

Racing the Moon
SSA, piano
JH - GRL44.2

Naomi LaViolette

pdf - \$1.95
printed - \$3.75

Racing the Moon

Naomi LaViolette

for SSA 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.

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

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SSA choir and piano

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

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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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

S1

S2 *mp* turn

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

8

joceelyn chagen

11

mp *mf*

S1 A win - less race_ that ne - ver_ ends_

S2 *mf* right she's leagues a - head_ A win - less race_ that ne - ver_ ends_

A *mf* right she's leagues a - head_ A win - less race_ that ne - ver_ ends_

11 *mf*

Solo or Alto 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

S1 Night af - ter night she gal - lops be - side us, peek - ing through stars, and shroud - ed in si - lence the

S2 Night af - ter night she gal - lops be - side us, peek - ing through stars, and shroud - ed in si - lence the

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

20

S1 moon in her climb striv - ing to win Leap - ing a - head just to fall back_ a -

S2 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 -

joceelyn chagen

22

Solo or Soprano Group:
mp

Ra - cing_ the moon

S1 *f* gain

S2 *f* gain

A *f* gain

22

f *mp*

25

S1 *mp* I feel like_ the

S2 *mp* I feel like_ the

A *mp* I feel like_ the

C

S1 moon ne - ver stop - ping_ this race con - stant - ly

S2 moon ne - ver stop - ping_ this race con - stant - ly

A moon ne - ver stop - ping_ this race con - stant - ly

30

S1 work - ing_ reach - ing_ try - ing *mp*

S2 work - ing_ reach - ing_ try - ing *mp* turn

A work - ing_ reach - ing_ try - ing *mp* Turn left I fall be - hind_ turn

33

S1 *mf* A win - less race *f* that

S2 right I'm leagues a head *mf* A win - less race *f* that

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

33

mf

joceelyn chagen

35

S1 *mp* ne - ver ends Ah

S2 *mf* ne - ver ends Al - ways some - thing to run to, some - bo - dy bet - ter,

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

35

mp

37

S1 Ah

S2 those that sur-round me, all are ig-nored, I race through the sky, night af-ter night,

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

37

39 Solo or SA Group: *mp*

I feel like the moon

S1 all I can see is what I could be Run run run run run run

S2 all I can see Al-ways some-thing to run to, some-bo-dy bet-ter,

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

39

41 *mf* E

I feel like the moon

S1 *mf*
run run run all are ig - nored I race through the sky, night af - ter night

S2 *mp*
those that sur - round me, all are ig - nored, I Run run run run run run

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

41 *mf*

43 *f*

S1 all I can see is what I could be

S2 *f*
run run run what I could be, run run run All I can see

A *f*
all I can see is what I could be Run run run I feel like the

43 *f*

rit.

46

S1 All I can see is what I could be. Rac ing the

S2 Rac - ing the moon, Rac ing the

A moon Rac ing the

joceelyn chagen

F *a tempo* (♩ = ♩.)

S1 moon Rac - ing the moon

S2 moon Rac - ing the moon

A moon Rac - ing the moon Rac - ing the

Solo or SA Group:
mf

50

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S1
Rac - ing the moon

S2
Rac - ing the moon

A
moon Rac - ing the moon

mp

50

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52

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

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G

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

Ooh Join in the dance

Ooh Join in the dance

Ooh Join in the

p

p

mp

joceelyn chagen

56 *mf*

S1 — join in the song, wax - ing and wan - ing she pulls us a - long, No one will

S2 — join in the song, wax - ing and wan - ing she pulls us a - long, No one will

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

56 *mf*

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poco rit.

a tempo

58

S1
win, no one will lose, Rac-ing the moon. Rac-ing the moon. Rac-ing the

S2
win, no one will lose, Rac-ing the Rac-ing the moon.

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

58

H

S1
moon

S2
f
I'm learn - ing how, there on - - ly is

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

f

64

S1 Rac - ing the moon Rac - ing the

S2 now I'm learn - ing how there

A now I'm learn - ing how there

joceelyn chagen

67

S1 moon Rac - ing the moon

S2 on - - ly is now Join in the dance, Join in the

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

67

70

S1 Rac - ing the moon Rac - ing the

S2 song Wax - ing and wan - ing she pulls us a - long

A how, there on - - ly is now

joceelyn chagen

73

S1 moon Rac - ing the moon

S2 No one will win, no one will lose, Rac - ing the moon

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

76 *ff*
S1 Rac - ing the moon
S2 *ff* Rac - ing the moon
A now Rac - ing the moon

76 *ff*

80 *f* *ff*
S1
S2 *f* *ff*
A *f* *ff*

80 *f* *ff*

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 Ouerson

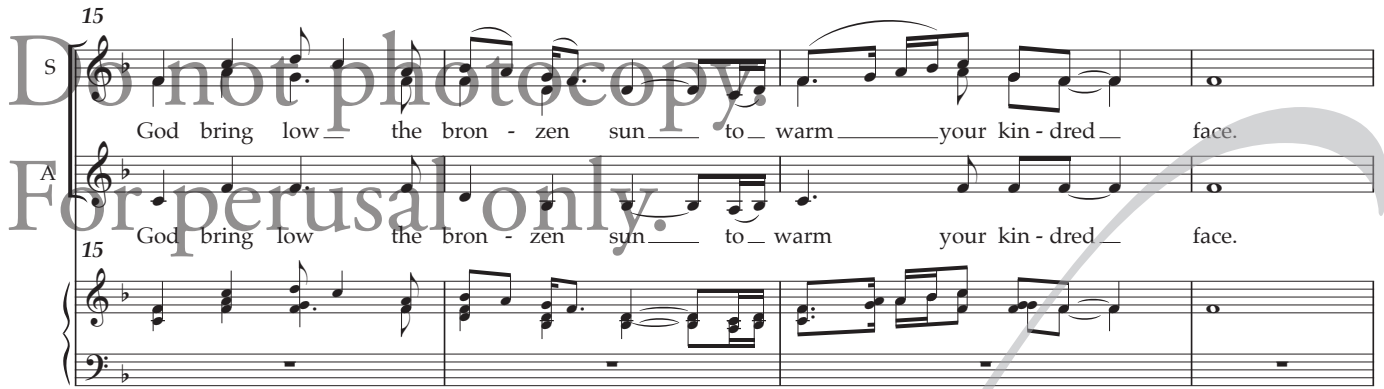
A Departing Blessing

JH-GRL09

15

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

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



19 *tutti* *p* stagger breathe

S Ah

A *tutti* *p* stagger breathe

Ah

T *mf*

B *mf*

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

19 You'll walk and walk 'till night adorns 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



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Check out the Compose Like A Girl Podcast with Jocelyn Hagen!

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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.