

THE WISDOM OF THE MOON
LaBarr

SATB divisi, unaccompanied

WW1634



ANDREW CRANE CHORAL SERIES

THE WISDOM OF THE MOON

SATB divisi

SUSAN LABARR

About the Work

The Wisdom of the Moon, commissioned by the choirs at Missouri Western University (St. Joseph, Missouri), expresses how easy it is to be happy when things are going well, but how we all need to learn to persevere and trust during difficult times, knowing that we will come out better and stronger in the end. It is a sentiment of hope that is reflected in the sound, the tonality, and the joyful triple meter.

The soloist should sing freely and in an improvisatory, almost folk-like manner. The runs and ornamentations (especially on the last page) are just suggestions. The soloist can feel free to take liberties and improvise—keeping a simplistic beauty. The solo will work well with either a male or female voice.

-Susan LaBarr

The Wisdom of the Moon

[God of the two lights,]
I love the sun,
its revealing brilliance,
its lingering warmth;
but in the dark of night,
let me learn
the wisdom of the moon,
how it waxes and wanes
but does not die,
how it gives itself
to shadow,
knowing it will emerge whole
once more.

-Jan Richardson (2010)

About the Composer

Susan LaBarr (b. 1981) is a composer and choral editor living and working in Springfield, Missouri. Her compositions are published by Santa Barbara Music Publishing, Walton Music, and Morningstar Music. In 2015 and 2016, Susan completed commissions for premieres at the Missouri Music Educators conference (Staley High School and Oakville High School); Seraphic Fire; the National ACDA Women's Choir Consortium; and for the Texas Choral Director's Association's Director's Chorus. She served as the Missouri Composer Laureate for 2012 and 2013, and has been Composer-In-Residence for the Tennessee Chamber Chorus and the Chattanooga Girls Choir (Tennessee). Her arrangement of *Quem pastores laudavere* appeared on New York Polyphony's 2014 Grammy-nominated album, *Sing Thee Nowell*.

Susan has sung professionally with the Tennessee Chamber Chorus and CORO Vocal Artists. Central to Susan's musical vocabulary is the knowledge she gained from studying with Alice Parker at her home in Hawley, Massachusetts, where she attended the Composer's Workshop and Melody Studies Workshop in 2012 and 2013, respectively. Susan attended Missouri State University in Springfield, where she received a Bachelor of Arts in music and a Master of Music in music theory. Susan, her husband Cameron, and their son Elliott reside in Springfield, Missouri, where Cameron is the Director of Choral Studies at Missouri State University and Susan works as Editor of Walton Music.

Duration: Approx. 4:15

The Wisdom of the Moon

SATB divisi

Text by
JAN RICHARDSONMusic by
SUSAN LABARR (b. 1981)

$\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 40$
p

Soprano
I love the sun, I love the sun, its re-veal - ing

Alto
I love the sun, I love the sun, its

Tenor
I love the sun, I love the sun, its

Bass
I love the sun, I love the sun, its

Piano
(for rehearsal only)

5
brill - iance, its lin - ger - ing warmth;

brill - iance, its lin - ger - ing warmth, lin - ger - ing warmth;

brill - iance, its lin - ger - ing, lin - ger - ing warmth;

brill - iance, its lin - ger - ing, it's lin - ger - ing warmth;

9

I love the sun, but in the dark of night, let me

I love the sun, but in the dark of night, let me

8 I love the sun, but in the dark of night, let me

I love the sun, but in the dark of night, I'll

13

learn the wis - dom of the moon, Let me

learn, learn the wis - dom of the moon. Let me

8 learn, learn the wis - dom of the moon. Let me

learn the wis - dom of the moon. Let me

*Add tenor 2's to baritone part from mm.15-34 (as able according to range) to balance the accompanimental lower three voices.

