL

poco accel.



poco rit.

*more flustered*  
*f* majestic  
Ped.

molto rit. Reflective (♩ = c. 44)

*p* resonant  
*ppp* even  
*mp*  
*p* whispered  
Ped.