

Racing the Moon  
SATB, piano  
JH - GRL44

Naomi LaViolette

pdf - \$1.95  
printed - \$3.75

# Racing the Moon

Naomi LaViolette

for SATB choir and piano



COMPOSE  
LIKE A **GIRL**

*jh* music

Illustration: KT Thompson

## Text:

Racing the moon  
Watching from my car  
Keeping time in my window  
Turn left she falls behind  
Turn right she's leagues ahead  
A race that's never won, and never ends  
Turn left she falls behind  
Turn right she's leagues ahead  
A winless race that never ends  
Night after night she gallops beside us  
Peeking through stars and shrouded in silence  
The moon in her climb, striving to win  
Leaping ahead just to fall back again  
Racing the moon

I feel like the moon  
Never stopping this race  
Constantly working, reaching, trying  
Turn left I fall behind  
Turn right I'm leagues ahead  
A winless race that never ends  
Always something to run to  
Somebody better  
Those that surround me  
All are ignored  
I race the sky, night after night  
All I can see is what I could be  
I feel like the moon

Racing the moon  
Join in the dance, join in the song  
Waxing and waning she pulls us along  
No one will win, no one will lose  
Racing the moon  
I'm learning how  
there only is now  
Racing the moon

*- Adapted from poetry by Lucia LaViolette*

## From the Composer:

With text adapted from poetry by my daughter, Lucia LaViolette, the first half of "Racing The Moon" addresses the common struggles of proving oneself, getting ahead, and the angst of comparison. Through minor dissonance and regular occurrences of 2 against 3 rhythms, the music expresses the contrast of rigid striving with fluid, more circular movement. As the song gives way to a major key modulation and change to compound meter, the second half settles into a state of flow. The text invites us to focus on the present moment and participate in the exciting race of life as an ongoing communal dance and song, rather than a competition to be won or lost. Read Lucia's full poem on the final page of the score.

*- Naomi LaViolette*

Dear conductor,

You can support these composers, diversify your concerts, and push towards equality by programming music from the #ComposeLikeAGirl series. Inviting the composer into the rehearsal process through a zoom or in-person workshop or Q & A session is an incredible experience for all involved. Be sure to notify and invite the composer to any performances of the work, and submit a PDF of the concert program to JH Music to ensure the composer receives performances royalties from ASCAP. Thank you!

*~ Jocelyn Hagen*



"Naomi LaViolette is among the very finest musicians with whom I've worked during my long career. A superlative pianist and composer/arranger, Naomi is acclaimed for her musicality and is a leading figure in the artistic culture of Portland, Oregon. I am honored to be her colleague and friend."

*- Dr. Morten Lauridsen*

**Naomi LaViolette's** compositions have been performed worldwide in professional, amateur, sacred and scholastic settings. In 2018, her piece "Melancholy Flower," co-composed with Steven Craig Goodwin, was included in Gothic Records release of the Shadows on the Stars album by Oregon Repertory Singers, winner of the American Prize. She studied Music Theory and Composition while pursuing her undergraduate and graduate degrees in Piano Performance, and her professional work as a choral accompanist and chamber musician since 2001 greatly influences her composing. She is a published composer with Santa Barbara Music Publishing, the composer and arranger for the Oregon Symphony Lullaby Project, and the accompanist for the Oregon Repertory Singers since 2004. Her music for choirs, chamber ensembles, soloists, and orchestras reflect an authentic connection to nature, spirituality and humanity. To inquire about commissioning a work, contact Naomi through her website, [www.naomilmusic.com](http://www.naomilmusic.com).

Commissioned in celebration of the 30th anniversary of the Oregon Repertory Singers Youth Choir, 2024  
Directed by Aubrey Patterson

# Racing the Moon

Do not photocopy. SATB choir and piano

For perusal only.

