

Silver Deity of Secret Night
TTBB a cappella
TCT-CTS-012

Catherine Dalton

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SILVER DEITY OF SECRET NIGHT

A LOVE SONG TO THE MOON

TTBB a cappella, TB soli, 2 speakers

Catherine Dalton

Commissioned by Cantus in Celebration of the
50th Anniversary of the Apollo 11 Moon Landing



Text:

beta, gamma, epsilon, omega, delta, lambda, pi...

Thou silver deity of secret night,
Direct my footsteps through the woodland shade;
Thou conscious witness of unknown delight,
The Lover's guardian, and the Muse's aid!

By thy pale beams I solitary rove,
To thee my tender grief confide;
Serenely sweet you gild the silent grove,
My friend, my goddess, and my guide.

E'en thee, fair queen, from thy amazing height,
The charms of young Endymion drew;
Veil'd with the mantle of concealing night,
With all thy greatness and thy coldness too.

- *Lady Mary Wortley Montagu (1689-1762)*

Apollo 11 is scheduled to launch July 16, 1969 from the Kennedy Space Center in Florida. The 36-story Saturn V rocket with a first stage thrust of 7.5 million pounds will hurl astronauts Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin and Michael Collins into space en route to the moon, 240,000 miles away.

Two hours and 44 minutes into the launch, a "burn" will boost the payload from its 17,500 mile an hour earth orbit to an escape velocity of 25,000 miles per hour. After entering lunar orbit, the Eagle will separate from the Columbia. Armstrong will be the first man to set foot on the moon.

BOOSTER...GO, EECOM...GO FLIGHT, GNC...GO,
TELCOM...GO FLIGHT, CONTROL...GO, NETWORK...
GO FLIGHT, GO FOR LAUNCH... 50 SECONDS AND
COUNTING...TEN, NINE, EIGHT, SEVEN, SIX, FIVE, FOUR,
THREE, TWO, ONE, ZERO.

Program Note:

"Silver Deity of Secret Night" weaves together mathematics, poetry, and one of the most monumental moments in history, the launch and subsequent Moon landing of Apollo 11. Montagu's poem, "A Hymn to the Moon," illuminates an ethereal soundscape that touches the Moon dreamer in all of us, bringing us to the edge of our seats with anticipation. It's as if we were back in 1969 witnessing this colossal undertaking of humanity seeking to make contact with our closest neighbor in the Universe.

From the Composer:

From my first imaginings of Silver Deity, I knew I wanted it to embody the vastness of the scientific undertaking of the Apollo 11 mission as well as the vastness of time. Opening with a mantra of Greek letters, symbols integral to the mathematics used to design Moon rockets, we are taken into the confidence of Lady Montagu as she strolls through a moonlit arbour. Montagu confides her "tender grief" to the Moon, her "friend" and "guide," and recalls classical Greek culture with the word "serenely," a possible reference to Selene, the Greek goddess of the Moon, and her mention of the mortal target of Selene's love, the shepherd Endymion.

The intensity increases as Montagu addresses the Moon as her "fair queen, from thy amazing height" and TV and radio announcers remind us of the momentous undertaking. After the launch, as the dust falls away, the astronauts are left floating under the Moon's "pale beams" in their moonlight-gilded rocket. Might they, like Lady Montagu in her moonlight-gilded "silent grove," confide a "tender grief"? In the emptiness of space, a "silent grove" of planets, stars and star dust, do the astronauts, like the poet, contemplate the Moon's "greatness" yet "coldness too"?

- *Catherine Dalton*

Catherine Dalton's compositions are inspired by classical, jazz, folk, world music and chant. Her organically-conceived pieces use everyday life as their palette, exploring the familiar to the profound. Whether setting her own lyrics or the texts of others, she often selects unconventional and challenging topics such as uncommon courage, facing adversity, cultural diversity and mystical experiences as well as the simplest observations, sorrows and joys.

Described as evocative, haunting, and atmospheric, Dalton's music has been performed by Vox Femina Los Angeles, VocalEssence Chorus, Lumina, Cantus, Cleveland Chamber Choir, Young New Yorkers Women's Ensemble, Inversion Ensemble Da Capa, Atlanta Women's Chorus, and the new music ensemble, Zeitgeist. In addition to performances by hundreds of choirs across North America and abroad, her works are regularly selected for national and regional choral reading sessions, all-state choirs, and performances at the American Choral Director's Association Conferences.

Cantus is widely known for its trademark warmth and blend, innovative programming and engaging performances of music ranging from the Renaissance to the 21st century. The Washington Post has hailed the Cantus sound as having both "exalting finesse" and "expressive power" and refers to the "spontaneous grace" of its music making. The Philadelphia Inquirer called the group nothing short of "exquisite."

