

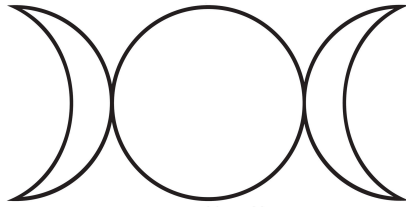
Mother Moon

For SAB choir and electronics

Áine Mallon

PERUSAL SCORE

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Commissioned by The Contemporary Music Centre & Sing Ireland 2022
For the Irish Youth Training Choir

PERUSAL SCORE

Mother Moon

For Soprano, Alto, Baritone and Electronics

Mother Moon explores the juxtaposing concepts of time and timelessness through the ever-present satellite orbiting our planet, the moon. It also explores the cultural, religious, temporal, mythological and semantic significance humans have attributed to moon throughout the ages.

The electronic track is designed to represent the strictly timed phases of the moon, each 'phase' is 10 bars at crotchet = 70, or 33 seconds long. In phases 1, 2, 3, 7, 8 and 9, the vocal parts sit on top of the strict phases as a representation of timelessness. These vocal parts are not to be whispered or sung strictly to time, but rather as the music is *felt* within each 33 second section. Phases 4, 5 and 6, (as well as section lines in Phases 7 and 8) have measured musical material that are to be performed strictly at dotted crotchet and crotchet = 70; the pulse remains the same.

The conductor will have a click track to play in their ear at 70bpm. The click will have 2 introductory bars of 4/4 before the piece begins. Both the track and the click track must be started at the same time; two bars of silence has been built into the electronic track for ease of performance.

Please be aware of the spatial limits of the score, some of the phases last one stanza or two stanzas due to length of musical material.

Boxed timing references throughout the score refer to both the click track and electronic track.

With thanks to NASA/JPL-Caltech/SwRI/Univ of Iowa for their audio sample of Juno's Ganymede Flyby, used in the electronic track for this work.

Performer Notes

Note-heads:

- x Whispered
- Sung

Phase 3 (and 7):

- Held consonants on a 'sung notehead' denote a sung consonant at pitch.
Eg. 'Th'
- Held 'R', as in 'bR-ight' should be rolled at pitch
- Whisper 'su' from Mea-su-res as 'sh'

Text:

The text was constructed by Áine Mallon. It is a compilation of single words taken from poems across time. The oldest poem is dated 610-570 BC with the most recent being the composers own addition in 2022. This was to convey an incredible expansiveness and to further the idea of the timeless moon, and how every human who has existed is connected to it.

She dances on the sea;
The tidal water waves.
She sails through windy skies,
Pulling the tides.

The bright air-grail
lowers a path to lead you.
She waxes / She wanes and rests
and measures the time

Isolate; pale queen of the silent night.
My gazing goddess reigning alone in her witchery;
O Lady Moon.
My Mother Moon.

Mother Moon

Áine Mallon

Hauntingly
Very freely; Approximate rhythms

Add soprano voice

Soprano solo

mp Ah

mp ah

Track

Phase 1: New Moon
33 seconds

00:07

(Synth drone on G throughout)

c. ♩ = 70; Freely
Add soprano voice

3

Soprano soli

mp Ah

Soprano soli

mp Ah

SAB: Individually introduce whispered text with energy; unvoiced and overlapping
Vary dynamic, tempo and rhythm
Elongate 's' and 'sh' sounds

p

S

p

A

p

B

She dances on the sea; the t-t-tidal water waves.
She sails through windy skies, pulling the t-t-tides

She dances on the sea; the t-t-tidal water waves.
She sails through windy skies, pulling the t-t-tides

She dances on the sea; the t-t-tidal water waves.
She sails through windy skies, pulling the t-t-tides

Tr.

Phase 2: Waxing Crescent
33 seconds

00:41

Individually introduce whispered / sung text with energy; overlapping
Vary dynamic (p-mf), tempo and rhythm
Stagger breathe

Continue to sing freely,
but become aware of pulse.

