

Isaac Boothman

Fe-Lune

From 'The Cat and The Moon'

This piece uses text from *'The Cat and The Moon'*, by W.B 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.

When setting this poem, my focus was to capture moods from, and explore the poem, rather than a retelling, although much of the words used are in chronological order.

I especially focused on the characters - the sweeping, romantic moon, and the darting, quivering cat, and how they interact - with awe, fear, respect, tenderness. Much of the moon's music is modal and lilting, whilst the cat has much more use of textural techniques and dramatic techniques.

I was drawn to this poem due to its soft lilting rhythm and feel - so there is a point where an excerpt is essentially performed in speaking voice - this should feel very intimate in performance. When speaking rhythms occur, try to place words on the beat, but the priority is sounding natural and flowing.

Vocal Key:

Crossed noteheads should have no pitch

Arrow noteheads signify an arbitrary very high note in the range

Stemless noteheads indicate arbitrary pitches and rhythm.

Fe-Lune:

From 'The Cat and The Moon'

W.B. Yeats

Isaac Boothman

Stage whispered,
declamatory, natural
mf rhythms

Baritone

The cat went here and there. hhhh

Electric Guitar

pp 4

Play these diads ad lib. in
any treble octave
sparsely

Piano

pp 4

Red.

6 *f* *sfp*
sotto voce

Bar.

ichhh! TheMoon nn Spun round like a top And the

E. Gtr.

pp

Pno.

mf 2

11

Bar. near-est kin of the Moomn_ the cree-ping cat looked up

E. Gtr. *pp* *mf*

Pno. *4 4* *piu. 4 4*

16 **Very slow** ♩. = 50 Wind-like ***mf*** Stage whispered, natural rhythm

Bar. Min-na-loushe shh_ sh! sh! sht! shh_

E. Gtr. *p* *f* Accelerate strokes let ring-----

Pno. **Very slow** ♩. = 50 **rit.** **A tempo** *p* *f* *p*

22 *mf* *mf* *mf*

Bar. Min - na-loushe shh Min - na-loushe shh Min - na-lo-ushe

E. Gtr. let ring-|

Pno. 8^{va}

Slowly Accelerate Strokes

27 *fp*

Bar. shh Minn Minn

E. Gtr. *ppp* w/slide *f* Many Glissandi

Pno. (8)

33 Excited (In an undertone) Theatrical *pp* *ff*

Bar. Cat??cat ct ct!! ca-aat caa - aa 'at!! Cree-ping cat Cree-ping cat!!

E. Gtr. w/slide-----

Pno.

