

THE SLENDER MOON

SSA Voices with Piano

Greg Gilpin

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Part-by-Part



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Ranges:



Language: English
Use: General/Festival
Time: Approx. 2:55
*Difficulty: Moderate

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the Voice of Choral Music

Note from the Composer

The African-American poet, Joseph S. Cotter, Jr., has a rich life story. I would encourage each singer to study and learn about this remarkable man and his inspiring life. When reading Mr. Cotter's poem "Night Wind," I was drawn to the image of the "slender moon" and his description of the sky around this crescent. The calmness and the quiet reminded me of growing up and gazing into the day and evening skies, dreaming.

This work should be approached with gentleness and tenderness. Like light drops of rain on water, the piano accompaniment is purposefully composed to be simple with each note an important touch beneath the legato and harmony-rich vocals. Throughout the piece, rubato should be carefully woven as the text is interpreted. It's a very important part of this piece. Some places are marked, while others should be designed by the director and choir.

As always, vowels are everything. This work should allow for good vowel teaching with soft consonant work for young singers.

If I could choose one word to describe this piece and your approach to learning and performing it, it would be "caring".

About the Composer

Originally from the "Show-Me" state of Missouri, Greg Gilpin resides in Indianapolis, Indiana. A graduate of Northwest Missouri State University with a Bachelor's Degree in Vocal Music Education, K-12, Greg is a well known, ASCAP award-winning choral composer and arranger with hundreds of publications to his credit.

In demand as a conductor for choral festivals, all-district and all-state choirs, he is a member of NAFME and ACDA. At home, Greg is busy as a studio musician and producer in the recording industry.

The Slender Moon

for SSA Voices with Piano

3

Lyrics *Night Winds* by
JOSEPH S. COTTER, JR.

Music by
GREG GILPIN

Tenderly, with much rubato (♩ = 63-66)

Piano

pp

Piano introduction in 4/4 time, key of B-flat major. The right hand features a melody of eighth and sixteenth notes, while the left hand provides a simple harmonic accompaniment. The piece begins with a piano (*pp*) dynamic.

4 *poco rit.* *a tempo*

Soprano 1, 2 *p*

The slen-der moon in its sil - v'ry sheen, and gold-en

Alto *p*

The slen-der moon in its sil - v'ry sheen, and gold-en

poco rit. *a tempo*

p

Vocal and piano accompaniment for measures 4-6. The vocal parts (Soprano 1, 2 and Alto) enter with the lyrics 'The slen-der moon in its sil - v'ry sheen, and gold-en'. The piano accompaniment continues with a simple harmonic pattern. The tempo changes from *poco rit.* to *a tempo*. Dynamics include *p* for the voices and *p* for the piano.

7 *mp*

stars with the blue be - tween of a dream - y, sum-mer

mp

stars with the blue be - tween of a dream - y, sum-mer

mp

Vocal and piano accompaniment for measures 7-9. The vocal parts continue with the lyrics 'stars with the blue be - tween of a dream - y, sum-mer'. The piano accompaniment provides a harmonic foundation. Dynamics include *mp* for the voices and *mp* for the piano.

10 *dim.* *poco rit.* *p*

sky; And still the night, the night winds sigh. The slen-der

dim. *p*

sky; And still the night, the night winds sigh. The slen-der

dim. *poco rit.* *p*

13 *a tempo*

moon in its sil - v'ry sheen, the gold-en stars with the blue be -

moon in its sil-v'ry sheen, the gold-en stars with

moon in its sil-v'ry sheen, the gold-en stars with

a tempo

16 *mp* *dim.*

blue be-tween of a dream - y, sum-mer sky; And still the

mp *dim.*

blue be-tween of a dream - y, sum-mer sky; And still the

mp *dim.*

29 *a tempo*

The slen-der moon in its sil - v'ry

The slen-der moon in its sil - v'ry

a tempo

32

sheen, and gold-en stars with the blue be - tween of a

sheen, and gold-en stars with the blue be - tween of a

mp

mp

35

dream - y, sum-mer sky; And still the night, the night winds

dream - y, sum-mer sky; And still the night, the night winds

dim.

dim.

mp

dim.

38 *p*

sigh. And still the night, the night winds sigh. The slen-der

p

sigh. And still the night, the night winds sigh. The slen-der

p

41 *poco rit.*

moon, the slen - der moon. The slen-der moon, the slen - der

moon, the slen - der moon. The slen-der moon, the slen - der

poco rit.

44 *a tempo dim.* *rit.*

moon.

dim.

moon.

a tempo *rit.*

dim. *pp*

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the Voice of Choral Music

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