

# **A Pussycat Love Song**



**Joelle Wallach**

for Jasmin

# Alleycat Love Song

*Come into the garden, Fred,  
For the neighborhood tabby is gone.  
Come into the garden, Fred.  
I have nothing but my flea collar on,  
And the scent of catnip has gone to my head.  
I'll wait by the screen door till dawn.*

*The fireflies court in the sweetgum tree.  
The nightjar calls from the pine,  
And she seems to say in her rhapsody,  
"Oh, mustard-brown Fred, be mine!"  
The full moon lights my whiskers afire,  
And the fur goes erect on my spine.*

*I hear the frogs in the muddy lake  
Croaking from shore to shore.  
They've one swift season to soothe their ache.  
In autumn they sing no more.  
So ignore me now, and you'll hear my meow  
As I scratch all night at the door.*

Dana Gioia

Joelle Wallach

Langorous, sensuous and seductive ♩.=60-63

3 *mp seducentemente\**

Come in - to the gar - den, Fred; the neigh - bor - hood tab - by is

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\* Throughout this song, dynamics and tempo may be modified in the service of a tasteful hamminess (tuna-y-ness?).

7

gone. Come in - to the gar - den, Fred; I've no-thing but my flea col - lar

This block contains the musical notation for measures 7 and 8. The vocal line begins with a whole rest in measure 7, followed by a half note 'C' in measure 8. The piano accompaniment consists of eighth-note chords in the right hand and a bass line with eighth notes and chords in the left hand. The key signature has one flat (Bb).

9

*mf* on. the scent of cat - nip has gone to my head. I'll wait by the

This block contains the musical notation for measures 9 and 10. The vocal line starts with a half note 'o' in measure 9, followed by a half note 'n' in measure 10. The piano accompaniment continues with eighth-note chords and a bass line. The key signature has one flat (Bb).

11

*mp* *mezza voce* screen door till dawn. I'll wait by the screen door till

This block contains the musical notation for measures 11 and 12. The vocal line has a whole rest in measure 11 and begins with a half note 'I' in measure 12. The piano accompaniment features eighth-note chords and a bass line. The key signature has one flat (Bb).

13

*mp* dawn. The fire - flies court in the sweet - gum tree, the night - jar calls from the

This block contains the musical notation for measures 13 and 14. The vocal line starts with a half note 'd' in measure 13, followed by a half note 'a' in measure 14. The piano accompaniment continues with eighth-note chords and a bass line. The key signature has one flat (Bb).

15

4

pine, and she seems to say in her rhapsody, "Oh, mus-tard brown Fred, be mine."

17

*mf*

The scent of cat-nip has

19

gone to my head.

21

*mp*

The full moon lights my whiskers a-fire, the fur goes erect on my

23 *poco f*\*

spine, the scent of cat - nip has gone to my head.

25 *mp*

Oh, must-tard brown Fred, be mine. I hear the frogs in the

*mp* (Frogs...)

27 *mf*

mud - dy lake, croak - ing from shore to shore. They've one swift

\* *poco f* is less loud than *mf* throughout.

29 *poco ominoso*

sea - son to soothe their ache. In au - tumn they sing no more. Ig - nore me

31 *mf a shade more insistant*

now and you'll hear my me - ow as I scratch all night at the door. The scent of cat - nip

33 *mp* *mf*

has gone to my head. I'll wait by the screen door till dawn.

35 *mp dolce*

The full moon lights my

*mf deciso*

whis-kers a - fire, the fur goes e - rect on my spine, the scent of cat - nip — has