

Liam Wade

# SILVER APPLES

*a song cycle for soprano and piano*

2008



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Liam Wade

# SILVER APPLES

*a Song Cycle for Soprano & Piano*

Music by Liam Wade

Poetry by  
Robert Louis Stevenson  
Edgar Allan Poe  
William Butler Yeats  
and Lisa DeSiro

for Ann Moss & Steven Bailey

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## The Moon

Robert Louis Stevenson

The moon has a face like the clock in the hall;  
She shines on thieves on the garden wall,  
On streets and fields and harbour quays,  
And birdies asleep in the forks of the trees.

The squalling cat and the squeaking mouse,  
The howling dog by the door of the house,  
The bat that lies in bed at noon,  
All love to be out by the light of the moon.

But all of the things that belong to the day  
Cuddle to sleep to be out of her way;  
And flowers and children close their eyes  
Till up in the morning the sun shall arise.

## Eldorado

Edgar Allan Poe

Gaily bedight,  
A gallant knight,  
In sunshine and in shadow,  
Had journeyed long,  
Singing a song,  
In search of Eldorado.

But he grew old  
This knight so bold  
And o'er his heart a shadow  
Fell as he found  
No spot of ground  
That looked like Eldorado.

And, as his strength  
Failed him at length,  
He met a pilgrim shadow  
"Shadow," said he,  
"Where can it be  
This land of Eldorado?"

"Over the Mountains  
Of the Moon,  
Down the Valley of the Shadow,  
Ride, boldly ride,"  
The shade replied  
"If you seek for Eldorado!"

## The Cat and The Moon

William Butler Yeats

The cat went here and there  
And the moon spun round like a top,  
And the nearest kin of the moon,  
The creeping cat, looked up.  
Black Minnaloushe stared at the moon,  
For, wander and wail as he would,  
The pure cold light in the sky  
Troubled his animal blood.  
Minnaloushe runs in the grass  
Lifting his delicate feet.  
Do you dance, Minnaloushe, do you dance?  
When two close kindred meet.  
What better than call a dance?  
Maybe the moon may learn,  
Tired of that courtly fashion,  
A new dance turn.  
Minnaloushe creeps through the grass  
From moonlit place to place,  
The sacred moon overhead  
Has taken a new phase.  
Does Minnaloushe know that his pupils  
Will pass from change to change,  
And that from round to crescent,  
From crescent to round they range?  
Minnaloushe creeps through the grass  
Alone, important and wise,  
And lifts to the changing moon  
His changing eyes.

## Carpe Luna

Lisa DeSiro

After practicing  
self-perfection --  
my mind alone,  
my fingers, my arms,  
my body  
creating  
the only sound  
in the world  
for hours --  
I left the room,  
scuffed down empty halls  
to a door, pushed  
myself out  
into sudden silence.  
And there was the moon,  
gleaming, round  
as a snowball, frozen  
amid shallow drifts of cloud.  
I reached up  
tall as the night sky,  
grabbed that moon  
and melted it  
with my bare hands.

Liam Wade

# SILVER APPLES

*for soprano and piano*

*Silver Apples* can be heard on the CD *Currents* by Soprano Ann Moss, available from iTunes, CD Baby and other venus.

*Liam composed this enchanting song cycle for me and pianist Steven Bailey to premiere on CMASH's second annual New American Chamber Music program in 2008. Liam and I selected the moon-themed poems together, and Steven and I worked closely with Liam throughout his compositional process, contributing musical ideas along the way that were incorporated into the score. Liam left us a great deal of room for improvisation in these magically whimsical songs, allowing for a fresh perspective in every performance. Working in the studio with Leslie and Dann, the cycle evolved in totally unexpected ways, revealing still new surprises. I am thrilled to be able to share Liam's inventive story-telling and natural affinity for the lyric coloratura instrument with a broad audience, especially as his budding operatic career is propelled by a recent commission from Washington National Opera. SILVER APPLES has enabled many new listeners to connect with and find joy in the genre of Art Song.*

— Soprano Ann Moss

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Catalogue Number LWE-002

Robert Louis Stevenson

for Ann Moss

# 1. The Moon

Liam James Wade

**Free and expressive** (♩ = 88)

Voice      Piano

7

Voice      Pno.

