

# The Red-Headed Daredevil

Elena Specht

Text by Rushi Vyas

2015

Duration: ca. 5 minutes

mezzo-soprano and piano

This piece was a three-way collaboration between myself, mezzo-soprano Tessa Romano, and her partner, poet Rushi Vyas. Rushi allowed me to look through a collection of his poetry, and I chose *The Red-Headed Daredevil*, the fourth in a set of six poems, though it stands very nicely on its own. The poem tells the story of a little girl and boy playing by the river with their father supervising, told from a narrator's perspective. The poem is largely descriptive, and for that reason I gave it the feeling of a lullaby, but as the action picks up, the music moves with it.

*The Red-Headed Daredevil* was premiered in Grusin Music Hall in Boulder, CO on April 6, 2016.