Adapted from poetry by Lucia LaViolette

Naomi LaViolette

♩ = 66 - 69

Solo or Soprano Group:

*mf*

Solo

Ra - cing - the moon      Watch - ing from my car, — keep - ing time in — my win - dow —

Piano

*mp*

*ped.* ————— *^* — pedal harmonically

**A**

5

Solo or Alto Group:

—      Turn left she falls be - hind —      turn right she's leagues a - head —      A race that's

*legato*

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*jh* music

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Check out the Compose Like A Girl Podcast! Listen to Jocelyn Hagen interview incredible female-identifying composers about their process, finding artistic truth, and leading with curiosity. These inspirational interviews are complemented by excellent recordings.



8

ne - ver won\_ and ne - ver\_ ends

S Do not photocopy. turn *mp*

A For perusal only. Turn left she falls be - hind,\_ turn *mp*

T Turn left she falls be - hind,\_ turn *mp*

B

8

Jocelyn Chagen

11 *mf*

S right she's leagues a - head\_ A win - less race\_ that ne - ver\_ ends\_

A right she's leagues a - head\_ A win - less race\_ that ne - ver\_ ends\_ *mf*

T right she's leagues a - head\_ A win - less race\_ *mf*

B A win - less race\_ *mp* *mf*

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11 *mf*

Solo or Alto & Tenor Group:

14

*mf*

Night af - ter night she gal - lops be - side us, peek - ing through stars and shroud - ed in si - lence the

16

moon in her climb, striv - ing to win leap - ing a - head just fo fall back - a - gain

**B**

*mf*

Night af - ter night she gal - lops be - side us, peek - ing through stars, and shroud - ed in si - lence the

Night af - ter night she gal - lops be - side us, peek - ing through stars, and shroud - ed in si - lence the

Night af - ter night she gal - lops be - side us, peek - ing through stars, and shroud - ed in si - lence the

Night af - ter night she gal - lops be - side us, peek - ing through stars, and shroud - ed in si - lence the

Night af - ter night she gal - lops be - side us, peek - ing through stars, and shroud - ed in si - lence the

20

S moon in her climb striv - ing to win Leap - ing a - head just to fall back\_ a -

A moon in her climb striv - ing to win Leap - ing a - head just to fall back\_ a -

T moon in her climb striv - ing to win Leap - ing a - head just to fall back\_ a -

B moon in her climb striv - ing to win Leap - ing a - head just to fall back\_ a -

22

Solo or Soprano Group: *mp*

Ra - cing\_ the moon

S gain

A gain

T gain

B gain

22

*f*

*mp*

25

S *mp* I feel like\_ the

A *mp* I feel like\_ the

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C

S moon ne - ver stop - ping\_ this race con - stant - ly

A moon ne - ver stop - ping\_ this race con - stant - ly

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For perusal only.

30

S work - ing\_ reach - ing\_ try - ing

A work - ing\_ reach - ing\_ try - ing

T *mp* Turn left I fall be - hind\_ turn

B *mp* Turn left I fall be - hind\_ turn

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33

S *mf* A win - less race *f* that

A *mf* right I'm leagues a - head A win - less race *f* that

T *mf* right I'm leagues a - head A win - less race *f* that

B *mf* right I'm leagues a - head A win - less race *f*

8

Jocelyn Chagen

35

S *mp* ne - ver ends Ah

A *mf* ne - ver ends Al - ways some - thing to run to, some - bo - dy bet - ter,

T *mf* ne - ver ends Al - ways some - thing to run to, some - bo - dy bet - ter,

B

35

8

*mp*

37

S Ah

A those that sur - round me, all are ig - nored, I race through the sky, night af - ter night,

T those that sur - round me, all are ig - nored, I race through the sky, night af - ter night,

B Ah

*mp*

*mp*

*mp*

37

*mf*

39 Solo or SA Group:

S I feel like the moon

A what I can see Al - ways some - thing to run to, some - bo - dy bet - ter,

T all I can see is what I could be Run run run

B Al ways some - thing to run to, some - bo - dy bet - ter,

*mp*

*mf*

*mp*

*mf*

*mp*

*mf*

*mp*

*mf*

39

*mp*

41 *mf* E

I feel like the moon

S *mf*  
run all are ig - nored I race through the sky, night af - ter night

A *mp*  
those that sur - round me, all are ig - nored, I run run run run run run

