

The Apotheosis of Apollo

for a cappella SATB chamber choir with soloists
5.5 min

Melissa Dunphy
Text by Clinton Kelly

2019

*Commissioned for The Thirteen by Clinton Kelly
Matthew Robertson, Artistic Director*

The Apotheosis of Apollo

for a cappella SATB choir

Commissioned for The Thirteen by Clinton Kelly; Matthew Robertson, Artistic Director

In the beginning was the word:
“We choose to go to the moon
To land a man on the moon and
return him safely to Earth.”

Then came the day, millions watched,
3, 2, 1 ignition, we have liftoff, liftoff.

Three days to cross the void,
three days to watch
the Earth grow smaller
and the moon to occupy the sky.

A waiting world paused and listened,
“Tranquility Base here, the Eagle has landed.”

For one brief moment, this voice from another
world, moved the spirit of every human.
“That’s one small step for a man,
one giant leap for mankind.”

We began as wanderers and we will
wander still, where stars are spun and
worlds begin and the Universe waits.

Excelsior, excelsior, excelsior!

— Clinton Kelly



Mormolyke
Press

103 Callowhill St., Philadelphia, PA 19123
(717) 214-6121 | www.mormolyke.com

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Adagio quasi rubato $\text{♩} = 36$

pp

SOPRANO
Oo _____ oo _____ oo _____

p

ALTO
Three, two, one. Three, two, one. Three, two,

p

TENOR
Three, two, one. Three, two, one. Three, two,

pp

BASS
Oo _____ oo _____ oo _____

7

mp

S.
In the be-gin-ning was the word, oo, _____ the

mp

A.
oo _____ the word, oo, _____ the

mp

A.
one. In the be-gin-ning was the word, in the be-gin-ning was _____

mp

T.
one. In the be-gin-ning was the word, in the be-gin-ning was the

mp

B.
oo _____ the word, in the be-gin-ning was the

11 *f* *mp*

S. word: We choose to go to the moon, to

A. the word: We choose to go to the moon, to

T. word: We choose to go to the moon, to

B. word: We choose to go to the

14 *f*

S. land a man on the moon and re - turn him safe - ly

A. land a man on the moon and re - turn him safe - ly to

T. land a man on the moon and re - turn him safe - ly to

B. moon, on the moon and re - turn him safe - ly to

18 *p*

S. oo. Then came the day, then came the day,

A. Earth. Then came the day, then came the day,

T. Earth. Then came the day, then came the day,

B. Earth. Then came the day, then came the day,

24 *mf* *p*

S. mil - lions watched, mil - lions watched, oo

A. mil - lions watched, mil - lions watched, three, two, one, *mf*

T. mil - lions watched, mil - lions watched, three, two, one, ig - ni tion, *mf*

B. mil - lions watched, mil - lions watched, oo ig - ni tion, *mf*

28 *f*

S. ig - ni - tion, we have lift - off,

A. ig - ni - tion, ig - ni - tion, we have lift - off,

T. ig - ni - tion, we have lift - off,

B. ig - ni - tion, we have lift - off,

32 *ff* *rit.* **Tempo primo** ♩=36 *p* solo senza vib. (join tutti next measure)

S. lift-off. Oo

A. lift-off. Oo oo oo tutti

T. lift-off. Oo Three days tutti *p*

B. lift-off. Oo Three days tutti *p*

39 *p* *mp* **accel.** *mf* **Piu mosso** ♩=44

S. _____ to cross the one, two, three days to watch_____ the Earth grow small-er and the

A. to cross the void, to watch_____ the Earth grow small-er and the

T. to cross the void, three days to watch_____ the Earth grow small-er and the

B. *p* *p* *mp* *mf*
 Three days, one, two, three days to watch_____ the

45

S. oo_____ A

A. moon to oc - cup - y the sky. A

T. moon to oc - cup - y the sky.

B. moon, the moon. A

49 **accel.** *p*

S. wait - ing world_____ paused and list - ened, a wait - ing world_____

A. *p*
 wait - ing world paused and list - ened. We choose to go to the moon,

T. *p*
 We choose to go to the moon, to land a man on the moon. A wait - ing world_____

B. *p*
 wait - ing world paused and list - ened, a wait - ing world

Adagio $\text{♩} = 38$

55 *f* *p* solo

S. paused and list - ened. Oo oo

A. to land a man on the moon. Tran-quil-it-y Base here, the Eag - le has land - ed.

T. paused and list - ened. The Eag - le has land - ed.

B. paused and list - ened. Tran-quil-it-y Base here, the Eag - le has land - ed.

62 *tutti* *mf* *molto espress.*

S. For one brief mo-ment, this voice from a-noth-er world moved the spir - it of ev' - ry

A. For one brief mo-ment, this voice from a-noth-er world, a-noth-er world moved the spir - it of ev' - ry

T. For one brief mo-ment, this voice, this voice moved the spir - it of ev' - ry

B. For one brief mo - ment, this voice, this voice moved the spir - it of ev' - ry

69

S. hu - man. That's one small step for a man, one gi - ant leap for man-kind.

A. hu - man. That's one small step for a man, one gi - ant leap for man -

T. hu - man. That's one small step for a man, one gi - ant leap for man-kind.

B. hu - man. That's one small step for, one small step for a man, one leap for man -

78 *p tenderly*

S. We_ be - gan _____ as _____ wand -'rers and we will wand - er still wherestars are spun and

A. *p tenderly*
kind. We_ be - gan as wand -'rers, wand - rers, wand - er still wherestars are spun and

T. *p tenderly*
We_ be - gan, be - gan as wand -'rers. wand - rers. wand - er still wherestars are

B. *p tenderly*
kind. And we will wand - er, wand - er

85

S. worlds be - gin. *p* Ex - cel - si - or, _____

A. *p* worlds be - gin and the Un - i - verse waits, _____ *mp* the

T. *p* spun, _____ and the Un - i - verse waits, _____ *mp* the

B. *p* still, _____ and the Un - i - verse waits, _____ *mp* the

91 *mp* _____ *mf* _____ *ff* _____

S. ex - cel - si or, _____ ex - cel - - si - or! _____

A. *mf* Un - i - verse waits, _____ *ff* the Un - i - verse waits. _____

T. *mf* Un - i - verse waits, _____ *ff* the Un - i - verse waits. _____

B. *mf* Un - i - verse waits, _____ *ff* the Un - i - verse waits. _____