

# Crescent Moon

Leanne Daharja Veitch

For Choir, Soloists, and hand  
drum.

2006

# Dedication

*Crescent Moon* is dedicated to my family, especially my husband Michael who helped so much with the typesetting. I owe you much chocolate!

## Program Notes

### About Crescent Moon

Crescent Moon is by no means a traditional choral piece. My goals as a composer are to return to the roots of vocal music, and to create music that is for the people – music that can be easily understood and identified with, and that speaks to the heart and spirit rather than to the mind.

This is the first in what will eventually be a trio of songs dedicated to the moon. The text is original.

### Pronunciation Note

Selene (*SEH-leh-neh*)

### Performance Notes

**Accompaniment:** The piece should be ideally accompanied by a *bodhran*, or Irish round frame drum. If one is not available, a small hand drum or similar will suffice. The accompaniment should be rhythmic and steady, and fairly strong, with consistency being key. The rhythm is easy, and a performer should be found from the choir with no problems.

**Timing:** Although *Crescent Moon* is not difficult, attention must be paid to both the rhythm of the *bodhran* and the conductor's beat, as timing is of absolute importance. Pay strict attention to dotted notes.

**Female solo (bars 1-18):** The piece begins with a solo female voice. Ideally, this should be a different singer to that of the second female solo late in the piece. However, if the same singer is used, no dramas! The solo should be sung warmly and freely, with strength and richness in the lower notes. When the choir enters at the end of the solo, the soloist should move to the 'C' in the chord on the Alto line, but strive to be heard above the choir – the choir should support, but not dominate, her voice on this chord.

**Female solo (bars 91-98):** This is a crucial female solo, and the remainder of the choir *must* allow her voice to be heard. For this solo, I would prefer a competent chorister from the choir (rather than a singer selected externally). If the top C cannot be sustained, an alternative of a G and A are advised. This is to the conductor's discretion.

**Male Solo (bars 105 – end):** A fairly straightforward solo. Select a soloist with a rich voice and solid tone and pitch. If such a soloist is not available, the entire choir may sing this line.

**Harmonic overtone singing:** The conductor should select between 3 and 6 harmonic overtone singers from the choir for this part of the piece. In particular, the type of harmonics that are required are the higher, 'bell-like' tones, with a minimum of the drone beneath. Exact numbers of harmonic singers are to the conductor's discretion, and more or less than this number may be chosen if the conductor feels a better interpretation would result.

The duration of the harmonic overtone singing section of the piece is also to the conductor's discretion. The harmonic overtone singing starts at rehearsal figure A and concludes at figure B. Throughout this section each bar should be held as long as the conductor chooses, and the conductor should simply indicate the change to the next bar, rather than conducting the beat. While the harmonic overtone singing is in progress, remaining choristers sing the indicated note in each of the voice parts.

**Triplets** should be strongly emphasized throughout the piece.

## Lyrics

*From the earth,  
Bend your light  
Through the skies  
Through the darkness  
Through the emptiness.  
Warm the earth with your crystal fire!  
Touch our eyes with your light!*

*Bend Your light to touch our eyes.  
Let Your shafts flow cross the skies.  
Purest white, Your arms embrace  
cascading starlight.  
Purest white, Your arms embrace  
cascading moonlight.  
Selene!  
Selene!  
Selene!*

*White is the Moon.  
Red is the Blood.  
Black is the Night.  
Maid, Mother, Crone;  
Three are One:  
Black, Red, White.*

*Maiden of light bless the darkness!  
Maiden of light bless the night!*

*Maiden of light!  
Bless the night!*

If you are performing this piece, please let me know ([daharja@gmail.com](mailto:daharja@gmail.com)) and I would greatly appreciate a copy of the recording of the performance if one is made.

# Crescent Moon

Leanne Daharja Veitch

*♩ = 60*

Sop

Alto *Solo f*

Tenor

Bass

Drum

From the earth \_\_\_\_\_ Bend your light \_\_\_\_\_ Through the skies \_\_\_\_\_ Through the dark -

8

S

A

T

B

Dr.

ness Through the emp - ti - ness Warm the earth \_\_\_\_\_ With your crys - tal fire!

15

S

A

T

B

Dr.

Touch our eyes \_\_\_\_\_ With your light! \_\_\_\_\_

Light! *Tutti* Light! *f* Light! *f* Light!

21

S

A

T

B

Dr.

