



I.

for SATB chorus a cappella

[ 2019 ]

*Premiered by*

*Modern Sound Collective - Kai Leung, artistic director  
Toronto ON Canada*

text by

ERICA KATH

music by

MICHAEL NUNES

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Modern  
Sound  
Collective

## ABOUT THE PIECE

"I. (pronounced "eye") is a short choral setting of an impressionistic poem by Erica Kath: a remarkable writer and one of my closest friends. In the poem, she describes the lunar cycle—likening it to a blinking eye with darkened eyelids. My setting imitates and emphasizes the elegant structure of the text, amplifying her evocative language with rich, dense chords."

- Michael Nunes

### ORIGINAL TEXT

**Erica Kath**

*I.*

*the moon: a great eye  
peers into the world  
through ebony curtains.*

*slowly, it blinks  
—it eclipses—  
Time weighs,  
heavy.*

*darkened eyelids drag downwards,  
—everything in phases—  
until there is stillness.*

*until there is stillness.*

*several months, and the eye  
blinks once:  
shutting, stillness  
lifting, light*

*(through ebony curtains)  
shutting—lifting—shutting—lifting:  
watching.*

### ABOUT THE POET

**Erica Kath** is a Canadian multidisciplinary poet and interdisciplinary researcher from Edmonton, Alberta. In both her creative and academic work, she explores the intersections between language, perception, art, and digital media. She has



[@ericalkath](https://www.instagram.com/ericalkath)

collaborated as a librettist with Green Room Sound Collective, and has been featured on Concreamus Chamber Choir's debut album. Erica is the publications director of *TABLE MANNERS* literary magazine, and is currently writing her first collection of poetry exploring the

balance between anxiety and creation. Presently, Erica is pursuing a MA in English Literature at UiT The Arctic University of Norway.

### ABOUT THE COMPOSER

**Michael Nunes** is a Canadian composer and horn player from Sherwood Park, Alberta. He has performed as a soloist with the Hannaford Street Silver Band and the Westside Chamber Players, and performed with organizations such as the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra, the Aspen Music Festival, the National Youth Orchestra of Canada, and the Brott Music Festival. Previous commissions include the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra and the National Academy Orchestra of Canada, and his vocal and operatic works have been performed and recorded by the Juilliard School Vocal Arts Department, Green Room Sound Collective, and the Concreamus Chamber Choir. He is a current substitute musician with the New World Symphony. Michael holds a BMus from the University of Toronto, and is pursuing an MMus degree at The Juilliard School studying with Erik Ralske.



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MSC Presents:  
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Sensitive and Rubato ♩ = ca. 50

SOPRANO  
the moon: a great eye peers in - to the world through e - bon - y cur - tains...

ALTO  
the moon: a great eye peers in - to the world through e - bon - y cur - tains...

TENOR  
the moon: a great eye peers in - to the world through e - bon - y cur - tains...

BASS  
the moon: a great eye peers in - to the world through e - bon - y cur - tains...

Piano  
(for rehearsal only)

4

S.  
slow - ly, it blinks Time weighs, hea - vy...

A.  
slow - ly, it blinks Time weighs, hea - vy...

T.  
it ec - lip - ses Time weighs, hea - vy...

B.  
it ec - lip - ses Time weighs, hea - vy...

Pno.

10 poco più mosso ♩ = ca. 64, poco a poco accel. . . .

*p* poco a poco cresc.

9

S. *pp* dark - en'd eye-lids drag down -

A. *pp* dark - -

T. *pp* poco a poco cresc. dark - en'd eye-lids drag - d - - wards,

B. *pp* poco a poco cresc. - - - - - thing

Pno. 10 poco più mosso ♩ = ca. 64, poco a poco accel. . . .

14

S. wards, dark - en'd eye - lids

A. - en'd eye - lids drag down - wards, dark - en'd

T. dark - en'd eye - lids drag down - wards.

B. in pha - ses, e - v'ry -

Pno.

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18 **21** Crystalline  $\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 46$

*ff*

S. drag down - wards, down - wards, un - til there is

*ff*

A. eye - lids drag down - wards, un - til there is

*ff*

T. eye - lids drag down - wards, un - til there is

*ff*

B. -thing in pha - ses, un - til there is

*ff*

Pno.

23 *rall.* Resolving  $\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 36$

*pp senza vib.*

S. still - ness. un - til there is still - ness.

*pp senza vib.*

A. still - ness. un - til there is still - ness.

*pp senza vib.*

T. still - ness. un - til there is still - ness.

*pp senza vib.*

B. still - ness. un - til there is still - ness.

*rall.* Resolving  $\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 36$

Pno.

30 35  $\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 64$

S. *p* still - ness. still - ness. *p* Sev - 'ral months, and the eye blinks once: *sfz*

A. still - ness. still - ness. Sev - 'ral months, and the eye blinks once: *p* *sfz*

T. still - ness. still - ness. Sev - 'ral months, and the eye blinks once: *p* *sfz*

B. still - ness. Sev - 'ral months, and the eye blinks once: *p* *sfz*

Pno. 35  $\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 64$

37 43

S. *p* light, the moon, *f* *mf*

A. lift - ing, light, a great eye *p* *f* *mf*

T. still - ness, light, a great eye *mf* *p* *f* *mf*

B. shut - ting, light, a great eye *mf* *p* *f* *mf*

Pno. 43

44 *mf* *pp* **48**

S. through e - bon - y cur - tai(ns),

A. *p* *mf* *pp*  
peers in - to the world shut - ting,

T. *p* *mf* *pp*  
peers in - to the world shut - ting,

B. *p* *mf* *pp*  
peers in - to the world shut - ting,

Pno.

49 *rall.* *ppp senza vib.* (\*end on "ai" syllable, no "ns")

S. *ppp senza vib.*  
the moon.

A. *ppp senza vib.*  
lift-ing, shut-ting, lift-ing, watch-ing. the moon.

T. *ppp senza vib.*  
lift-ing, shut-ting, lift-ing, watch-ing. the moon.

B. *ppp senza vib.*  
lift-ing, shut-ting, lift-ing, watch-ing. the moon.

Pno. *rall.*



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