

WHITE IS THE MOON



Alan Cutts

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This piece is based on the poem from a children's picture book by Valerie Greeley (Blackie, 1990, and www.valeriegreeley.com). Conceived as suitable for young musicians between grades 3 and 8, it was written for performance at the 1993 Wexford Festival, where it was given by the Wexford School of Music (soloists Roisín Dempsey, soprano, & Grainne Stafford, mezzo) and the Wexford School of Ballet and Modern Dance. choreography by Suzanne O'Leary.

The instrumental requirements are as follows:

NARRATION - choir, female voices, unison

MOON - contralto (or mezzo soprano), a soft-grained voice, not too developed

SKY - three pianists (grade 6 to 8) at two pianos; these should be situated close enough together to produce an integrated texture

OWL - a group of flautists, grade 4 and above

FOX - a small group of violinists (muted), grade 5 and above

FROG - a small group of descant recorders, grade 6 or higher

SUN - high soprano (a 'young' clear voice, with little vibrato but good strength);

also a large group of violins (grade 3 and above) preferably with one or more trumpets in unison

BLACKBIRD - solo piccolo, grade 7-8

SEAL - a group of cellos, grade 4 and above, one as a soloist (with vibrato, not too slow); also violas and/or horns if available

SKY AT SUNSET - two glockenspiels, simple parts; a few small triangles or similar light high metal overtone sounds could be added at cue 17

One or more double basses strengthen a few pedal notes.

Two conductors are required. The principal conductor directs the choir, both the small and the large group of violins (and trumpets), the cellos/violas/horns, and maybe the flutes. Other performers may or may not need direction - perhaps a few cues only. Where phrases enter in relation to music in another part, the other part is cued in the entering part, as will be seen in the score. The assistant conductor gives cues to the pianists, marked in the score with arrows. At cue 2 he may need to give a pulse also (until cue 3), as the three players should be in rhythmic coordination here, something not necessary elsewhere.

The complex notation of the rhythm of this music is merely an attempt to put on paper, as accurately as possible, the musical phrases I invented. Awareness of the various metres and tempo changes was not a part of the original conception and should not be too much a part of the performance. It is best if, for instance, the choir learns the music more by instinct than by rhythmic analysis, and the conductor, likewise, may do well to direct them very freely. Instrumentalists should try to play 'in character' throughout the duration of their passage.

Audio files for rehearsal are available from the composer at www.alancutts.ie and may be of use in helping young players past these rhythmic difficulties, as well as being suitable for ballet rehearsal.

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WHITE IS THE MOON

PIANO SOLO

PIANO DUET
1st player

PIANO DUET
2nd player

pp
sempre *And.*

///

solo

duet
1st

duet
2nd

pp
sempre *And.*

♩ = 58

♩ = 76

The musical score is arranged in two systems. The first system includes a 'PIANO SOLO' staff, a 'PIANO DUET 1st player' staff, and a 'PIANO DUET 2nd player' staff. The second system includes a 'solo' staff, a 'duet 1st' staff, and a 'duet 2nd' staff. The 2nd player parts in both systems consist of a series of dotted half notes. The 1st player parts feature a melodic line with a *pp* dynamic and a tempo of *And.*. The solo part features a melodic line with a *pp* dynamic and a tempo of *And.*. The score includes a double bar line with two slashes (///) between the two systems. The tempo markings are *pp* and *sempre And.*. The tempo changes are indicated by a quarter note followed by the number 58 and 76.

MOON

peaceful, floating suspended $\text{♩} = 58$, becoming $\text{♩} = 66$

CONTRALTO SOLO *dolce ed espressivo*

sing on 'oo' throughout

pp

p

dim.

1

dolce ed espressivo

3

(,)

musical score for solo, duet 1st, and duet 2nd parts.

Labels: solo, duet 1st, duet 2nd

Instruction: and continue



musical score for alto part.

Label: alto

Tempo: $\text{♩} = 58$, becoming $\text{♩} = 66$

Dynamic: *pp*, *p*, *dim.*

(MOON)

musical score for solo part.

Label: solo

Tempo: $\text{♩} = 72$

Dynamic: *pp*

Instruction: sempre ped.

Ending: till cue 1

musical score for duet 1st part.

Label: duet 1st

Tempo: $\text{♩} = 58$

Dynamic: *pp*

Ending: till cue 1

musical score for duet 2nd part.

