

Duration: c.3 minutes

Programme note:

Two Songs About Spiders sets two well-known nursery rhymes: *Little Miss Muffet*, followed by *Itsy Bitsy Spider*. The impetus for the piece came from suffering from arachnophobia whilst living in a small terraced house in Birmingham during 2010-2011, also home to many arachnids of various sizes. The piece is dedicated to the soprano Jane Manning, who is rather fond of these eight-legged creatures!

Stephen Mark Barchan (August 2011)

LITTLE MISS MUFFET

Little Miss Muffet
Sat on a tuffet,
Eating her curds and whey;
Along came a spider,
Who sat down beside her
And frightened Miss Muffet away.

ITSY BITSY SPIDER

The itsy bitsy spider climbed up the water spout.
Down came the rain, and washed the spider out.
Up came the sun, and dried up all the rain,
and the itsy bitsy spider crawled up the spout again.