

## Swan Song

Told by Will Mead

[Folk Music]

Should you ever hear a swan's song, turn your ear. Pay attention. The tune is the work of a lifetime – from clutch to cygnet to cob.

From the whistle of the wind, he learns the melody. Next, the timbre - rain drumming the water over which he glides.

And finally, when he courts his mate, some pen black of bill and feathers gleaming white, he learns the rhythm. It is the beat of her wings as they dance their pas de deux. But only on his deathbed, does the tune truly come together.

At last, he performs his elegy, his dirge, his swan song.