16 *p*

the moon, from the

learn from the moon, Let me learn from the

learn from the moon, Let me learn from the

learn from the moon, Let me learn from the

19 *Freely*
mf

Solo I love the sun, I love the

S moon, let me learn from the moon, let me

A moon, let me learn from the moon, let me

T moon, let me learn from the moon, let me

B moon, let me learn from the moon, let me

sun, its re-veal - ing brill-iance, its lin - ger-ing warmth; _____

learn, learn from the moon, let me learn from the moon, let me

learn from the moon, let me learn from the moon, let me

learn from the moon, let me learn from the moon, let me

learn from the moon, let me learn from the moon, let me

— I love the sun, but in the

learn from the moon, let me learn, learn from the moon, the moon, the

learn from the moon, let me learn, learn from the moon, the moon, the

learn from the moon, let me learn, learn from the moon, the moon, the

learn from the moon, let me learn from the moon, the moon, the

dark of night, let me learn the wis-dom of the

moon, let me learn, learn the wis-dom of the

moon, let me learn the wis-dom, wis-dom of the

moon, let me learn the wis-dom, wis-dom of the

moon, let me learn the wis-dom of the

moon, *mf* of the moon, how it wax-es and wanes but

moon of the moon, *mf* how it wax-es and

moon, of the moon, *mf* how it wax-es and

moon, of the moon, *mf* how it wax-es and

36

S does — not die, how it gives — it - self to sha - dow, how — it

A wanes but does not die, it gives to sha - dow, —

T wanes, wax - es and — wanes, it gives it - self,

B wanes, but does — not die, it does not die,

39

f wax - es and wanes but does — not die, *mp* it does — not die, but

f how it wax - es and wanes, *mp* it wax - es and wanes, but it

f how it wax - es and wanes, *mp* it wax - es and wanes, but it

f how it wax - es and wanes, *mp* it wax - es and wanes, but it

42 *molto cresc. poco a poco* **ff**

gives — it - self, know - ing it will e - merge — whole — once — more. —

molto cresc. poco a poco **ff**

does not die, know - ing it will e - merge once more. —

molto cresc. poco a poco **ff**

8 does not die, know - ing it will e - merge once more. —

molto cresc. poco a poco **ff**

does not die, know - ing it will e - merge once — more. —

46 **f**

Solo I love the sun, I love the sun, —

f

S — I love the sun, I love the

f

A — I love the sun, I love the sun, I love the

f

T 8 — I love the sun, I love the sun, I love the

f

B — I love the sun, I love the sun, I love the

8

59 *mf* 11

let me learn from the moon, let me

let me learn from the moon,

let me learn, learn from the moon,

let me learn, let me learn from the moon,

let me learn, learn from the moon,

The score consists of six staves. The first five staves are vocal parts (Soprano, Alto, Tenor 1, Tenor 2, and Bass) and the sixth staff is the piano accompaniment. The key signature is D major (two sharps) and the time signature is 4/4. The tempo/mood is marked *mf* (mezzo-forte). The lyrics are: 'let me learn from the moon, let me learn from the moon, let me learn, learn from the moon, let me learn, let me learn from the moon, let me learn, learn from the moon,'.

63 rit. a tempo *mp*

learn the wis-dom of the moon, the

mp *p*

learn from the moon. Let me learn from the

mp *p*

learn from the moon. Let me learn from the

mp *p*

8 learn from the moon. Let me learn from the

mp *p*

learn from the moon. Let me learn from the

mp *p*

*Add tenor 2's to baritone part from mm.65-end (as able according to range) to balance the accompanimental lower three voices.

moon, _____ I'll learn from the moon, _____ the

moon, let me learn from the moon, let me learn from the

moon, let me learn from the moon, let me learn from the

moon, let me learn from the moon, let me learn from the

moon, let me learn from the moon, let me learn from the

moon, let me learn from the moon, let me learn from the

moon, _____ the moon.

moon, let me learn from the moon.

moon, let me learn from the moon.

moon, let me learn from the moon.

moon, let me learn from the moon.

moon, let me learn from the moon.

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