Label: duet 2nd

Tempo: $\text{♩} = 72$

Ending: till cue 1

11
alto

pp *mp*



19
alto

pp *mp*

CHOIR
verse 1

♩ = 60
pp

1

White is the moon, shin-ing bright, Sees an owl in the night.

27

alto

p *piu p*



OWL FLUTES *hooting* $\text{♩} = 69$ *(later, gliding)* *poco rall.* $\text{♩} = 69$ *poco a poco rall.*

mp *mp*

34 **alto**

pp

1 ↓ during last note of choir, previous page

solo *(OWL)* **(piano cue 1)** $\text{♩} = 58$

pp *sempre ped.* **till cue 2**

duet 1st

pp **till cue 2**

duet 2nd

pp *sempre ped.* **till cue 2**



flutes 6 *al* $\text{♩} = 56$

till cue 2

flutes

flutes

flutes

CHOIR
verse 2

Brown is the owl, with stee - ly stare, Sees a fox stand - ing there.

flutes

poco a poco dim.

FOX 1 light-footed and fast ♩ = 126

VIOLINS
(small
group)

con sordino *p vivo e leggero*

Musical notation for Violins (small group) starting at measure 1. The score includes various time signatures: 3/8, 5/4, 3/8, 2/4, 6/4, 2/4, 3/8, 2/4, 2/4, 4/4.

flutes

41

pp

Musical notation for flutes starting at measure 41. The score includes time signatures: 3/4, 5/8, 3/4, 4/4, 3/4, 2/4, 2/4, 4/4.

2 ↓ with violins

(FOX) **(piano cue 2)**

solo

♩ = 126 *sempre p , vivo e leggero*

pp sempre senza ped.

Musical notation for solo starting at measure 126. The score includes time signatures: 3/4, 2/4, 3/4, 2/4, 2/4, 2/4.

till cue 3

duet
1st

pp leggero e vivo

Musical notation for duet 1st starting at measure 126. The score includes time signatures: 3/4, 2/4, 2/4, 2/4, 2/4, 2/4.

till cue 3

duet
2nd

pp leggero e vivo senza ped.

Musical notation for duet 2nd starting at measure 126. The score includes time signatures: 2/4, 2/4, 2/4, 2/4, 2/4, 2/4, 6/8, 2/4, 2/4.

till cue 3



violins

9

Musical notation for violins starting at measure 9. The score includes time signatures: 4/4, 2/4, 2/4, 2/4, 2/4, 2/4, 3/8, 2/4, 3/8, 2/4, 2/4.

17 *arco*

violins

25

violins

(sempre molto leggero)

33

violins

41

violins

pizz. arco *pizz. arco* *pizz. arco*

49

violins

57
 violins *(sempre molto leggero)*



18
 CHOIR
 verse 3
p vivo
 Red is the fox, sly and

65
 violins
v *0 pizz.* *0 pizz. arco* *v 0 pizz.*



23
 CHOIR
 fast,
 Sees a frog

73
 violins
arco *v 0*

30 $\text{♩} = 104.8$ *molto leggiero*

CHOIR

hop - ping past, hop - ping past.

80

violins

pizzarco *pizz.* *arco* *pizz.* *arco* *pizz.* *arco* *pizz.* *arco*

3 ↓ with choir

(FROG) (piano cue 3)

solo

$\text{♩} = 88$ $\text{♩} = 104.8$ *p leggiero* till cue 4

duet 1st

$\text{♩} = 104.8$ *p leggiero e giocoso* till cue 4

duet 2nd

$\text{♩} = 72$ *pp legato e non guisto* *p molto staccato e guisto* till cue 4

senza ped.

(senza bassi)

CELLI

pizz. *mp* (omit 1st time) repeat till cue 4

Cellos should link with piano duet player 2, simply making their entries one beat after the pianist.

a few violins

held till cue 4 *pp*

FROG
DESCANT
RECORDERS

1 **tiny** ♩ = 108-112

mp leggiero e improvisato

88 **violins** *pizz.* *arco* 0 *pizz.* *arco* 0 *pizz.* *arco* 0 *pizz.* *arco* 0 *senza sord.*

9 **rec.** ♩ = 108-112 ♩ = 80-84

17 **rec.** ♩ = 108-112 ♩ = 80-84 ♩ = 108-112

25 **rec.**

Detailed description of the musical score: The score is for a piece titled 'FROG'. It features three main parts: Descant Recorders, Violins, and Recorder. The Descant Recorders part starts at measure 1 with a tempo of 108-112 and a dynamic of mp, marked 'leggiero e improvisato'. The Violins part starts at measure 88, alternating between pizzicato and arco playing, marked 'senza sord.'. The Recorder part is divided into three systems: the first system (measures 9-16) has a tempo of 108-112 and 80-84; the second system (measures 17-24) has a tempo of 108-112 and 80-84; the third system (measures 25-32) has a tempo of 108-112. The score includes various rhythmic values, rests, and articulation marks.