Bend Your light to touch our eyes Let Your shafts flow cross the skies Pur - est white, Your arms em -

Bend Your light to touch our eyes Let Your shafts flow cross the skies

26 2

S  
brace Pur - est white, Your arms em - brace Bend Your light to touch our eyes

A  
Pur - est white, Your arms em - brace Pur - est white, Your arms em - brace Bend Your light to touch our

T  
Star - light, star - light

B

Dr.

31

S  
Let Your shafts flow cross the skies Pur - est white, Your arms em - brace Pur - est white, Your arms em -

A  
eyes Let Your shafts flow cross the skies Pur - est white, Your arms em - brace

T  
Moon - light, moon - light Star - light, star - light Moon - light,

B

Dr.

36 3

S  
brace Cas-cad - ing star - light Cas-cad - ing moon - light

A  
Pur - est white, Your arms em - brace Cas-cad - ing star - light Cas-cad - ing moon - light

T  
moon - light Star - light, star - light Moon - light, moon - light

B  
Star - light, star - light Moon - light, moon - light

Dr.

41

S  
Cas-cad - ing star - light Cas-cad - ing moon - light Se - le - ne!

A  
Cas-cad - ing star - light Cas-cad - ing moon - light

T  
Star - light, star - light Moon - light, moon - light Se - le - ne!

B  
Star - light, star - light Moon - light, moon - light Se - le - ne!

Dr.

46

S  
Se - le - ne Se - le - ne Se - le - ne Se - le - ne

A  
Se - le - ne Se - le - ne Se - le - ne

T  
Se - le - ne Se - le - ne Se - le - ne Se - le - ne Se - le - ne

B  
Se - le - ne Se - le - ne Se - le - ne Se - le - ne Se - le - ne Se - le - ne

Dr.

52

S  
Bend Your light to touch our eyes Let Your shafts flow cross the

A  
Se - le - ne Bend Your light to touch our eyes

T  
Se - le - ne

B  
Se - le - ne White is the Moon Red is the Blood Black is the

Dr.

57

S  
skies Pur - est white, Your arms em - brace Pur - est white, Your arms em - brace

A  
Let Your shafts flow cross the skies Pur - est white, Your arms em - brace Pur - est white, Your arms em -

T

B  
Night Maid, Moth - er, Crone Three are One Black, Red, White

Dr.

62

S  
Bend Your light to touch our eyes Let Your shafts flow cross the skies Pur - est white, Your arms em -

A  
brace Bend Your light to touch our eyes Let Your shafts flow cross the skies

T  
White is the Moon Red is the Blood Black is the Night Maid, Moth - er,

B  
White is the Moon Red is the Blood Black is the Night Maid, Moth - er,

Dr.

67

S  
brace Pur - est white, Your arms em - brace Cas-cad - ing star - light

A  
Pur - est white, Your arms em - brace Pur - est white, Your arms em - brace *mp* Cas-cad - ing star - light

T  
8 Crone Three are One Black, Red, White White is the Moon Red is the *mp*

B  
Crone Three are One Black, Red, White White is the Moon Red is the

Dr.

72

S  
Cas-cad - ing moon - light Cas-cad - ing star - light Cas-cad - ing moon - light

A  
Cas-cad - ing moon - light Cas-cad - ing star - light

T  
8 Blood Black is the Night Maid, Moth - er, Crone Three are One Black, Red,

B  
Blood Black is the Night Maid, Moth - er, Crone Three are One Black, Red,

Dr.

77

S  
Se - le - ne Se - le - ne Se - le - ne

A  
Cas-cad - ing moon - light *f* Se - le - ne Se - le - ne

T  
8 White *f* Se - le - ne Se - le - ne Se - le - ne Se - le - ne Se - le - ne

B  
White Se - le - ne Se - le - ne Se - le - ne Se - le - ne Se - le - ne

Dr.

83 7  
*p*

S Se - le - ne Se - le - ne *p* Mmm

A Se - le - ne Mmm *p*

T Se - le - ne Se - le - ne Se - le - ne! Mmm Mmm *mp*

B Se - le - ne Se - le - ne Mmm

Dr.

90 8

Solo Maid-en of light bless the dark-ness Maid-en of light bless the night! Ah Ah

S

A

T

B

99 A *mf* Octave lower for men doing harmonic overtone singing B

Harmonic Overtone Singers

S *ppp*

A *ppp*

T *ppp*

B *ppp*

105

S

A

T

B *solo p*

Maid-en of light! Bless the night! Bless the night! Bless the night! niente