



The Moon is Like a Curlew

lyrics by Giles Watson
music by Kathryn Wheeler

With a free sense of tempo, sometimes speeding up, sometimes slower, sometimes with longer gaps between phrases. At all times quite otherworldly! Sing unaccompanied or with a drone, or alternatively with very gentle arpeggios carefully timed with the words. Use glissandi (sliding) between notes for effect (some suggestions are marked).

(drone:A&E)

The moon is like a cur - lew that flits from stone to stone: it

8

rose be - hind the crag last night, but this night it has flown. The moon

14

is like a cur - lew im - poss - i - ble to touch, a gleam, a voice, an

20

e - cho too shy for men to catch. A cu - ckoo's like a ru - mour that

26

walls cann - ot con - tain: a voice no net can capt - ure, an in - tan - gi - ble re - frain. A

32

cu - ckoo's like a ru - mour kept by a haw - thorn tree: it comes with - out a

37

war - ning but it ne - ver stays for me. You can - not catch a cur - lew,

43 (drone: Bb&F) (unaccompanied)

or cage the fi - ckle moon; you can - not trap a cu - ckoo and

Detailed description: This block contains the first line of musical notation, measures 43 through 48. It is written on a single treble clef staff. The melody begins with a half note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, B4, and C5. A sharp sign is placed above the C5 note. The melody continues with quarter notes B4, A4, G4, and F4. The final two measures feature a drone accompaniment consisting of two quarter notes, Bb3 and F3, with a slur over them. The lyrics are: "or cage the fi - ckle moon; you can - not trap a cu - ckoo and".

49

su - mmer's gone to soon.

Detailed description: This block contains the second line of musical notation, measures 49 and 50. It is written on a single treble clef staff. The melody consists of quarter notes G4, A4, B4, and C5. The final measure contains a whole note G4 with a fermata above it. The lyrics are: "su - mmer's gone to soon.". The piece ends with a double bar line.