33
rec. Musical notation for recorder part, measures 33-40. The piece is in G minor (one flat) and 3/8 time. It features a series of eighth-note patterns and rests. A tempo marking of ♩ = 80-84 is indicated at the end of the line.



41
rec. Musical notation for recorder part, measures 41-47. The piece is in G minor (one flat) and 3/8 time. It features a series of eighth-note patterns and rests. A tempo marking of ♩ = 80-84 is indicated at the end of the line. The instruction *(staccatissimo)* is written below the notes in measures 45-47.



48
rec. Musical notation for recorder part, measures 48-54. The piece is in G minor (one flat) and 3/8 time. It features a series of eighth-note patterns and rests. A tempo marking of ♩ = 80-84 is indicated at the end of the line.



37 *p molto leggiero*
CHOIR
verse 4 Musical notation for choir part, measures 37-54. The piece is in G minor (one flat) and 3/8 time. It features a series of eighth-note patterns and rests. A tempo marking of ♩ = 104-8 is indicated at the end of the line. The instruction *rall. al* is written above the notes in measure 54. The lyrics are: Green is the frog, with glint - ing eyes,

55
rec. Musical notation for recorder part, measures 55-61. The piece is in G minor (one flat) and 3/8 time. It features a series of eighth-note patterns and rests.

SUNRISE

VIOLINS (& TRUMPETS) 1 singing $\text{♩} = 63$
mf

rec. 65
(staccatissimo e non cresc.)

CHOIR 44 $\text{♩} = 66$ *legato* (not quite in time)
 Sees the sun slow - ly rise.

4 ↓ with choir
 (SUNRISE) (piano cue 4)

solo *mp* sempre ped. (just before cue 5 - poco dim.) till cue 5

duet 1st 5 *p* calmo (unhurried) 4 4 just before cue, poco dim. till cue 5

duet 2nd $\text{♩} = 63$ sempre ped. *p* sonore 3 3 till cue 5

CELLI & BASS 1 (con bassi) *p* sonore pochiss. cresc. al...

SUNRISE

1 **SOPRANO SOLO** *radiant* ♩ = 80-84

3 *mf* *poco*

sing always on 'ah'

4 **vln & tpt**

6 *mf*

8 **celli & bass**

10 *mf*



8 **sop.**

12 *mf*

9 **vln & tpt**

12 *mf*

13 **celli & bass**

15 *poco dim.*

* rising and falling arrows indicate rising and falling tempo

15 *♩ = 69-72*

sop.

14 *♩ = 69-72*

vln & tpt

poco piu f

cresc.

5 ↓ with soprano 3rd beat

(piano cue 5)

solo

(sempre ped.)

poco a poco cresc. ed accel

till cue 6

duet 1st

poco a poco cresc. ed accel.

till cue 6

duet 2nd

sempre ped.

(once only)

till cue 6

18

celli & bass

p

sempre cresc.

CHOIR
verse 5

48 $\text{♩} = 80$ *f* 3 3

Yel-low's the sun, gold - en

sop. 24 $\text{♩} = 80$ 84

21 uln & tpt

f dim.

6 ↓ with soprano downbeat
(SUNRISE - BIRD)
(piano cue 6)

solo $\text{♩} = 104$ 8

f like bells till cue 7

sempre ped.

duet 1st *f* like bells till cue 7

duet 2nd 3 till cue 7

f sempre ped.

celli & bass 25

f

BIRD
PICCOLO

Sees a bird taking flight. *forte e molto staccato*

51

CHOIR

bright, Sees a bird taking flight.

30

sop.

