

THE MOON AND SUN ARE ETERNAL TRAVELERS

ALTO FLUTE SOLO

JARRAD POWELL

NOTE

The Moon and Sun are Eternal Travelers was written in the summer of 1999 for flutist Paul Taub. Thanks to Paul for encouraging me to write this piece, for his long-time dedication to contemporary music, and his skillful and heart-felt playing. The title of the piece is from Matsuo Basho, Japan's great Haiku poet. I have long enjoyed Zen poets. My favorite is the Chinese poet Stonehouse. But the Japanese poet Basho, who is better known, I find very beautiful as well. His book *Oku-no-hosomichi (Narrow Road to the Interior)* is a diary written in prose and haiku about a journey on foot on the roads of Japan's Northern Interior. He records with almost complete detachment the essential and transient nature of the people and places encountered along the way. "Oku" means "interior" both in the sense of interior country and spiritual interior. In writing this short solo for alto flute I tried to capture something of the spirit and brevity of his writing. – J. Powell

The moon and sun are eternal travelers. Even the years wander on. A lifetime adrift in a boat, or in old age leading a tired horse into the years, every day is a journey, and the journey itself is home.

From *Narrow Road to the Interior* by Matsuo Basho

Translated by Sam Hamill

PERFORMANCE

In movement II, *Sun*, the fermata is used to indicate points of arrival at the end of phrases. It is intended that the performer linger on those notes, with the duration of the note up to the player and how they want to feel or shape the phrases.

for Paul Taub
The Moon and Sun are Eternal Travelers
I. Moon

Alto Flute Solo

J. Powell

Adagio (♩ = ca. 68) tender, serene

f *poco dim.*

7 *mf* *mp* *f*

14 *mp*

20 *dim.* *p* *f*

26 *mp*

32

cresc. *f*

This musical staff contains measures 32 through 37. It begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The first measure is a whole note chord. The second measure has a whole rest. From measure 3 to 7, there are eighth-note triplets with slurs. The dynamics are marked *cresc.* and *f*. The staff ends with a whole note chord.

38

mf *dim.* *mp*

This musical staff contains measures 38 through 42. It begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The first measure is a whole note chord. The second measure has a triplet of eighth notes. The dynamics are marked *mf*, *dim.*, and *mp*. The staff ends with a whole note chord.

43

p

This musical staff contains measures 43 through 47. It begins with a treble clef and a key signature of two flats (Bb, Eb). The first measure is a whole note chord. The second measure has a whole rest. From measure 3 to 7, there are eighth-note triplets with slurs. The dynamic is marked *p*. The staff ends with a whole note chord.

II. Sun

J. Powell

Lento, ♩ = ca. 40, rubato espressivo (warm, active)

The musical score consists of six staves of music in 7/4 time. The first staff begins with a dynamic of *f* and includes markings for *ff*, *f*, *mf*, *mp*, *mf*, *f*, and *mf*. The second staff starts with *p* and includes *mf*, *f*, and *mf*. The third staff is marked *mp*. The fourth staff begins with *p*, includes a double bar line, *mf*, *accel.*, and *molto rit.*. The fifth staff starts with *f* and ends with *mp*. The sixth staff is marked *Tempo primo*, includes *mf*, *p*, and *rit.*. The music features complex rhythmic patterns with many beamed eighth and sixteenth notes, often grouped with slurs and accents.