Cantus performs more than 60 concerts each year both in national and international touring, and in its home of Minneapolis/St. Paul, Minnesota. As one of the nation's few full-time vocal ensembles, Cantus has grown in prominence with its distinctive approach to creating music. Working without a conductor, the members of Cantus rehearse and perform as chamber musicians, each contributing to the entirety of the artistic process.

Committed to the expansion of the vocal music repertoire, Cantus actively commissions new music and seeks to unearth rarely performed repertoire for men's voices. The ensemble is heard frequently on both classical public radio nationwide and on SiriusXM Satellite Radio. Cantus has released 18 recordings on the group's self-titled label.

Integral to the Cantus mission is its commitment to preserve and deepen music education in the schools. Cantus works with more than 5,000 students each year in master class and workshop settings across the country.

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Silver Deity of Secret Night

A Love Song to the Moon

for TTBB, TB soli, and 2 speakers

Lady Mary Wortley Montagu

Catherine Dalton

mp lightly, a bit mechanical

mp lightly, a bit mechanical

Tenor

Bass

Piano (reh. only)

4 *mf* spoken as if writing the equation down, with a natural cadence

Sp. 1

T1

B1

4

* the letters y, v, s, and t

The historical photographs of the Apollo missions depicting mathematicians standing on ladders in front of enormous chalkboards covered with equations served as my source material for the above equations. Yet, my original, rather lofty, goal of finding just the right equation that was historically accurate, worked rhythmically, and was not too long, was unsuccessful. In the end, I used artistic license to create equations which incorporated Greek letters most people would recognize, while bearing similarities to the math on the giant chalkboards. Thus, you are forewarned – do not use these equations in the launching of actual moon rockets.

Performance time: 4:45



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7

Sp. 1

v times the square root of mu

mp dreamlike, ethereal

T1
del - ta, lamb - da, pi

T2
del - ta, lamb - da, pi be - ta, gam - ma,

B1
del - ta, lamb - da, pi be - ta, gam - ma,

B2
del - ta, lamb - da, pi

mp dreamlike, ethereal

Nn

10

T1

T2
ep - si - lon, o - me - ga, del - ta, lamb - da, pi

B1
ep - si - lon, o - me - ga, del - ta, lamb - da, pi

B2

10

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13 *mf*

Sp. 1 y e - quals the co - sine of v times

Sp. 2 s squared e - quals mu times four di -

T1 Nn

T2 be - ta, gam - ma, ep - si - lon, o - me - ga, del - ta, lamb - da, pi

B1 be - ta, gam - ma, ep - si - lon, o - me - ga, del - ta, lamb - da, pi

B2 Nn

13 Nn

16 *rit.* **A** *a tempo*

Sp. 1 the square root of mu

Sp. 2 vid - ed by t

T1 *cantabile* Thou sil - ver de* - i - ty of se - cret night, —

T2 *cantabile* Thou sil - ver de* - i - ty of se - cret night, —

B1 Oo

B2 Oo

16

* [di]

19

T1
Di-rect my foot-steps through the wood-land shade; Thou con-scious wit-ness of un -

T2
Di-rect my foot-steps through the wood-land shade; Thou con-scious wit-ness of un -

B1
Oo

B2
Oo

19

22

T1
known de - light, The Lov - er's guard-i - an, and the Mus - e's aid!

T2
known de - light, The Lov - er's guard-i - an, and the Mus - e's aid!

B1
Oo

B2
Oo

22

Timothy C Takach.com *mf*

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25

T1
By thy pale beams I sol - i - tar - y rove, To thee my ten - der grief con -

T2
By thy pale beams I sol - i - tar - y rove, To thee my ten - der grief con -

B1
mf
Ah Ah Oh

B2
mf
Ah Ah Oh

25



28

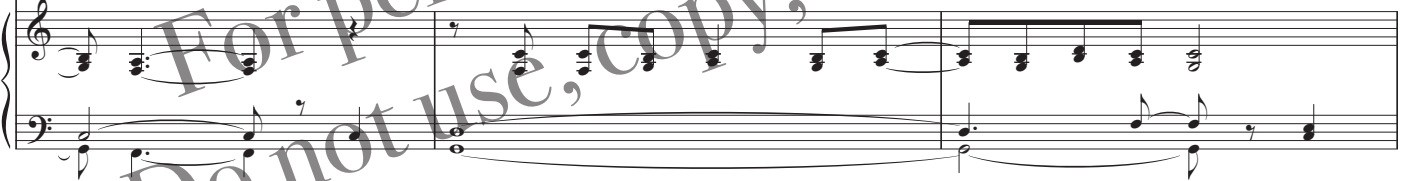
T1
fide; Se - rene - ly sweet you gild the si - lent grove,

T2
fide; Se - rene - ly sweet you gild the si - lent grove,

B1
Ah Ah

B2
Ah Ah

28



B With Reverence
a tempo
sub. p cantabile

poco rit.