Sees a bird tak- *glorioso*

27

vltn & tpt

mf

31

celli & bass

picc. Musical notation for Piccolo (picc.) in treble clef, key of B-flat major. The staff contains a series of eighth and sixteenth notes, including triplets and a sixteenth rest. A 'vln.' marking is present above the staff.

sop. Musical notation for Soprano (sop.) in treble clef, key of B-flat major. The staff shows a melodic line with various time signatures (3/4, 3/8, 2/4, 4/4, 2/4, 3/4) and includes triplets and a sixteenth rest.

vln & tpt Musical notation for Violin (vln) and Trumpet (tpt) in treble clef, key of B-flat major. The staff begins with a tempo marking of quarter note = 72 and a dynamic marking of *f*. It features a melodic line with various time signatures (2/4, 6/8, 4/4, 3/4, 4/4, 3/4) and includes triplets and rests.

celli & bass Musical notation for Cello (celli) and Bass (& bass) in bass clef, key of B-flat major. The staff shows a low-frequency line with various time signatures (2/4, 6/8, 4/4, 3/4, 4/4, 3/4) and includes rests.

picc. 

sop. 

vln
& tpt 

celli
& bass 

picc. *(veloce)*

8

3

vce.

3

sop. 49

3

43

vltn
& tpt

3

47

celli
& bass

3


picc.  *(brisk & lively)*

sop. 

vltn & tpt  *sempre piu forte*

7 ↓ with soprano 4th beat
(piano cue 7)

solo  *sempre cresc.* till cue 8
sempre ped.

duet 1st  *sempre cresc.* till cue 8

duet 2nd  *sempre cresc.* till cue 8
sempre ped.

celli & bass  *molto f*

(finish no later than cue 8 -
cut passage short if necessary)

picc.

Musical score for Piccolo (picc.) in G major, 3/4 time. The score consists of a single line of music with a treble clef. It begins with a series of eighth notes, followed by two triplet eighth notes, and continues with a complex rhythmic pattern of eighth and sixteenth notes. The piece concludes with a final triplet eighth note.

(finish no later than cue 8 -
cut passage short if necessary)

sop.

Musical score for Soprano (sop.) in G major, 3/4 time. The score starts at measure 61. It features a vocal line with a treble clef, including a fermata over the first note, a triplet eighth note, and various rhythmic patterns of eighth and sixteenth notes. The piece ends with a final triplet eighth note.

54
vln
& tpt

Musical score for Violin and Trumpet (vln & tpt) in G major, 3/4 time. The score starts at measure 54. It consists of a single line of music with a treble clef, featuring a series of eighth notes and quarter notes. The piece concludes with a final quarter note. A downward-pointing arrow is located at the end of the staff.

58
celli
& bass

Musical score for Cello and Bass (celli & bass) in G major, 3/4 time. The score starts at measure 58. It consists of a single line of music with a bass clef, featuring a series of quarter notes. The piece concludes with a final quarter note. The instruction *sempre cresc.* is written below the staff.

picc. 

CHOIR
verse 6

56 $\text{♩} = 96$ *f* well articulated

Black is the bird, swoop - ing low, Sees a crab down be - low.



8 ↓ immediately after violins

(BIRD - CRAB)

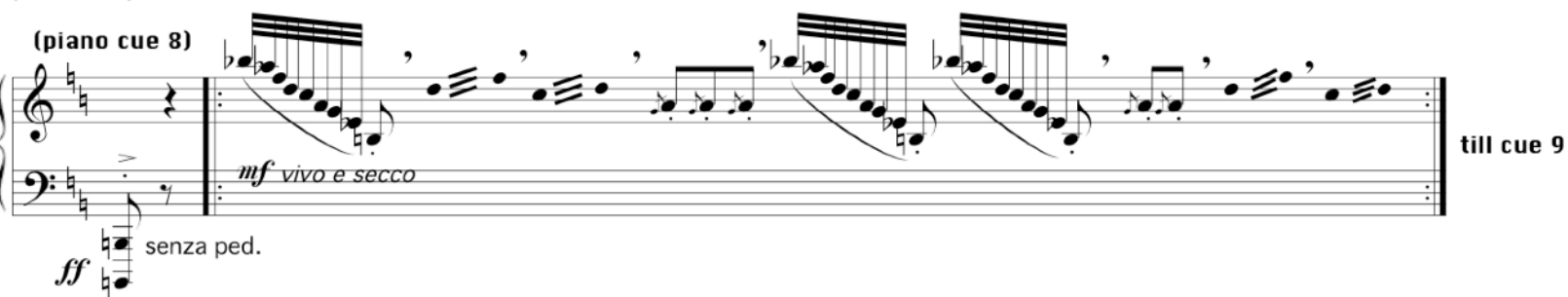
solo

(piano cue 8)

mf *vivo e secco*

ff senza ped.

till cue 9



duet
1st

mf *vivo e secco* 3

till cue 9

duet
2nd

mf *staccato*

till cue 9

ff senza ped.



picc.  clar.

