



**Janet Oates**

2016

**A Lover**

For two voices (medium or high) and piano

*Duration c. 5 minutes*

This piece also exists in a version for solo voice and piano, and for unaccompanied female vocal ensemble.

### Text by Amy Lowell

If I could catch the green lantern of the firefly  
I could see to write you a letter

#### Performance notes

The central box is the main music. Perform the full duration of it, starting when you like. At any time – and responding to the each others' choices too – perform any of the smaller boxes, repeating them if you wish. You could start the piece with a smaller box if you like. If you can continue performing the central box, do so (pianist may do so with one or both hands). Return to where you left off in the central box, or slightly before. You may end at the end of the central box, or finish with one or more small boxes.

Move straight on to the B section, independently, repeating the first bar (or bits of it) until all performers are ready to move on. At the end of section B, when all performers are tapping in a synchronised tempo, repeat section A. This time you may prefer to skip some bars of the central box in favour of more smaller boxes.

- Dynamics: vary the level of dynamics each time you re-enter having performed a box. Respond to each other in some way.
- Piano part: accidentals apply to one hand only, for the duration of the bar.
- You will need a jam jar or similar; tap with fingernail, pencil or chopstick (or similar) to make a lovely clinking noise
- Piano is prepared with paper or objects to make a buzzing sound, only necessary for a small range of notes

# A Lover

Janet Oates

*If I could catch the green lantern of the firefly  
I could see to write you a letter. (Amy Lowell)*

The central box is the main music. Play the full duration of it, starting when you like. At any time – and responding to the vocalist's choices too – perform any of the smaller boxes, repeating them if you wish. You could start the piece with a smaller box if you like. If you can continue playing the central box with one or both hands, do so. Return to where you left off in the central box, or slightly before. You may end at the end of the central box, or finish with one or more small boxes.

- Accidentals apply to one hand only, for the duration of the bar.
- You will need a jam jar or similar; tap with fingernail, pencil or chopstick to make a lovely clinking noise
- Piano is prepared with paper or objects to make a buzzing sound, only necessary for the small range of the box.
- Dynamics: vary the dynamic level each time you re-enter having performed a box, and respond to the singer in some way.



*gliss inside*

*depress keys;  
sustain pedal*

*tap jar*

*knock on wood*

*ord.*

*vocalise repeat ad lib.*

*tap jar*

*pluck inside*

*depress keys;  
sustain pedal*

*prepared notes (buzzing)*

*slowly, free tempo*

*tap jar*





# A Lover

Janet Oates

*If I could catch the green lantern of the firefly  
I could see to write you a letter. (Amy Lowell)*

The central box is the main music. Sing the full duration of it. At any time – and responding to the the other performers’ choices too – perform any of the smaller boxes, repeating them if you wish. You could start the piece with a smaller box if you like. If you can continue singing the central box, do so. Return to where you left off in the central box, or slightly before. You may end at the end of the central box, or finish with one or more small boxes.

Dynamics: vary the dynamic level each time you re-enter having performed a box. Respond to the other performers in some way.

vocalise  
(unvoiced)

mf. — a

tap jar

sing

Eeh! — i ee!

tap jar

$\text{♩} = 100$

da da dum, da da da da dum *sim.*

4

8

12

16

spoken  
with pitch contour

If I I I L..

whistle

SLOWLY... free tempo



vocalise

t k t ahhh t k t k ch ch t k t k ahh  
repeat ad lib.

tap jar

*Gesture*

You have something in your hand.  
Palm up, suddenly open your fingers  
and let it fly free.

# B section

Singers' 3-line staff represents very high, high and middle vocal range.  
Pianist's voice at a comfortable range.

all repeat this bar, or your choice of elements of it, until all performers are here. Don't co-ordinate

Musical score for the first section of the B section. It consists of three staves: Singers 1 and 2, Pianist's voice, and Inside piano. The Singers' staff has a 3-line staff with notes on the top two lines and a gliss. line. The Pianist's voice staff has notes on the middle line and a gliss. line. The Inside piano staff has a wavy line representing a glissando. Pedal markings are present at the beginning and end.

Annotations for the piano part:  
 from about an octave above mid C to about an octave below  
 an octave higher than that, in the front section near the pegs

Musical score for the second section of the B section. It consists of four staves: Singer 1, Singer 2, Pianist's voice, and Inside piano. The score begins with a rehearsal mark 7 and the instruction "BEGIN TOGETHER".

Lyrics for Singer 1: "If I i i i i i could catch.... t-k t ng the gree"

Lyrics for Singer 2: "Ah... ch ch ch ng... ee... gliss." (with gliss. line)

Lyrics for Pianist's voice: "Ah... t-k-t ee... gliss." (with gliss. line)

Lyrics for Inside piano: "t-k-t ee... knock strings with knuckles: start about a fifth above mid C"

Annotations for the piano part:  
 same pitch range, normal resonance (not near pegs)  
 about mid.C upwards ... about an octave higher  
 knock the big metal strut at about mid C  
 knock strings with knuckles: start about a fifth above mid C

14

1 *mf* *gliss.* *p*

2 *pp* *gliss.* *fff...* *p*

p's voice

inside pf

of the fire\_ fly, ng...

nnn

nnn

ng...

ng...

pluck: around an octave above mid C

SPOKEN VERY SLOWLY:  
don't co-ordinate

18

1 I could see to write you a letter. *sim.*

2 Tap jar... *sim.*

p's voice I could see

inside pf *sim.*

tap jar when ready  
in tempo of A (*synch pulse with singer 2*)  
and with similar rhythmic patterns

tap jar when ready  
in tempo of A (*synch pulse with singers*)  
and with similar rhythmic patterns

Once all are tapping, individually choose to move back to repeat section A.