31

T1 My friend, my god - dess, and my guide E'en thee, fair

T2 My friend, my god - dess and my guide

B1 E'en thee, fair

B2 E'en thee, fair

31



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34

T1 queen, from thy a - maz - ing height,

T2

B1 queen, from thy height,

B2 queen, from thy height,

34

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37

T1
8 The charms of young En - dym* - i - on drew; Veil'd with the man - tle of con -

T2

B1
8 The charms of young En - dym* - i - on drew; Veil'd with con -

B2
8 The charms, Oo Veil'd with con -

37

* [dEm]

40

C
read as a TV anchor, finish before Speaker 2

Sp. 1
Apollo 11 is scheduled to launch July 16, 1969 from the Kennedy Space Center in Florida.

Sp. 2
read as a TV anchor
Two hours and 44 minutes into

T1
8 ceal - ing night; Nn

T2
8 be - ta, gam - ma, ep - si - lon, o - me - ga,

B1
8 ceal - ing night; be - ta, gam - ma, ep - si - lon, o - me - ga,

B2
8 ceal - ing night; Nn

40

p dreamlike, ethereal

p lightly, a bit mechanical

p

p dreamlike, ethereal

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43

Sp. 1 The 36-story Saturn 5 rocket with a first stagethrust of 7.5 million pounds, will hurl astronauts Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin, and Michael Collins,

Sp. 2 the launch, a "burn" will boost the payload from its 17 thousand 5 hundred mile an hour earth orbit to an escape velocity of 25 thousand miles per hour.

T1 Nn

T2 del - ta, lamb - da, pi be - ta, gam - ma, ep - si - lon, o - me - ga,

B1 del - ta, lamb - da, pi be - ta, gam - ma, ep - si - lon, o - me - ga,

B2 Nn

43

47

D With Reverence

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Sp. 1 into space en route to the moon, 240 thousand miles away.

Sp. 2 After entering lunar orbit, the Eagle will separate from the Columbia. Armstrong will be the first man to set foot on the moon.

T1 cut-off with speaker 2 *mp broadly* E'en thee, fair queen,

T2 del - ta, lamb - da, pi E'en thee, fair queen,

B1 del - ta, lamb - da, pi E'en thee, fair queen,

B2 cut-off with speaker 2 *mp broadly* E'en thee, fair queen,

47

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51 *floating* *mf*

T1 from thy a - maz - ing height, The charms of young En -

T2 from thy a - maz - ing height, The charms of young En -

B1 from thy a - maz - ing height, The charms of young En -

B2 from thy height, The charms,

51

54 *rit.* *p*

T1 dym - i - on drew; Veil'd with the man - tle of con - ceal - ing night;

T2 dym - i - on drew; Veil'd with the man - tle of con - ceal - ing night;

B1 dym - i - on drew; Veil'd with con - ceal - ing night;

B2 Oo Veil'd with con - ceal - ing night; With

54

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F *a tempo*

Sp. 1 *f* as if over a radio
ten nine eight

Solo 1 *mf* broadly Thy queen, from thy

Solo 2 *mf* broadly With all thy great - ness, With all thy great - ness,

T1 *mp* broadly With all thy great - ness, With all thy great - ness, *f*

T2 *mp* broadly With all thy great - ness, With all thy great - ness, *f*

B1 *mp* broadly With all thy great - ness, With all thy great - ness, *f*

B2 all thy great - ness, thy queen, from thy *f*

65

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69

Sp. 1 sev - en six five four three

Solo 1 height *f* and thy cold ness

Solo 2

T1 With all thy great - ness. *sub. p lonely* and thy cold - ness

T2 With all thy great - ness *sub. p lonely* and thy cold - ness

B1 With all thy great - ness *sub. p lonely* and thy cold ness

B2 height, thy great - ness *sub. p lonely* and thy cold, thy cold - ness

69

rit. **G** *a tempo*

73

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Sp. 1 two one ze - ro

Solo 1 too.

T1 *mp cantabile, floating* By thy pale beams I sol -

T2 *mp cantabile, floating* By thy pale beams I sol -

B1 *mp cantabile, floating* Oo

B2 *mp cantabile, floating* Oo

73

76

T1
i - tar - y rove, To thee my ten - der grief con - fide: Se - rene - ly sweet you gild

T2
i - tar - y rove, To thee my ten - der grief con - fide: Se - rene - ly sweet you gild

B1
Oo oh Oo

B2
Oo Oh Oo

76



80

Sp. 1

rit. Timothy C Takach.com
Apollo 11, this is Houston. Over.

T1
the si - lent grove, My friend, my god - dess, and my guide.

T2
the si - lent grove, My friend, my god - dess, and my guide.

B1
Oo my guide

B2
Oo my guide.

80



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