



# The Cat and the Moon

SATB chorus  
4 min

Music by Melissa Dunphy  
Poem by William Butler Yeats

Commissioned by  
the W&L University Singers  
Shane M. Lynch, Director

2022

# The Cat and the Moon

## SATB chorus

Music by Melissa Dunphy  
Poem by William Butler Yeats

The cat went here and there  
And the moon spun round like a top,  
And the nearest kin of the moon,  
The creeping cat, looked up.  
Black Minnaloushe stared at the moon,  
For, wander and wail as he would,  
The pure cold light in the sky  
Troubled his animal blood.  
Minnaloushe runs in the grass  
Lifting his delicate feet.  
Do you dance, Minnaloushe, do you dance?  
When two close kindred meet,  
What better than call a dance?  
Maybe the moon may learn,  
Tired of that courtly fashion,  
A new dance turn.  
Minnaloushe creeps through the grass  
From moonlit place to place,  
The sacred moon overhead  
Has taken a new phase.  
Does Minnaloushe know that his pupils  
Will pass from change to change,  
And that from round to crescent,  
From crescent to round they range?  
Minnaloushe creeps through the grass  
Alone, important and wise,  
And lifts to the changing moon  
His changing eyes.

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# The Cat and the Moon

Poem by William Butler Yeats (1919)