37 Resonant subito *mp* Muddy

Bar. Pure cold light in the sky troub-led an' mal blood

E. Gtr. w/slide-| P.M. - *p cresc.*

Pno. *cresc.* 8^{vb}

42

f *appassionata* *piu. f*

Bar. *Do You Dance* *ssss* *Min-naloushe* *shhh*

E. Gtr. *mf* P.M.-----

Pno. (8)----- Ped.-----

47

ff *tutta forza*

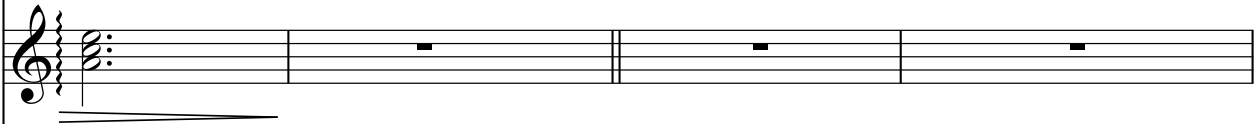
Bar. *Do You Dance?* *ssshhhh* *Ssshhh*

E. Gtr. *f* *mp*

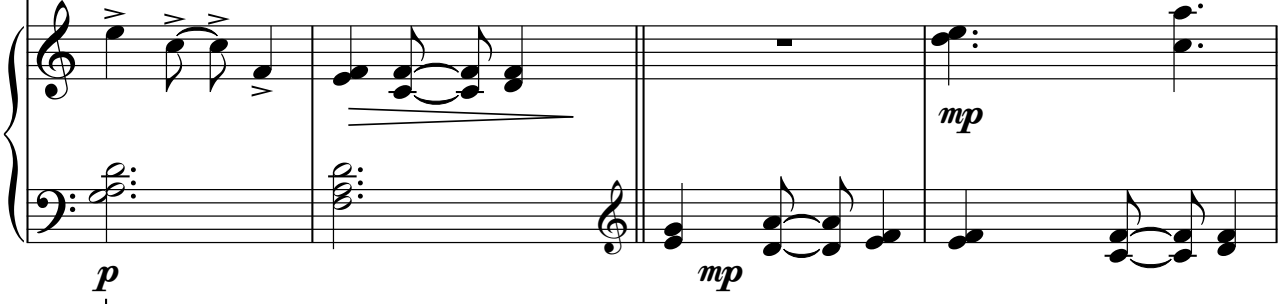
Pno. *8va* *ff* *Still strong*

52 **accel.** **With grace** ♩=68 Speaking as if reading
mf

Bar. 
 Min-na-loushe creeps

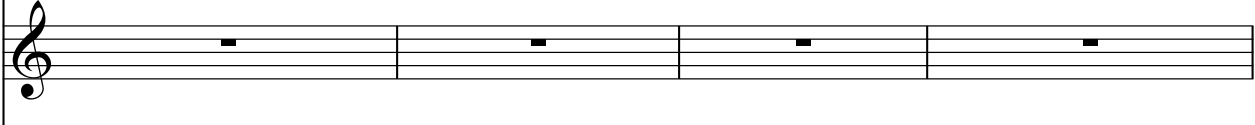
E. Gtr. 

Pno. **accel.** **With grace** ♩=68
p *mp* *mp*



56

Bar. 
 through the grass from moon-lit place to place The sac-red moon ov-er head

E. Gtr. 

Pno. 

60 *f* *Passionate*

Bar. *has tak - en a new phase Does*

E. Gtr.

P.M. *mp*

Pno. *sfz*

63 *rit.*

Bar. *Min - na - loushe know that his pup - ils will pass from*

E. Gtr.

P.M.

Pno. *mf* *rit.*

65 **accel.**

Bar. *mf* change to change

E. Gtr. *mf*

Pno. **accel.**

66 **Piu Mosso** ♩=72 **Anxious terror - transition from singing to shouting**

Bar. ***ff*** and that from round to cres - cent, cres - cent

E. Gtr. ***f*** w/slide----- 8

Pno. **Piu Mosso** ♩=72 ***ff*** *8va*

67

Bar. *Wildly*

to round, round to cres-cent, cres-cent to round They range—

E. Gtr.

w/slide—

8 8

Pno.

ff

rit. *Meno Mosso* ♩=60

69

Bar. *Falsetto*

Min - na loushe shhh

E. Gtr.

w/slide—

8

subito pp

Pno.

rit. *Meno Mosso* ♩=60

subito p

Ped.

Play these diads ad lib. in any treble octave sparsely

73 *mp* Simpering Theatrical Tender

Bar. Cree - ping the cree-ping cat Al - one, im-por-tant and

E. Gtr.

Pno.

77

Bar. wise Min - na loushe lifts to the chan-ging moon

E. Gtr.

Pno.

80 *sotto voce*

Bar. *nn* His chan - ging eyes

E. Gtr.

Pno. *pp*

Detailed description: The musical score is for measures 80, 81, and 82. Measure 80 begins with a tempo marking of 80 and a dynamic of *sotto voce*. The Baritone staff (Bar.) starts with a tremolo on a whole note, followed by the lyrics 'nn', 'His', 'chan -', 'ging', and 'eyes' across measures 80, 81, and 82. The Electric Guitar (E. Gtr.) staff has a whole rest in measure 80, a quarter note in measure 81, and a half note in measure 82. The Piano (Pno.) staff has a 4-measure introduction in measure 80, marked *pp*, followed by a whole rest in measure 81 and a half note in measure 82.