

# *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

*to the Grinnell College Singers*

# Oh Moon

Michelle Kuo (2011)

Christopher Gainey (2011)

**Yearning**  $\text{♩} = 72$

**SOPRANO**      **ALTO**      **TENOR**      **BASS**

Piano Reduction

6

*(n) why must you shine so well? (l) So bright you seem a distant er - ror.*

*(n) why must you shine so well? (l) So bright you seem a distant er - ror.*

*(n) why must you shine so well? (l) So bright you seem a distant er - ror.*

*moon, (n) Oh moon, (n) So bright you seem a distant er - ror.*

II

*Oh moon, (n) Oh moon, (n) Oh moon, \_\_\_\_\_ (n) Con*

*Oh moon, (n) Oh moon, (n) Oh moon, \_\_\_\_\_ (n) Con*

*Oh moon, (n) Oh moon, (n) Oh moon, \_\_\_\_\_ (n) Con*

*Oh moon, (n) Oh moon, (n) Oh moon, \_\_\_\_\_ (n) Con*

*Oh moon, (n) Oh moon, (n) Oh moon, \_\_\_\_\_ (n) Con*

*rit.*

16 Pleading ⚡ = 76

16 Reading ♦ = 70

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

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

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

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

## Pleading ↘ = 76

A musical score for piano, showing two staves. The top staff uses a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The bottom staff uses a bass clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). Measure 11 starts with a dotted half note followed by an eighth note. Measure 12 starts with a sixteenth note followed by an eighth note. Both staves continue with various notes and rests, including a measure ending in 4/4.

21

accel. Playful  $\text{d} = 56$

She leaps and darts in orbit-less dizzy, orbit-less dizzy,  
light is sure and warm. (m) She  
light is sure and warm. (m) She leaps (ps) and darts (ts) in  
light is sure and warm. (m)

Playful  $\text{d} = 56$

26

leaps (ps) and darts (ts) in orbit-less dizzy, she  
leaps (ps) and darts (ts) in orbit-less dizzy, She leaps and  
8 orbit-less dizzy, she darts in orbit-less dizzy, she leaps (ps) in  
She leaps (ps) and darts (ts) she leaps and darts in orbit-less  
  

3

31

darts (ts) in or bit - less di - zzy, \_\_\_\_\_ or bit - less di - zzy, \_\_\_\_\_

darts in or - bit - less di - zzy, \_\_\_\_\_ or bit - less di - zzy, \_\_\_\_\_ or bit - less

8 or bit - less di - zzy, \_\_\_\_\_ or bit - less di - zzy, \_\_\_\_\_ or bit - less di - zzy, \_\_\_\_\_

di - zzy, \_\_\_\_\_ or bit - less di - zzy, \_\_\_\_\_ or bit - less di - zzy, \_\_\_\_\_ di - zzy, \_\_\_\_\_

or bit - less di - zzy, \_\_\_\_\_ or bit - less di - zzy, \_\_\_\_\_ di - zzy, \_\_\_\_\_

35

molto rit.

or - bit - less di - zzy, a pri - vate torch to chil - dren in sum - mer time.

or - bit - less di - zzy, a pri - vate torch to chil - dren in sum - mer time.

or - bit - less di - zzy, a pri - vate torch to chil - dren in sum - mer time.

or - bit - less di - zzy, a pri - vate torch to chil - dren in sum - mer time.

Sorrowful ♩ = 86

40 ***ff*** ***mp*** ***mf***

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

***ff*** ***mp*** ***mf***

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

***ff*** ***mp*** ***mf***

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

***ff***

(m) Con - fess, - - - - - Sorrowful ♩ = 86

44 ***pp*** ***p*** , ***p***

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

***p*** ***mp*** ***p***

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

***p*** ***mp*** ***p***

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

***p*** ***mp*** ***p***

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

49

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

54

*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  
*pp stagger breathing for constant hum* n  
 mm

64

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

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

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

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

68

rit.  
*mp*

get - ting been so qui - et. (t) Oh moon, (n) Oh moon, (n) Oh

get - ting been so qui - et. (t) Oh moon, (n) Oh moon, (n) Oh

get - ting been so qui - et. (t) Oh moon, (n) Oh moon, (n) Oh

get - ting been so qui - et. (t) Oh moon, (n) Oh moon, (n) Oh

*rit.*

72

moon, (n) Oh moon. (n)

moon, (n) Oh moon. (n)

moon, (n) Oh moon. (n)

moon, (n) Oh moon. (n)