

# 上善若水

## Shàng Shàn Ruò Shuǐ\*

\*«The true goodness is like water  
[in that it benefits everything and harms nothing]»

Music: Rosita Piritore (\*1996) 2023  
Text: Laozi (6. Jh. v. Chr.), from the *Daodejing*  
Translation: Dwight Goddard (1861–1939)  
and Henri Jean François Borel (1869–1933)

Grave ♩ = ca. 62

Soprano  
shàng shàn shàng shàn

Alto  
shàng shàn shàn shàn

Tenore  
shàng shàn shàn shàn

Basso  
shàng shàn shàn shàn

5  
shàng shàn shàn ruò shuǐ

shàng shàn shàn ruò shuǐ

shàng shàn shàn ruò shuǐ

shàng shàn shàn ruò shuǐ

shàng shàn shàn ruò shuǐ

Aufführungsdauer / Duration: ca. 4:30 min.

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8 **a tempo**

*pp* shàng shàn shàng shàn *pp*

*pp* shàng shàn *ppp* whisper *pp* shàng shàn *ppp* whisper

*pp* shàng shàn *ppp* whisper *pp* shàng shàn *ppp* whisper

*pp* shàng shàn *pp* shàng shàn

12 *pp* shàng shàn *p* shàng shàn ru -

*pp* shàng shàn *ppp* whisper *p* shàng shàn shàn *p*

*pp* shàng shàn *ppp* whisper *p* shàng shàn shàn *p*

*pp* shàng shàn *p* shàng shàn shàn *p*

shàng shàn shàn

15 *pp* ruò shuǐ

*(p)* ru - ò *pp* ruò shuǐ

*(p)* ru - ò *pp* ruò shuǐ

*(p)* ru - ò *pp* ruò shuǐ

17

shàng shàn shàng shàn shàng shàn

shàng shàn shàn shàng shàn shàn shàng shàn shàn

shàng shàn shàn shàng shàn shàn shàng shàn shàn

shàng shàn shàn shàng shàn shàn shàng shàn shàn

shàng shàn shàn shàng shàn shàn shàng shàn shàn

poco accel.

20

shàng shàn ru - ò ru - ò ruò

shàng shàn ru - ò ru - ò ruò

shàng ru - ò ruò ruò ruò

ò ruò shuǐ shàn ruò shuǐ

ruò shuǐ shàn ruò shuǐ

ruò shuǐ shàn ruò shuǐ

ruò shuǐ ru - ò shuǐ

rit. a tempo

23

ruò shuǐ shàn ruò shuǐ

ò ruò shuǐ shàn ruò shuǐ

ruò shuǐ shàn ruò shuǐ

ruò shuǐ ru - ò shuǐ

26

*pp* *ppp* *rit.* *ppp* *al niente* *whisper*  
 ruò shuǐ ruò shuǐ  
*pp* *ppp* *al niente* *whisper*  
 ruò shuǐ ruò shuǐ  
*pp* *ppp* *al niente* *whisper*  
*pp* *ppp* *al niente* *whisper*  
 ruò shuǐ ruò shuǐ

### Notes on pronunciation

In the score you find the chinese text as a transcription to latin letters. Here are a few notes on the pronunciation:

chinese character / reduced [pronunciation]

- 上 / shàng / [sà]
- 善 / shàn / [sàn]
- 若 / ruò
- 水 / shuǐ

The symbol  $\xi$  / [ɕ] in the score is a whispered post alveolar fricative (similar to the German "sch", for example in the word "Schle" or like in "shadow").

