

Alex Stephenson

THE MOON'S FUNERAL

(2024)

for tenor and piano

Text by Joseph Hilaire Pierre Belloc

Composed for Justin Vickers

DURATION: 10 minutes

TO CONTACT THE COMPOSER

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for Justin Vickers

The Moon's Funeral

Joseph Hilaire Pierre Belloc (1896)

Alex Stephenson (2024)

PART IFlexible and expressive ($\text{♩}=50$)

Tenor

Piano

(grace notes before the beat always)

p *f* *p* *f* *p*

pp (*proton*) *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *p*

ritard. a tempo ($\text{♩}=50$)

p *pale*

The Moon is

pp

5

9

2

13

dead. _____ I saw her die. _____

p *espr.*

p *f* *p* *p*

17

ritard. _____ *a tempo*

più espr.

She

f *p* *rubato, flexible and floating*

loco *legato sempre*

p

(feel free to gently change Ped. more often than marked, ad lib.)

18

in a drift - - - ing

5 *6* *6* *6*

8

19

cloud was drest, She

5 *6* *6*

20

lay a - long the un -

5 6 6 6

8

21

cer - - - tain west,

5 6 6 6

8

22

p solemn A dream to

6 6 3 3

8

loco

26

see.

f aggressive

mp calmer

16 16 16

8

Reo.

(30)

p pale again

And ver - y low she spake to me:

p *pp* *p* *f* aggressive again!

half change sim. sim. full change Led.

(35)

mp calmer *p* *mp* *pp*

half change full half half

(39)

pp hushed, solemn

"I go where none may

mp *p* *pp* *p* *sonore*

full half full (full sempre)

44

un - der-stand, I fade in-to the name - less land, And

p *più p*

Increasingly restless and intense accel.

48

poco meno p *espr.* *f* *p*

there must lie per - pet - ual - ly."

p *ma sonore* *f* *p*

52

p *poss.* *p* *mf* *f*

And, And there - fore I,

f *p* *f* *p* *f* *p*

(Ped. sim. →)

6

♩=50 accel. ----- ♩=72 ♩=50 accel. ----- ♩=72 sempre

(55) *p* *poss.* *f* *p* *sub., cresc.* *mf* (*cresc.*)

And there fore loud - ly, loud - ly

(8) *f* *p* *f* *p* *f*

(59) *f*

I And

p *fp* *fp* *fp* *f*

(61) *ff* *Freely f*

high And ver - y pit - eous-

p *sub.* *ff* *ff*

(Ped. off!)

64 a tempo (♩=72)

ff *f* *ff* *f* *ff* *f* *ff*

- ly _____ make cr - y, make _____ cr - y,

ff *ffp* *ff* *ff* *ffp* *ff*

ff

68 rit. Tempo I (♩=50)

mf *f* *p* *solemn*

make _____ cry: _____ "The

meno f *mf* *p* *pp* *p* *ma sonoro*

p *ma sonoro*

8- (don't change Ped.)

72

Moon _____ is dead. I saw _____ her die."

p sim.

8- (don't change Ped.)

8

f *p*

f *p*

p

mf *p*

mf *p*

mf *p*

pp (poco)

pp

quasi timpani

sim.

attacca subito

PART II

Twice as fast - rigid, march-like, threatening (♩=100)

p sub.

p ma espr., slithering

8 (senza Ped.)

93

8

RH only: *f* *p*

(8) (LH remains *p*)

96

mf bitter, sarcastic, with swagger

And will she ne-ver rise

(8)

99

f

a-gain?

a sudden apparition

f *pp*

(8)

101

p poss., suddenly ethereal

The Ho - ly Moon?

(rhythms approximate; just an overall deceleration effect is desired)

ff *pp*

mf bitter again

Oh, ne-ver

p

8

poss.

more!

RH only:

f

both hands:

fffz

p cold, brittle
(sudden character change)

8

(8)

nervous, a bit stilted, "inhuman"

p *mf*
very short!

Per - haps

(8)

poco sfz

sfz
(sempre poco)

sfz

8 *sfz* loco

sfz

(115) *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *p* lyrical Freely , *pp* hushed

a - long the in - hu - man ____ shore Where

(8)

p

p più *p*

sffz *sffz*

(pochiss.) *sffz* loco

119

a tempo (♩=100)

nervous again

p *mf* *p* *mf*

pale ghosts are Be - yond the low

loco

p 5

8-
(poco) *sfz* *sfz*

123

le - the - an - fen She and some

mf *p* lyrical again *pp* hushed again

più p

(8) *sfz* *(pochiss.) sfz* *loco*

12

127

a tempo (♩=100)

ethereal

wide _____ in - fer - nal _____ star...

p

sfz (loco)

132

più p

sfz

137

f

p sub.

fff

8-----

141

mf as before (bitter)

To

p sub.

3

(8)-----

144 *mf*

us who loved her never more, The

(8)

147

Moon will ne-ver rise

(8)

149 *poss.*

a - gain. —

RH only: *f*

both hands: *fff* *p sub.*

(8)

152 *p*

Oh!

ff sub. *f* *ff*

(8)

Leo.

156

f

ne - ver — more in night - ly — sky

f

159

p *f* *p sub.*

Her eye so — high —

ff *f*

ff

ff

162

f

— shall peep and — pry

f

f

f

165

p *f* *p sub.* *f*

To see, — To see, —

ff *ff sempre*

ff

ff

169 *p* < *f* *sub.* *p* poss. *f* *p* *ff* *Freely*

To see the great world

fff *con tutta la forza!*

175 *ff* poss. *a tempo* (♩=100)

roll - ing by

ff *fff* *sempre*

181 *accel.* (molto)

f *sub.*

184 *Presto possibile*

fff *f*

187

Tempo I (♩=50)

p lonely *p* solemn

For why? For why? The Moon is

fffz *ff* *p* ma sonoro

(8)-----

193

dead. I saw her die. (F)

p sim.

8-----

197

Twice as fast (♩=100)

fp *fff* *mf*

(8)-----

200

(in time)

p *p* pessimistic, defeated *fff*

5 5

(8)-----