The piccolo part begins with a series of eighth-note chords, each with a flat key signature. The clarinet part follows with a series of eighth notes, including a triplet of eighth notes.

CRAB 1 **scuttling** (either side of $\text{♩} = 92$)

CLARINETS (at pitch)  $\text{♩} = 88$ $\text{♩} = 96$

forte e molto staccato

The clarinet part is marked with a first ending bracket and includes a triplet of eighth notes. The tempo is indicated as being either side of a quarter note equal to 92 beats per minute.



picc. 

The piccolo part continues with eighth-note chords, ending with a final chord.

clar.  $\text{♩} = 88$ $\text{♩} = 96$

The clarinet part continues with eighth notes and a triplet of eighth notes, mirroring the earlier section.

picc. 

clar. ⁶ (MM simile) 



picc. *(veloce)* 

clar. ⁸ 

65 $\text{♩} = 80$ *poco f accentuato*

CHOIR
verse 7

Pink, pink is the crab, crawl - ing up,

$\text{♩} = 72$ *piu dolce*

10

clar.

9 ↓ immediately after clarinets

(CRAB - SEAL) **(piano cue 9)**

$\text{♩} = 72-76$

solo

f senza ped.

play five times

duet 1st

f play four times

duet 2nd

senza ped. *f staccatissimo* play four times

69 *come prima* $\text{♩} = 84$ *un poco leggiero*

CHOIR

Sees, sees, sees a seal with her pup.

13

clar.

3

SEAL

calm and loving ♩ = 66 at first

1

CELLI
(& HORNS
& VIOLAS)

mp dolce e calmo

18

clar.

poco a poco piu leggiero

solo

senza ped.

till cue 10

duet
1st

poco a poco piu leggiero

till cue 10

duet
2nd

senza ped.

poco a poco piu leggiero

till cue 10

5
celli
(hn, vla)

5
celli
(hn, vla)

22
clar.

22
clar.

The solo probably a cello, but it could be a horn or viola.

9 **solo** $\text{♩} = 72'$ (ritornando al $\text{♩} = 66'$)

celli (hn, vla)

the others v

celli (hn, vla)

26

clar.

10 ↓ approximately with cellos

(piano cue 10)

solo mp

senza ped.

play three times

duet 1st $sempre dim.$ play five times

duet 2nd $sempre dim.$ play three times

senza ped.

15

celli
(hn, vla)

celli
(hn, vla)

solo

p

3

3

3

3

sempre ped.

play five times

duet
2nd

sempre ped.

play three times

22 $(\text{♩} = 69-72)$

celli
(hn, vla)

celli
(hn, vla)

(SEAL - SUNSET)

solo

till cue 11

p calmo (just before cue 11 - poco dim.)

duet
1st

p

till cue 11

(just before cue 11 - poco dim.)

duet
2nd

p

till cue 11

(just before cue 11 - poco dim.)

29

celli
(hn, vla)
& horns

poco cresc.

dim.

celli
(hn, vla)

poco cresc.

dim.

CHOIR
verse 8

73 $\text{♩} = 69$ *mp legato e dolce* $\text{♩} = 76$ $\text{♩} = 69$ (*sempre mp*) $\text{♩} = 84$

Grey is the seal, shin- ing wet, Sees the sun a- bout to

celli
(hn, vla)

36 *(tutti)*



SOPRANO SOLO

SUNSET

1 *shining* $\text{♩} = 80$ (v)

sing always on 'ah' *lyrico ed espressivo*

VIOLINS (& TRUMPETS)

SUNSET

1 *singing* $\text{♩} = 63$ *mf*

CHOIR

80 $\text{♩} = 76$

set.

celli
(hn, vla)

43

8 *sop.* *3* *mf* *66*

7 *vln & tpt* *mf* *66*

celli (hn, vla) *tutti* *poco dim.* *p*

11 ↓ with cello downbeat

solo (piano cue 11) *p* *sempre ped.* *till cue 12* (just before cue 12, poco cresc.)

duet 1st *till cue 12*

duet 2nd *p* *sempre ped.* *till cue 12* (just before cue 12, poco cresc.)