T *mf*  
run run run run run run I race through the sky night af - ter night,

B *mp*  
those that sur - round me, all are ig - nored, I run run run run run run

41 *mf*

S *f*  
all I can see is what I could be

A *f*  
run run run what I could be Run run run

T *f*  
all I can see is what I could be, run run run All I can see

B *f*  
run run run what I could be I feel like the

43 *f*

8

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*rit.*

46

S All I can see is what I could be \_\_\_\_\_ Rac ing the

A Rac - ing the moon, Rac ing the

T Rac - ing the

B moon Rac - ing the

46

*f*

**F** *a tempo* (♩ = ♩)

S *f* moon Rac - ing the moon

A *f* moon Rac - ing the moon Rac - ing the

T *f* moon Rac - ing the moon

B *f* moon Rac ing the moon

*f*



G

win, no one will lose, Rac - ing the moon

*p*

S Ooh Join in the dance

A Ooh Join in the dance

T Ooh Join in the dance

B Ooh Join in the

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For perusal only.

Joelyn Chagen

56 *mf*

S join in the song, wax - ing and wan - ing she pulls us a - long, No one will

A join in the song, wax - ing and wan - ing she pulls us a - long, No one will

T join in the song, wax - ing and wan - ing she pulls us a - long, No one will

B dance, join in the song, wax - ing and wan - ing she pulls us a - long, No one will

56 *mf*

Do not photocopy.  
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58

S win, no one will lose, Rac-ing the moon Rac-ing the

A win, no one will lose, Rac-ing the Rac-ing the moon

T win, no one will lose, Rac-ing the moon Rac-ing the moon

B win, no one will lose, Rac-ing the moon Rac-ing the moon

*f*

58

*f*

**H**

S moon

A *f* I'm learn - ing how, there on - - ly is

T *mf* Rac-ing the moon

B *f* I'm learn - ing how, there on - ly is

*f*

64

S Rac - ing the moon Rac - ing the

A now I'm learn - ing how there

T Rac - ing the moon Rac - ing the moon

B now I'm learn - ing how there

64

joce lyn chagen

67

S moon Rac - ing the moon

A on - ly is now Join in the dance, Join in the

T Rac - ing the moon Rac - ing the moon Rac - ing the

B on - ly is now I'm learn - ing

67

70

S Rac - ing the moon Rac - ing the

A song Wax - ing and wan - ing she pulls us a - long

T moon there on - ly is now

B how, there on - - ly is now

70

joce lyn chagen

73

S moon Rac - ing the moon

A No one will win, no one will lose, Rac - ing the moon

T I'm learn - ing how there on - - ly is

B I'm learn - ing how, there on - ly is

73

76

S *ff* Rac - ing the moon

A *ff* Rac - ing the moon

T *ff* now Rac - ing the moon

B *ff* now Rac - ing the moon

76

*ff*

80

S *f* *ff*

A *f* *ff*

T *f* *ff*

B *f* *ff*

80

Here is the original poem by my daughter, which inspired the text for "Racing the Moon."

### My Honest Poem

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I used to think the moon could run  
I watched from the car as she kept time in my window;  
Turn left and she would fall behind, and appear again,  
Turn right and she was leagues ahead, winning the race.  
But the race never ended.

Night after night she would gallop beside us, peeking through the stars.  
The moon would be there every night, striving to win.  
She would have confidence some nights, and shine bright;  
Others, she would be practically invisible.  
But still, she was always there  
Always running, persisting, trying.  
Never stopping, never winning.

Sometimes I feel like the moon;  
Constantly working, reaching and trying.  
There's always something to run to, always somebody to catch up to.  
Always somebody better.  
Bigger.  
Happier.

