

*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

Michelle Kuo (2011)

Christopher Gainey (2011)

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

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

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

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

11 *mf* *rit.* *pp* *p*

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

16 **Pleading** ♩ = 76 *mp* *p* *mp*

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

21 *accel.* *Playful* ♩ = 56

*n* *mf* *pp* *mf*

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

*mf* *pp* *mf* *pp*

*accel.* *Playful* ♩ = 56

26 *n* *mf*

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



Sorrowful ♩ = 86

40

*ff* *mp* *mf*

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

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

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

(m) Con - fess,

Sorrowful ♩ = 86

44

*pp* *p* *mp* *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*

8 (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 *mf* *p*

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 *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* \_\_\_\_\_





68 *p* *mp* rit. . . .

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 *pp*

moon, (n) Oh moon. (n)

moon, (n) Oh moon. (n)

moon, (n) Oh moon. (n)

moon, (n) Oh moon. (n)