

Saturnian Moons
for solo piano

13 minutes

Brooke Joyce (2017)

Commissioned by the Iowa Music Teachers Association, premiered by Brooke Joyce, June 2017

Program Note:

When the Cassini orbiter was launched from Cape Canaveral in 1997, expectations were high—this state-of-the-art craft would travel millions of miles to the outer solar system, targeting the planet Saturn. Once there, it would make a systematic study of Saturn’s moons, rings, and the interactions between them and the planet they orbit. Reaching the outskirts of the Saturn system in 2004, it wasn’t long before amazing images revealed newly discovered moons (bringing the total to 62), unusual surface features of such giant moons as Titan and Enceladus, and the presence of water and other life-sustaining features. This suite is inspired by the eight “major” moons of Saturn, with each movement focusing on a single musical idea or concept. The suite may be performed as a whole, or selected movements may be played separately.