13

Voice      Pno.

19

Voice      Pno.

The moon has a face like the clock in the hall; She  
shines on thieves on the gar-den wall, \_\_\_\_\_ On streets and fields and har-bour

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24

Voice      quays,      And bir-dies a - sleep in the forks of the trees.      The squal-ling cat      and the squeak-ing

Pno.

29

Voice      mouse,      The howl-ing dog      by the door of the house,      The bat that lies in bed at

Pno.

*fun not scary*

33

Voice      noon,      All love to be out      by the light of the moon.      But all of the things      that be-long to the

Pno.

37

Voice      day      Cud-dle to sleep      to be out of her way;      And flow-ers and child-ren close their

Pno.

*p*

41

Voice      eyes Till up in the morn-ing the sun shall a - rise. But all of the things that be-long to the

Pno.

45

Voice      day Cud-dle to sleep to be out of her way; And flow-ers and

Pno.

48

Voice      child - ren close their eyes Till up in the morn - ing the sun shall a - rise.

Pno.

poco rit.

## 2. Eldorado III

Edgar Allan Poe

Liam James Wade

**Slow rag** ♩ = 76

Voice

Piano

5

Voice

Pno.

9

Voice

Pno.

13 *mf* lightly and fun

Gai-ly be- digit, A gall ant knight, In sun shine and in sha dow, Had

Pno.

17

Voice      jour - neyed long,- Sing - ing a song, In search of El - do - ra\_\_\_\_ do.

Pno.

21

Voice      scat like a cross between a dirty  
                  pirate and the Sweedish Chef

*mp* quasi ad lib.

Pno.

26

Voice      \*\*\*weird cadenza\*\*\*

Pno.

31

Voice

Pno.

35

Voice

poco accel.

Pno.

39

Voice

poco rit.

(8)

Pno.

(8)

Black Keys

White Keys

gliss.

gliss.

43

Voice

a tempo

*pp sentimental*

But he grew old - This knight so

Pno.

a tempo  
snap fingers

p

48

Voice      bold - And o'er his heart a sha -

Pno.

52

Voice      dow Fell as he found no spot of ground That

Pno.

mf

57

Voice      looked like El - - do - ra

Pno.

f

**Piu Mosso***f* dark theremin sound

60

Voice: do. (ah)

Pno. *f* slightly funky

63

Voice:

Pno.

65

Voice:

Pno.

*a tempo*

69

Voice: *mf* And, as his strength Failed him at length He met a pil - grim

Pno. *p*

73

Voice sha - dow "Sha - dow," said he, "Where can it be - This land of El - do ra-

Pno.

77

Voice - do?" "O - ver the moun - tains of the <sup>3</sup>Moon - Down the Val - ley of the

Pno.

81

Voice Sha dow, Ride, bold - ly ride." The Shade re - plied - "If you seek El - do - ra -

Pno.

85

Voice do!"

Pno.

W.B. Yeats

## 3. The Cat and the Moon II

Liam James Wade

**Groovy** ♩ = 76

Voice

Piano

Voice

Pno.

Voice

Pno.

Voice

Pno.

Voice

Pno.

play clusters with knuckles.  
slide from black notes to white notes  
quickly almost like grace notes to produce  
the effect of a cat walking on the keyboard.

latin percussion feel  
*mp* with energy

5

10

The cat went here and there And the moon spun round like a

15<sup>ma</sup>

*mp* same feel

14

top, and the near - est kin to the moon, The creep-ing cat looked

(15)

(8)

18

Voice

*mp*

up. Black Minn-o-loushe stared at the moon\_\_\_\_\_ For, wan - der and

Pno.

(15)

(8)

The musical score consists of two staves. The top staff is for the Voice, starting with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp, and a common time signature. The vocal line begins with a dotted half note followed by eighth notes. The lyrics 'up.' are followed by a melodic line with a grace note and eighth-note pairs. The dynamic marking *mp* is placed above the vocal line. The piano accompaniment starts with a treble clef and a key signature of four flats. It features a rhythmic pattern of eighth-note pairs and sixteenth-note chords. The bass staff continues the piano's eighth-note pairs. Measure numbers 18 and 15 are indicated above the staves, and measure 8 is indicated below the piano staff. A rehearsal mark (8) is also present below the piano staff.

