

**To a Child at the Piano**  
**by Alastair Reid**

Play the tune again: but this time  
with more regard for the movement at the source of it  
and less attention to time. Time falls  
curiously in the course of it.

Play the tune again: not watching  
your fingering, but forgetting, letting flow  
the sound till it surrounds you. Do not count  
or even think. Let go.

Play the tune again: but try to be  
nobody, nothing, as though the pace  
of the sound were your heart beating, as though  
the music were your face.

Play the tune again. It should be easier  
to think less every time of the notes, of the measure.  
It is all an arrangement of silence. Be silent, and then  
play it for your pleasure.

Play the tune again; and this time, when it ends,  
do not ask me what I think. Feel what is happening  
strangely in the room as the sound glooms over  
you, me, everything.

Now,  
play the tune again.

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