10

S1 Th - e br - igh - t t t t air grail low - er - s a pa - th to lead you

S2 Sh - sh - e wa - x - e - s and mea - su - re - s the time (m)

A1 Th - e br - igh - t t t t air grail low - er - s a pa - th to lead you

A2 Sh - sh - e wa - x - e - s and mea - su - re - s the time (m)

B1 Th - e br - igh - t t t t air grail low - er - s a pa - th to lead you

B2 Sh - sh - e wa - x - e - s and mea - su - re - s the time (m)

Phase 3: First Quarter

33 seconds

*Entry of marimba pulse

Tr. 01:15 12/8

♩ = 70
With Energy

11

S1 *p* I - so - late pale queen of the si - lent night. *mf* Reign - ing a - lone in her

S2 *p* I - so - late t-t-t-t-t-t-t-t-t-t pale queen of the si - lent night. *mf* Reign - ing a - lone in her

A1 *p* I - so - late pale queen, si - lent night. *mf* Reign

A2 *p* I - solate t-t-t-t-t-t pale queen, si - lent night. *mf* Reign

B *p* I - so late pale queen si - lent gaz - ing godd - ess, *mf* reign

Phase 4: Waxing Gibbous

33 seconds

Tr. 01:49 12/8

16 *p* *f*

S witch-e-ry O La - dy moon. My

A *p* *p* *f*

A witch e-ry witch e-ry O La - dy moon. My

B *p* *f*

B witch-e-ry O La - dy my gaz - ing god - dess reign. My

Tr.

With Adoration
♩ = 70

21 *f* *f*

S Mo - - - ther moon, mo - - - ther

A *f*

A Mo - - - ther moon, mo - - - ther

B *f* *Lightly*

B Mo - - - ther, mo - ther moon, my mo - ther moon

Tr.

Phase 5: Full Moon
33 seconds

02:24

27 *mp*

S moon, mo - ther moon

A *mp*

A my mo - ther moon, mo - ther moon

B *mp*

B my mo - ther, mo - ther moon

Tr.

12
8

4

♩. = 70
With Energy

31

p *mf*

S1 I - so - late pale queen of the si - lent night. Reign - ing a - lone__ in her

S2 I - so - late t - t - t - t - t - t - t - t pale queen of the si - lent night. Reign - ing a - lone__ in her

A1 I - so - late pale queen, si - lent night. Reign

A2 I - so - late t - t - t - t - t pale queen, si - lent night. Reign

B I - so - late pale queen si - lent gaz - ing godd - ess, reign

Phase 6: Waning Gibbous
33 seconds 02:58

Tr. $\frac{12}{8}$

36

mp *mf* *p*

S witch - e - ry O La - dy moon.

A witch - e - ry O La - dy moon. She

B witch - e - ry O La - dy my gaz - ing god - de - ss reign.

Tr.

♩. = 70
S/B: Individually introduce whispered / sung text to bubble underneath the alto line
Vary dynamic (p-mp), tempo and rhythm; Stagger breathe

41

S Th - e br - igh - t t t air grail lo - wer - s a pa - th to lead you

A wanes and rests, she wanes and re - s - ts, sh - e wanes and

B Th - e br - igh - t t t air grail lo - wer - s a pa - th to lead you

Phase 7: Last Quarter
33 seconds

Tr. $\frac{4}{4}$
03:32

46

S

A
re - s - ts sh - e wanes and re - s - ts sh - e wane - s and re - s - ts

B

Tr.

S/A: Individually introduce whispered text; less energy; unvoiced and overlapping
 Vary tempo and rhythm
 Elongate 's' and 'sh' sounds

51 *p*

S

A

B

Tr.

04.06

Phase 8: Waning Crescent
33 seconds

Very freely; Approximate rhythms

61

S.solo

ah
mp

ah

Phase 9 / 1: New Moon
33 seconds

Tr.

04.41