23

Voice

wail as he would, — The pure cold light in the sky troub-led his

Pno.

(15)

(8)

27

Voice

Pno.

(15) an - i - mal blood.

8va

f

2

2

2

2

8vb

Ped.

Musical score for piano and voice. The piano part consists of a bass line with eighth-note patterns. The voice part has a single note on the first beat of each measure. Measure 1: piano bass eighth notes (F#), voice note (F#). Measure 2: piano bass eighth notes (E, D), voice note (D). Measure 3: piano bass eighth notes (G, F#), voice note (F#). Measure 4: piano bass eighth notes (E, D), voice note (D). Measure 5: piano bass eighth notes (G, F#), voice note (F#). Measure 6: piano bass eighth notes (E, D), voice note (D). Measure 7: piano bass eighth notes (G, F#), voice note (F#).

34      *mf* ————— *f*      *ff*

Voice      Minn - o - loushe runs in the grass      Lift - ing his del - i - cate feet.      Do you

Pno. {      4 2      4 2      4 2      4 2      4

38      *mf*

Voice      dance, Minn o - loushe, do you dance?      When the two close kin-dred meet,      What

Pno. {      4 2      4 2      4 2      4 2      4

42

Voice      bet-ter than call a dance?      May-be the moon may learn,      Ti - red \_\_\_\_ of that

Pno. {      4 2      4 2      4 2      4 2      4 2

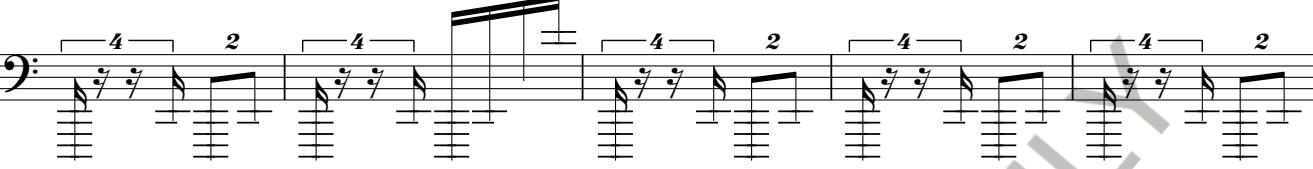
47

Voice      court - ly fa - shion,      A new dance\_ turn.

Pno. {      4 2      4 2      4 2      4 2      4 2

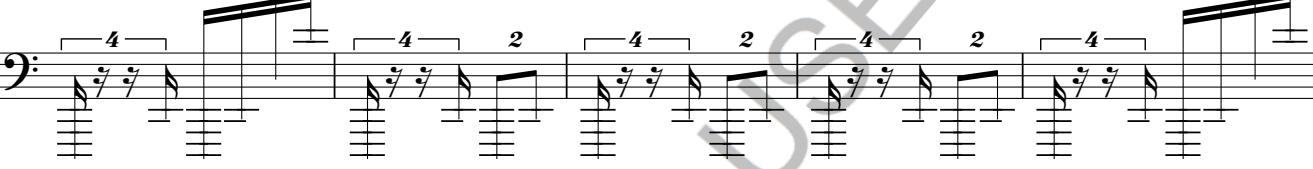
52

Voice      A new dance turn.

Pno. { 

57

Voice      A new dance turn.

Pno. { 

62      *mf*      *f*      *ff*

Voice      Minn-a-loushe creeps through the grass      From moon-lit place to place,      The

Pno. { *mp* same feel 

66      *mf*

Voice      sa - cred moon o ver - head      Has ta - ken a new phase.

Pno. { *(15)* 

70 Waltz  $\text{♩} = 84$  *mf espr.*

Voice

Does Minn - a-loushe know that his pu-pils Will pass from

Pno.

77 *mp*

Voice

change to change, And that from round to cres-cent, From cres-cent to round

Pno.

84 *mp*

Voice

they range? Minn - a-loushe creeps through the grass A - lone, im-

Pno.

