

david adams

# l u n a r   a s p e c t s

four songs for soprano and guitar  
from the Japanese

for Peter and Margaret Lynch

# lunar aspects

## texts

1

someone passes  
and while I wonder  
if it is he  
the midnight moon  
is covered with clouds

*lady murasaki shikibu (974-1031)*

2

i go out of darkness  
onto a road of darkness  
lit only by the far off moon  
on the edge of the mountains

*lady izumi shikibu (ca. c10-11)*

3

the purity of moonlight  
falling out of the immense sky  
is so great it freezes  
the water touched by its rays

*anonymous*

4

i should not have waited  
it would have been better  
to have slept and dreamed  
than to have watched night pass  
and this slow moon sink

*lady akazome emon (ca. early c11)*

1  
**clouded**

lady murasaki shikibu

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*walking fretfully* ♩ = 130 *a tempo* *mp*

soprano

guitar

*p* *mp sim.* *mf* *rit.* *dim.* *a tempo*

8

S

pass - es and while I won

G

13

S

- der if it is he

G

*cantabile*

21

S

*mf*

the mid - - -

*f*

*mf*

26

S

- - - night moon - - -

*p*

is - - -

31

S

cov - ered with - - - clouds

*pp*

# on the edge of the mountains<sup>2</sup>

lady izumi shikibu

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walking contemplatively ♩ = 60

soprano

I - go - out - of - dark - ness - - - On to

guitar

*mf*

6

a road of dark - - - ness

10

Lit on - ly lit

14 *mp* *sotto voce* *p* (*subito*) *pp*

by a far off moon on the -

21

- edge of the moun - tains -

26

3  
purity

anon.

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soprano *insistent* ♩ = 90 *f*

The pur - i - ty of moon - - - light

guitar *f*

7

fall - - - ing

8

11

from the imm - ense sky is so

8

16

great — it freez — — — es —

*sf*

*f* *ff* *f*

21

the wat — er touched —

*p* *mf*

*p* *mf*

27

by — its — rays —

*f* *ff*



4  
**slowly sinking**

lady akazome emon

david adams

reproachfully immobile  $\text{♩} = 49$

soprano

guitar

*p*

I should not have wait - - ed

it - - - - would have been bet - - -

The musical score is written for soprano and guitar. The tempo is marked as 49 beats per minute. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The time signature is 5/4. The soprano part begins with a rest for two measures, then enters with the lyrics 'I should not have wait - - ed'. The guitar part starts with a piano (*p*) dynamic and features a triplet of eighth notes in the first measure, followed by a tremolo in the second measure. The lyrics 'it - - - - would have been bet - - -' are spread across the second system. The guitar accompaniment includes a triplet of eighth notes and a tremolo pattern.

8

ter to have slept and dreamed than to have watched night

12

pass and this slow moon

15

sink