

the moon is in the dark and we are in the sun

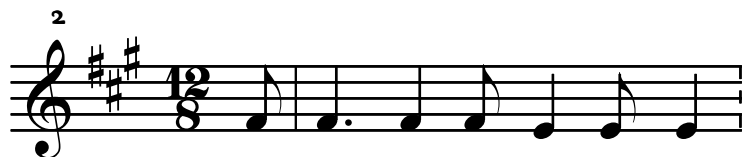
for six-part treble voices and CD

Brooke Joyce (2002)

Poem by Anando Sexton



the moon is in the dark



the moon hides behind the clouds



the sun is in the sun



the moon is not out



the moon is not anywhere



we are in the sun

General Notes:

Dynamics: *p* throughout, allowing sound to bloom in the middle of phrases and in the middle of the canons.

Tempo: ♩ = 66 throughout.

Rhythm: The beat should be felt by the singers but not emphasized. The canons should feel like a wash of sound.

Sound System: Ideally, the CD sound should surround the performance space so that it is not localized. At a minimum, two speakers could be situated on either side of the stage.

Begin by playing the CD, which will play throughout the piece at a dynamic level slightly below the singers. Once the recording has started, the volume should not be adjusted. After 30 seconds have elapsed, proceed to Introduction.

Introduction:

Divide choir into six groups. Each part sings one line of the poem in succession, allowing 3-5 seconds rest between lines. Dynamics should remain *p* throughout. Each line can be subtly shaped. After singing line 6, rest 5 seconds, then each part sings their line in rhythm 6 times (resulting in a constant stream of 12/8), beginning with group 1, then adding a new group each measure. A cascading effect will result. After group 6 is finished, rest 5 seconds, then proceed to Canon I.

Canon I:

Group 1 begins singing lines 1-6, in rhythm. Group 2 follows 3 beats later, group 3 follows three beats later and so on. After group 6 finishes, rest 5 seconds, then proceed to Canon II.

Canon II:

Identical to Canon I, except that each group enters after 2 beats (half of a measure). When group 6 finishes, rest 5 seconds, then proceed to Canon III.

Canon III:

Identical to canon II, except that each group enters after 1 beat. Groups 5 & 6 should sing line 6 a total of 3 times, extending the canon. Group 6 should sustain their final note one full measure. Allow the CD to play for 15-20 seconds after the choir has stopped singing, slowly fading the volume to 0.

Feel free to make copies of this page for the choir.

A realization of the piece in traditional notation follows:

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