

Oh Moon

for a cappella SATB choir

2011

(ca. 5:30)

Text:
Michelle Kuo (b. 1981)

Music:
Christopher Gainey (b. 1981)

Oh moon, why must you shine so well?
So bright you seem a distant error.

Confess, old moon, you fear the firefly
Though paltry, her light is sure and warm.
She leaps and darts in orbitless dizzy
A private torch to children in summertime.

Confess, old moon, your doubt is stirred
As you remember how they chase
A flickering fly, thinking nothing
but how to catch her, and hold her fading light.

Not wanting grief, I gave up desire
Yet in so doing, lost tenderness.
Oh moon, so still I ought to hear my heart beat
Never has forgetting been so quiet.

- Michelle Kuo (2011)

To:

The Grinnell College Singers

Special Thanks to:

John Rommereim, Peter Nothnagle, Grinnell College, Michelle Kuo,
Kristin Gainey, David Gompper, Bruno Amato, and Ray Chester

Oh Moon

Yearning ♩ = 72

SOPRANO *p* Oh moon, — (n) Oh moon, — (n) Oh moon, —

ALTO *p* Oh moon, — (n) Oh moon, — (n) Oh moon, — (n) Oh moon, —

TENOR *p* Oh moon, — (n) Oh moon, — (n) Oh

BASS *p* Oh moon, — (n) Oh

Piano Reduction *p* Yearning ♩ = 72

6

mf — (n) why must you shine — so well? (l) So bright *p* you seem a dis - tant er - ror. —

mf — (n) why must you shine so well? — (l) So bright *p* you seem a dis - tant er - ror. —

mf moon, — (n) why must you shine so well? — (l) So bright *p* you seem a dis - tant er - ror. —

mf moon, — (n) Oh moon, — (n) So bright *p* you seem a dis - tant er - ror. —

16 **Pleading** ♩ = 76

mp *p* *mp*

fess, old moon, (n) you fear the fi-re fly. Though pal-try,

mp *p*

fess, old moon, (n) old moon, (n) Though pal-try, her

mp *p*

fess, old moon, (n) you fear the fi-re fly. Though pal-try, her

mp *p*

fess, (s) old moon, (n) Though pal-try, her

Pleading ♩ = 76

21 *accel.* *Playful* ♩ = 56

mf *n* *3* *3*

She leaps and darts in or-bit-less di-zzy, or-bit-less di-zzy,

mf *pp* *mf*

light is sure and warm. (m) She

mf *pp* *mf*

light is sure and warm. (m) She leaps (ps) and darts (ts) in

mf *pp*

light is sure and warm. (m)

accel. *Playful* ♩ = 56

3 *3*

26 *n* *mf* *3* *3*

leaps (ps) and darts (ts) in or-bit-less di-zzy, she

n *mf* *3*

leaps (ps) and darts (ts) in or-bit-less di-zzy, She leaps and

3 *3*

or-bit-less di-zzy, she darts in or-bit-less di-zzy, she leaps (ps) in

mf *3*

She leaps (ps) and darts (ts) she leaps and darts in or-bit-less

[illegible]

40 Sorrowful ♩ = 86

ff *mp* *mf*

(m) Con - fess, old moon, (n) your doubt is stirred

(m) Con - fess, old moon, (n) your doubt is stirred

(m) Con - fess, old moon, (n) your doubt is stirred

(m) Con - fess,

Sorrowful ♩ = 86

44

pp *p* *3* *mp* *p*

(d) a flick - er - ing fly, think - ing

p *3* *mp* *p*

(d) as you re - mem - ber how they chase (s) a flick - er - ing fly,

p *3* *mp* *p*

(d) as you re - mem - ber how they chase (s) a flick - er - ing fly, think - ing

p *3* *mp* *p*

as you re - mem - ber how they chase (s) a flick - er - ing - fly,

49 *mf* *p*

no - thing (ng) but how to catch her, _____ and hold her fa - ding light.

mf *p*

— think - ing no - thing (ng) but how to hold her fa - ding light. (t) Oh

mf *p*

8 no - thing (ng) but how to catch her, _____ and hold her fa - ding light. (t) Oh

mf *p*

— think - ing no - thing (ng) but how to hold her fa - ding light. (t) Oh

54 *mp* *mf* *pp* stagger breathing for constant hum

(t) Not wan - ting grief, (f) I gave up de - sire mm

pp stagger breathing for constant hum *n* *p* *mf*

mm yet in so do - ing

pp stagger breathing for constant hum *n*

mm

59 *rit.* *Calm* ♩ = 72

n *p*

Oh moon, (n) Oh moon,

pp *p*

(ng) lost ten - der ness. (s) Oh moon, (n) Oh moon,

p

Oh moon, (n) Oh moon, (n) Oh

p

Oh

rit. *Calm* ♩ = 72

3

64 *mf*

(n) so still I ought to hear my heart beat, (t) ne - ver has for -

mf

(n) so still I ought to hear my heart beat, (t) ne - ver has for

mf

moon, (n) so still I ought to hear my heart beat, (t) ne - ver has for

mf

moon, (n) so still I ought to hear my heart beat, (t) ne - ver has for -

72

moon, (n) Oh moon. (n)

moon, (n) Oh moon. (n)

moon, (n) Oh moon. (n)

moon, (n) Oh moon. (n)