

The weeping Pleiads wester

for SATB Chorus

Text: A. E. Housman

Kenji Oh
(2014)

Kenji Oh / 王 健治 (b. 1981)

The weeping Pleiads wester

Instrumentation: SATB

Duration: ca 2'50"

Composed in 2014

ASCAP Work ID: 888610411

Composer's ASCAP member ID: 3996582

Composer's IPI: 716289426

Recording:

<https://soundcloud.com/kenji/the-weeping-pleiads-wester-live>

Please report to ASCAP when the piece gets performed.

<https://www.ascap.com/applications/performance-notification>

Please send an email to the composer about your performance so that he can promote it. Your questions and feedbacks are very welcome. Please ask the composer about commissioning, private lessons, lectures, etc.

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Text by A. E. Housman

The weeping Pleiads wester
And the moon is under seas;
From bourn to bourn of midnight
Far sighs the rainy breeze:

It sighs from a lost country
To a land I have not known;
The weeping Pleiads wester,
And I lie down alone.

Notes for performers

- Pronunciation of the text is to be based on British pronunciation. For example, “Pleiads” is to be pronounced as /plɪːədz/.
- “su”, “bah”, “loo” is from the word “昴”(subaru), which is the Japanese word for the Pleiads.
- MIDI mock up for reference: <https://soundcloud.com/kenji/the-weeping-pleiads-wester>

Duration

2 minutes 45 seconds

Program note

The piece starts with an image of the Pleiads in the night sky painted by the choir, with syllables from the Japanese word for the Pleiads—“昴”(subaru). The seven-note figure in the tenor represents the seven stars of the Pleiads while the treble and the bass draw the clouds running above the horizon.

This motif returns constantly giving the feeling of a long night while the Pleiads travel towards the west. The piece is painted with colors and rhythms from each word, segment, line, stanza and overall atmosphere of the poem. While my impression of the poem is very calm, beautifully dark and quiet, I also wanted to express inner cries of solitude.

Other choir works by Kenji Oh

- Stars, I have seen them fall (SATB choir with SATB quartet)
<https://soundcloud.com/kenji/stars-i-have-seen-them-fall>
- O magnum mysterium (SSAATTBB choir)
<https://soundcloud.com/kenji/o-magnum-mysterium>
- Jaiken -rock, paper, scissors- (SATB choir)
<https://soundcloud.com/kenji/jaiken-rock-paper-scissors>

Contact Info

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written for the San Francisco Conservatory of Music
Biennial Choral Composition Competition, David Conte, director

The weeping Pleiads wester

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Moderato ♩=96

5

SOPRANO

mp < *mf* > *mp* *f* *p sub.* *mp* *mf* > *mp*

loo loo loo Plei - ads

ALTO

mp < *mf* > *mp* *f* *mp* *mf* > *mp*

loo loo The weep - ing Plei-ads

TENOR

mp legg. *mf* *mp* *f* *p sub.* *mp* *mf* > *mp*

su su su su su su su su su loo The weep - ing Plei - ads

BASS

mp *mf* *mp* *f* *p sub.* *mp* *mf* > *mp*

bah bah loo Plei - ads

Piano

Moderato ♩=96

5

mp *mf* *mp* *f* *p* *mp* *mf*

(for rehearsal only)

8 *p* < *f* [10] *mp* *f* *p sub* [13] *mp* *mf* *mp*

west-er loo loo And the moon is un - der

west-er loo loo And the moon is un - der

8 west-er su su su su su su su su loo And the moon is un - der

west-er bah And the moon is un - der

[10] [13]

mp *p* < *f* *mp* *f* *p* *mf* *piuf* *mp*

mf

16 *fp* < *f* [17] *p* < *mp* *p* *p* rit. . . . [21] A tempo

seas; loo loo non legato From bourn to

fp < *f* *p* < *mp* *p* *p* *mf* non legato

seas; loo loo loo From bourn to

fp < *f* *p legg.* *mp* *p* *mf* non legato

8 seas; su su su su su su su su su su su su su su From bourn to bourn,

fp < *f* *p sub.* *mp* *p* *mf* non legato

seas; bah bah From bourn to bourn,

[17] [21] A tempo

fp < *f* *p sub* *mp* *p* *mf*

27

molto rit. (♩=72)

rit. (♩=63)³

23

moodily > *mp**pp* sotto voce ——— *p=mp*

bourn From bourn to bourn of mid - night Far sighs the rain - y
 bourn From bourn to bourn of mid - night Far sighs the rain - y
 8 From bourn to bourn, to bourn to bourn of mid - night Far sighs the rain - y
 From bourn to bourn, to bourn to bourn of mid - night Far sighs the rain - y

27

molto rit. (♩=72)

rit. (♩=63)

moodily > *mp* *pp* sotto voce ——— *mp*
 moodily > *mp* *pp* sotto voce ——— *mp*

30 **Meno mosso** ♩=88

34

molto rit. Animato ♩=88

29

mfp < *f**mp* legg. ——— *mf* ——— *mp* ——— *mf* ——— *f**f*

breeze: su su su su su su su from a lost coun-try To a
 breeze: It sighs su su su su su su su coun-try
 breeze: It sighs from a lost coun-try To a
 breeze: bah coun-try

30 **Meno mosso** ♩=88

34

molto rit. Animato ♩=88

mfp < *f* *mp* ——— *mf* ——— *mp* ——— *f*
mfp < *f* *mp* ——— *mf* ——— *mp* ——— *f*

molto rit. (♩=60)

ff no dim.

35

land I have not known; To a land I have not known;

To a land, To a land I have not known;

land I have not known; To a land I have not known;

To a land, To a land I have not known;

molto rit. (♩=60)

ff no dim.

41

Lento ♩=72

loo loo Plei - ads west -

loo The weep - ing Plei - ads west - er,

su su su su su su su loo The weep - ing Plei - ads west -

bah loo Plei - ads west -

p *mp* *p* *mf* *mp*

p *mp* *p* *mp* *mf* *mp*

p legg. *mp* *p* *mp* *mf* *mp*

p sub. *mp* *p* *mf* *mp*

41

Lento ♩=72

44

p legg. *mp* *p* *mp* *mf* *mp*

47 48 *p* *più p* *pochiss.* **molto rit.** *dolce* *poco*

er, And I lie down a - lone.

p *più p* *pochiss.* *div. dolce* *poco*

And I lie down a - lone.

p *più p* *pochiss.* *div. dolce* *poco*

er, And I lie down a - lone.

p *più p* *pochiss.* *dolce* *poco*

er, And I lie down a - lone.

48 **molto rit.** *poco*

p *più p* *pochiss.*

San Francisco
March 29, 2014