As I race through the sky, those that surround me are ignored.  
The only thing I see is what I could be.

There are no honest wins,  
There are no honest losses.

There is only now.

And that is what I have to learn.

- Lucia LaViolette

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# Another great piece from the Compose Like a Girl Choral Series

Amelia Ouverson

A Departing Blessing

JH-GRL09

15

S God bring low the bron - zen sun to warm your kin - dred face.

A God bring low the bron - zen sun to warm your kin - dred face.

15 God bring low the bron - zen sun to warm your kin - dred face.

19 *tutti* stagger breathe *p*

S Ah

A *tutti* stagger breathe *p*

Ah

T *mf*

B *mf*

You'll walk and walk 'till night a - dorns the an - cient end - less sky with

19 You'll walk and walk 'till night a - dorns the an - cient end - less sky with

25

S As path leads on to

A As path leads on to

T *f*

B *f*

God's own flock of cry - stal stars that you can tra - vel by. As path leads on to

25 God's own flock of cry - stal stars that you can tra - vel by. As path leads on to

# COMPOSE LIKE A GIRL



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JH-GRL02	Suzy Johnson	A Respectable Bird	3-part treble choir, B $\flat$ clarinet, piano
JH-GRL03	Liv Grace	Hear Me Roar	SSAA a cappella choir
JH-GRL04	Sherry Blevins	Looking for Light	SSA choir, piano
JH-GRL05	Sherry Blevins	If I Call to You, My Love	SATB div., solo, a cappella choir
JH-GRL06	Jennifer Lucy Cook	Blow, Blow, Thou Winter Wind	SSA choir, tamb., hand drum
JH-GRL07.1	Patti Arntz	A Quilt of Snow (arr. of Norwegian folk tune)	SSA, flute, piano
JH-GRL07.2	Patti Arntz	A Quilt of Snow (arr. of Norwegian folk tune)	SATB, flute, piano
JH-GRL08	Grace Becker	Known	SATB choir, soloist, piano
JH-GRL09	Amelia Ouverson	A Departing Blessing	SATB choir, C instrument
JH-GRL10	B.E. Boykin	The Star-Spangled Banner (arr.)	SSAA a cappella choir
JH-GRL11	Grace Brigham	Love Isn't Static	round for equal voices
JH-GRL12	Grace Brigham	Life Has a Loveliness	SATB div. choir, piano
JH-GRL13	Mary Montgomery Koppel	The Last Invocation	SATB div. choir, piano
JH-GRL14	Erika Malpass	meditation on a winter palette	SSAA a cappella choir
JH-GRL16	Anna Vtipil	Aurora	SSAA div. a cappella choir
JH-GRL17	Johanna Malmberg	Vanheim	SSSAATTBB a cappella choir
JH-GRL18	Ellen Voth	The Harbor and the Sea	SSAA, piano
JH-GRL18.1	Ellen Voth	The Harbor and the Sea	SSAA, piano, B $\flat$ clarinet
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JH-GRL20	Amy Gordon	In the Morning	SATB, piano
JH-GRL21	Tara Mack	Good Morning	SATB div. a cappella choir
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JH-GRL24	Emily Drum	Star Light, Star Bright	SATB div. a cappella choir
JH-GRL25	Ashley Eyre	I Would Live In Your Love	SA div. choir, piano
JH-GRL26	Ashley Eyre	Let It Be Forgotten	SSAA a cappella choir
JH-GRL31	MaryAnne Muglia Smith	Can You Hear My Heart Sing?	SSA, piano



LET THE WORLD KNOW

## #ComposeLikeAGirl

The Compose Like A Girl Choral Series seeks to empower composers who identify as women through mentorship, editorial direction, publication, and promotion. Compose Like A Girl titles are selected by Jocelyn Hagen, published through JH Music, and distributed by Graphite Publishing. Composers in the series receive a 50% royalty on the sale of each copy.