

Songs for Jane for soprano and viola

Nicola LeFanu
(2006)

1

Far away mountain peaks
Reflected in its eyes
The dragonfly

2

Scattered petals
Drift on the ruffled water
Sky filled with glittering stars
Moonlight scattered on the water

3

Standing around, looking intelligent
Sitting in silence, patient and dutiful
It's not nearly as good as giving a party.
Standing around, looking astute
Sitting quietly, bothering nobody
It isn't much fun.
Not nearly as good as giving a party
Or having a fling,
Or better still
Drinking brandy!
And then when you see
Old Age try to come in
Lock the door!
When you see Old Age coming
Just say -
I'm not at home!

texts freely adapted from the Japanese.
Duration c.7 minutes

These three songs on anonymous Japanese texts were written in 2006 for my
cousin Jane Darwin on her seventieth birthday.