*mf* *mp* *sempre legato*

92

*f relaxed*

Voice      por-tant and wise,      And lifts to the chan - ging moon      His chan - - - ging

Pno.

101

*mf*

Voice      eyes.      And Lifts to the chan - - - ging moon

Pno.

*mp*

*Ped.*

106

Voice      His chan - - - ging eyes.

Pno.

*3*

*4:3*

*benf*

*4:3*

*mp*

*3*

*3*

*\* 8vb Ped.*

110

Voice

Pno.

rallentando

(B)

*benf*

*mp*

*8vb*

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Lisa DeSiro

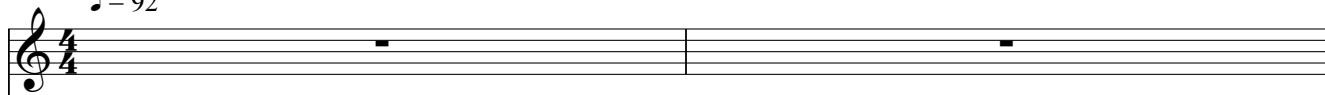
## 4. Carpe Luna

Liam James Wade

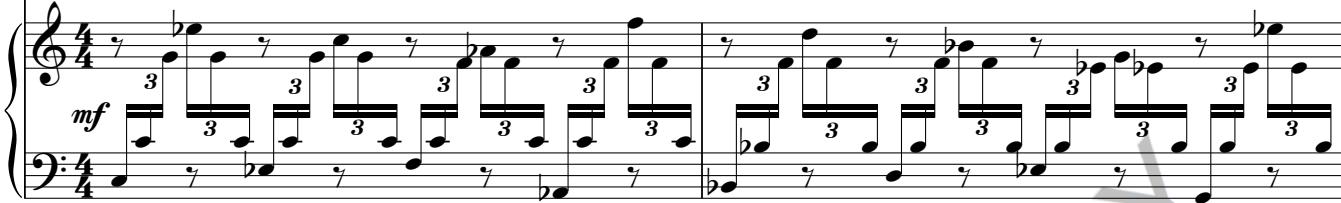
**Fast and lucid**

$\text{♩} = 92$

Voice

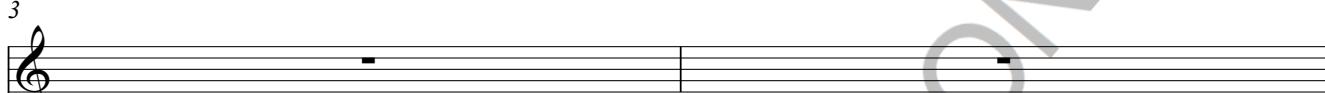


Piano

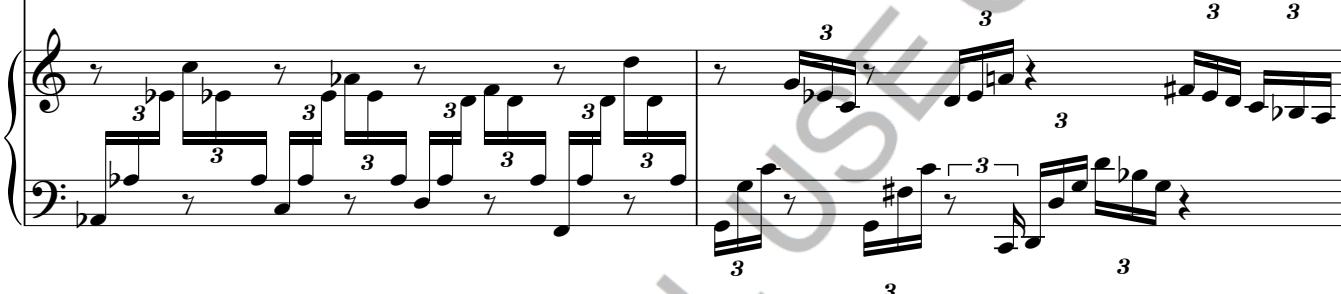


light ped.