13

sop.

$\text{♩} = 80$


(v) 3 (v) (v) 3 3 (v)


13


vln
& tpt

54

celli
(hn, vla)

21 sop. 

19 vln & tpt 

celli (hn, vla) 

12 ↓ with cello downbeat

(SUNSET - SKY) (piano cue 12) till cue 13

solo 

duet 1st 

duet 2nd 

BASS(ES) 

87 $\text{♩} = 88$

CHOIR *chang - ing too, chang - ing too, chang-ing too.*

sop. $\text{♩} = 69$ *f*

vln & tpt

bass *piena forte*

molto forte

92

CHOIR

sop. $\text{♩} = 80$, $\text{♩} = 88$, $\text{♩} = 80$ (*1*)

poco cresc. *a piena voce*

vln & tpt

bass

sop. 56 *3*

vln & tpt 48

GLOCKENSPIEL 1 13 ↓ approximately with soprano *ff* ♩ = 112

GLOCKENSPIEL 2 14 ↓ after several seconds *ff*

(repeat for a few seconds) (piano cue 14)

solo (piano cue 13) 8^{va} 7 *ff* ♩ = 80 (loco) 6

sempre ped.

duet 1st *ff* 3 1 3

duet 2nd *ff* R.H. L.H.

sempre ped.

bass

59 sop. *(pochiss. meno forte)*

52 vln & tpt *f*

solo *f* *sempre ped.* till cue 15

duet 2nd *f* till cue 15

bass *sempre forte*

66

sop.

58

vln & tpt

glock 1

glock 2

15 ↓ during last note of choir, previous page

16 ↓ after several seconds

ff

(repeat for a few seconds) (piano cue 16)

solo

sempre ped.

8^{va}

7

7

8^{va}

6

ff

(loco)

duet 1st

duet 2nd

sempre ped.

ff

ff

R.H.

L.H.

bass

67
sop.

poco a poco piu leggiero

62
vln
& tpt

mf

solo

f poco meno e un poco calmando till cue 17

sempre ped.

duet
2nd

f poco meno e un poco calmando till cue 17

sempre ped.

bass

f pochiss. a pochiss. dim.

74
sop.

67
vln & tpt

17 ↓ approximately with soprano *dim.*

glock 1
beginning ♩ = 76
f sempre calando al...

glock 2
f sempre calando al...

(SKY) (piano cue 17)
beginning ♩ = 100
solo *f* sempre calando
sempre ped. staccato, ma sempre ped. till cue 18

duet 1st *f* sempre calando till cue 18

duet 2nd *f* sempre ped. *dim.* sempre calando till cue 18

bass (mf)

93 *p* *calmo* $\text{♩} = 66$

CHOIR
verse 10

Blue is the sky in fading light,

bass

(*mp*) (*p*)

100 *piu piano e molto dolce*

CHOIR

Sees the moon,

bass

(*pp*) *sempre dim.*

108 *mf* *whispered (strongly)* $\text{♩} = 72$

CHOIR

now say good-night!

bass

ppp

MOON

CONTRALTO SOLO

1 $\text{♩} = 58$

sing always on 'oo' *pp* *p*

18 ↓ after choir

glock 1

pp

glock 2

pp

(piano cue 18)

(play lightly)

solo

pp

sempre ped.

(once only)

duet 1st

pp

duet 2nd

pp

sempre ped.

8vb

8vb

8vb

8vb

(not a triplet)

(sempre ped.)

alto

3 $\overset{\frown}{3}$ (,) pp pp p $dim.$

glock 1

glock 2

solo

(MOON)

pp sempre ped. till cue 19

duet 1st

(MOON)

pp till cue 19

duet 2nd

pp sempre ped. till cue 19

11

alto

pp

pp

19 ↓ approximately with alto

(piano cue 19)

solo

pp

sempre dim.

duet
1st

pp

duet
2nd

pp

sempre ped.

17

alto

solo

duet 1st

duet 2nd

sempre dim.

sempre dim.

sempre ped.

ppp

laissez vibrer

sempre ped.

laissez vibrer

laissez vibrer