Music by Melissa Dunphy

**Moderato** ♩=c.88

*pp* mysteriously

SOPRANO  
Oo

ALTO  
*pp* mysteriously *p* *p*  
Oo Min-na - loushe, Min-na - loushe,

TENOR  
*pp* mysteriously  
Oo oo

BASS  
*p*  
Do you dance,

Piano reduction  
*pp* mysteriously *p*

6

S.  
The cat went here and there and the

A.  
*p* *p*  
Min-na - loushe. The cat went here and there, the

T.  
oo oo oo

B.  
*p* *p* *p*  
Min-na-loushe? Do you dance, Min-na-loushe? Oo

Piano reduction  
*p* *p*

11

S. *mf*  
 moon spun a-round like a top, and the near-est kin of the moon, the creep-ing cat looked

A. *mf*  
 moon spun like a top, the near - est kin of the moon, the creep-ing cat looked

T. *mf*  
 8 And the near - est kin of the moon, the cat looked

B. *mf*  
 oo And the near - est kin of the moon, the cat looked

16

S. *mf*  
 up. Black Min-na-loushe stared at the moon, for wand-er and wail as he

A. *mf*  
 up. Min-na-loushe stared at the moon, for wand-er and wail

T. *mf*  
 8 up. Black Min-na-loushe stared at the moon, for wand-er and wail as he

B. *mf*  
 up. Min-na-loushe stared at the moon, for wand-er as he

20

*p*

S. would, the pure cold light in the sky trou-ble-d his an-i-mal blood.

*p*

A. — as he would, the pure cold — light in the sky trou-ble-d his an-i-mal

*p*

T. would, pure cold light in the sky trou-ble-d his an-i-mal

*p*

B. would, the pure cold light in the sky trou-ble-d his blood.

**Piu Mosso** ♩=c.96

25

*mf*

S. — Min-na-loushe runs in the grass lift-ing his del-i-cate feet.

*mf*

A. blood. Min-na-loushe runs in the grass lift-ing his del-i-cate feet. — Do you

*mf*

T. blood. Min-na-loushe runs in the grass lift-ing his del-i-cate feet.

*mf*

B. — Min-na-loushe runs in the grass, lift - ing his feet.

*mf* **Piu Mosso** ♩=c.96

*mf*

*p*

30

S. *p*  
Do you dance, Do you

A.  
dance, Min-na-loushe, do you dance? Do you dance, Min-na-loushe, do you

T. *p*  
Do you dance, Min-na-loushe? Min-na-loushe, do you

B. *p*  
Do you dance,

33

S. *f joyfully*  
dance, Min-na-loushe, do you dance, Min-na-

A. *f joyfully*  
dance? Do you dance, Min-na-loushe, do you dance, -

T. *f joyfully*  
dance, Min-na-loushe, do you dance? Min-naloushe, do you dance, -

B. *f joyfully*  
do you dance, Min-na-loushe, do you dance, Min-na-

38

S. *p*  
 loushe? When two close kin - dred meet, what bet-ter than call a dance?

A. *p* *mp*  
 Do you dance? When two close kin - dred meet, what bet-ter than call a

T. *mp*  
 Do you dance? When

B. *p* *mp*  
 loushe? When two close kin - dred meet, what bet-ter than call a dance? When

44

S. *mp*  
 When two close kin - dred meet, what bet-ter than call a dance?

A. *mf warmly*  
 dance? When two close kin - dred meet? May - be the

T. *mp*  
 two close kin - dred meet, what bet-ter than call a dance?

B. *mp*  
 two close kin - dred meet, what bet-ter than call a dance?

48 *mf warmly*

S. May-be the moon may learn, may-be the moon may learn,

A. moon may learn, may-be the moon may learn, the

T. *mf warmly* May-be the moon, may-be the moon may learn, the

B. *mf warmly* May-be the moon, may-be the moon may learn, may-be the moon may

52 *p*

S. tired of that court - ly fash - ion, a new\_ dance\_ turn,

A. *p* moon may learn, tired of that court - ly fash - ion, a new, new\_ dance

T. *p* moon may learn, tired of that court - ly fash - ion, a new, a

B. learn, tired of that court - ly fash - ion,



56 *poco rit.* . . . . . *a tempo* *f* *sub. p*

S. new dance turn, new dance turn, new dance turn, Min-na-loushe creeps

A. turn, new dance turn, new dance turn. Min-na-loushe creeps

T. new, a new dance turn. Min-na-loushe creeps

B. a new dance turn. Min-na-loushe creeps

*p* *f* *sub. p*

*poco rit.* . . . . . *a tempo* *f* *sub. p*

60 *mf* *sustained*

S. through the grass from moon lit place to place, the sac - red moon ov - er - head has

A. through the grass from moon lit place to place, the sac - red moon has

T. through the grass from moon - lit place to place, the sac - red moon ov - er - head has

B. through the grass from moon lit place to place, the sac - red moon has

*mf* *sustained*

*mf* *sustained*

*mf* *sustained*

65

S. tak - en a new phase. Do you

A. tak - en, tak - en a new phase. Do you dance, Min-na-loushe, do you

T. tak - en a new phase. Do you

B. tak - en a new phase. Do you dance,

69

S. dance, Do you dance,

A. dance? Do you dance, Min - na-loushe, do you dance? Do you

T. dance, Min - na-loushe? Min - na-louche, do you dance, Min - na-loushe?

B. do you dance, do you

72

S. Do you dance, Do you

A. dance, Min-na-loushe, do you dance? Do you dance, Min-na-loushe, do you

T. Min-na-loushe, do you dance, Min-na-loushe? Min-na-loushe, do you

B. dance, do you dance?

75

S. dance, *f* Does Min-na-loushe know that his pu - pils will pass from change to

A. dance? *f* Does Min-na - loushe know that his pu - pils will pass from change to

T. dance, Min-na-loushe? *f* Min-na-loushe know that his pu - pils will pass from change to

B. *f* Does Min-na-loushe know that his pu - pils will pass from change to

79

S. *p*  
change, and from round to cres - cent, from cres - cent to round, from

A. *p*  
change, and from round to cres - cent, from cres - cent to round, from

T. *p*  
change, from round to

B. *p*  
change, from round to

82

S. *mp*  
cres-cent to round they range? Min-na-loushe creeps through the

A. *mp*  
cres-cent to round they range? Min-na-loushe creeps through the

T. *mp*  
cres - cent they range? Min-na-loushe creeps through the

B. *mp*  
cres - cent they range? Min - na loushe

86

S. grass a - lone, im - port - ant and wise, and lifts to the chang - ing,

A. grass a - lone, im - port - ant and wise, and lifts to the chang - ing,

T. grass a - lone, im - port - ant and wise, and lifts to the

B. creeps through the grass, a - lone and wise, and lifts to the

90 **poco rit.** . . . . . **tempo primo**

S. chang - ing, chang - ing, chang - ing moon his chang - ing eyes. Min - na

A. chang - ing, chang - ing, chang - ing moon do you dance,

T. chang - ing, chang - ing, chang - ing, chang - ing moon. do you dance,

B. chang - ing, chang - ing moon. Do you dance, Min - na

**poco rit.** . . . . . **tempo primo**

95 **rit.**

S. loushe, Min-na - loushe, Min-na - loushe? Oo.

A. Do you dance? do you dance, Do you dance? Oo.

T. Do you dance? do you dance, Do you dance, Oo.

B. loushe, do you dance, Min-na - loushe? Oo.

**rit.**