Voice



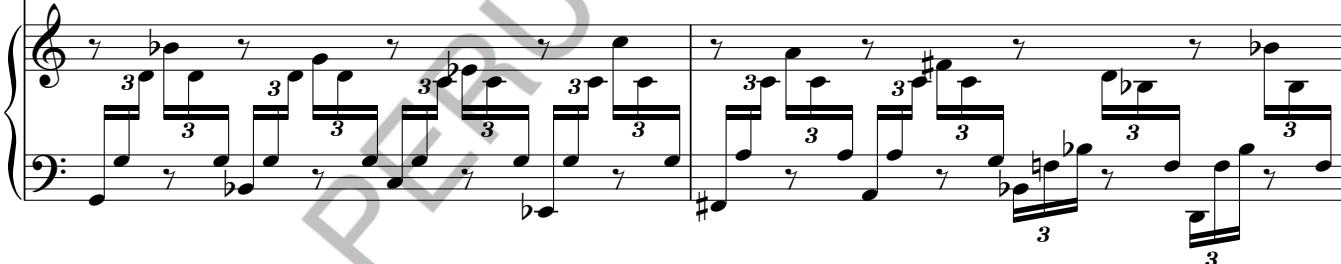
Pno.



Voice



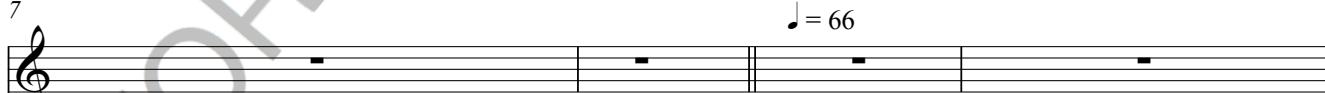
Pno.



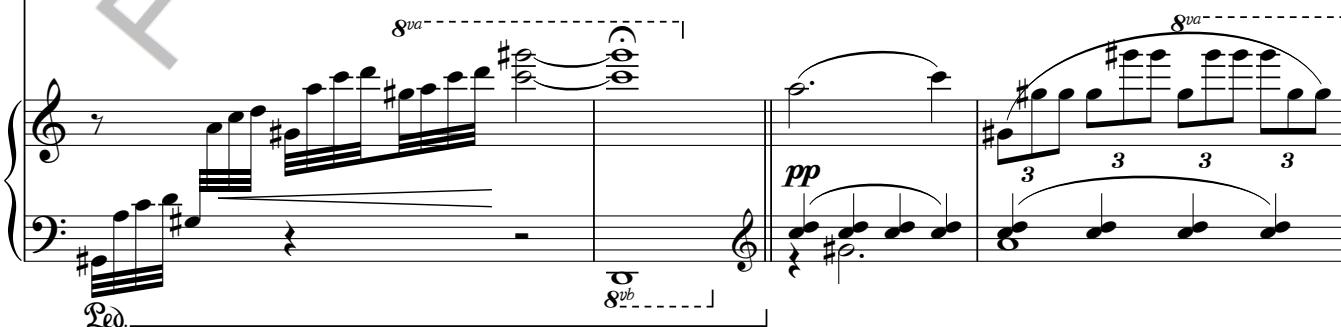
**Slow and Dreamlike**

$\text{♩} = 66$

Voice



Pno.



11 **p floating**

Voice      Af - ter prac - ti - cing      self - per-fec - tion      my

Pno.

15

Voice      mind      a - lone,      my      fin-gers,      my arms,      my      bo-dy cre - a-ting the on-ly

Pno.

20      *mp suddenly focused*

Voice      sound      in      the      world      for      hours      I left      the      room,

Pno.      *p*

25      *mp*

Voice      scuffed down      emp - ty      halls      to      a      door,      pushed my-self

Pno.      *p*

29

Voice      out in-to sud - den sil - - ence.      And there was the

Pno.

*mf*

*Ped.*

33

Voice      moon,      gleam-ing,      round as a      snow - ball,

Pno.

*mf*

*p*

*Ped.*

37

Voice      fro- zen      a-mong shal-low drifts of      cloud.

Pno.

*mp*

*p*

*mf*

*mf*

*Ped.*

41

Voice

Pno.

I reached up tall as the night

45

Voice

Pno.

sky, grabbed that moon and melt-ed it with ,

49

Voice

Pno.

my bare hands.

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