

“Mad Moon” – vocal score in braille music with annotations

Below is a print version of what would be raised braille dots for a reader who is blind to use. Each braille “cell” is made up of a pattern of dots in a two across, three down, pattern, like an egg box for half a dozen eggs. A brailist usually reads the raised dots with both index fingers, reading from left to right as in print. The print braille dots here are larger than real ones, which are a set size, a bit like print in a specific font.

In vocal scores, lines of the lyrics alternate with lines of the music, as in print. Usually a brailist reads either the lyric lines or the music lines, needing to memorise at least one line for performance. A very few brailists are able to read both lines at the same time. The layout in this print version is not quite the same as the copy for a brailist.

Mad Moon
 Music by Jonathan Dove
 Lyrics by Alasdair Middleton

Wildly stomping. Crotchet = 112 three sharps 4 4
 (bar 1) treble clef, bar rest, minim rest, crotchet rest, quaver rest, bar continuation sign,

That night the Moon went mad
 (bar 2 continued) fourth octave E quaver, barline, B quaver, semiquaver rest, A semiquaver, B quaver, C quaver, B minim, tied to, barline, B dotted minim, quaver rest, bar continuation sign,

And cut off all her hair;



(bar 4 continued) fourth octave E quaver, barline, B quaver, semiquaver rest, A semiquaver, B quaver, C quaver, B minim, tied to, barline, B semibreve, barline,



Pressed her face



(bar 7) natural fifth octave C quaver, C quaver, B quaver, bar continuation sign,



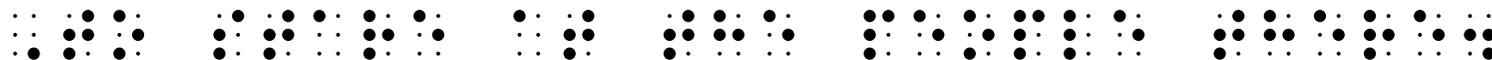
to the window panes



(bar 7 continued) B semiquaver, B semiquaver, natural C quaver, natural fourth octave G quaver, G crotchet, tied to, barline, G dotted minim, quaver rest, bar continuation sign,



To stare at the people there.



(bar 8 continued) natural fourth octave G quaver, barline, E quaver, E semiquaver, E semiquaver, natural G quaver, F quaver, E minim, [word expression] portamento, line, barline, B dotted minim, bar continuation sign,



Oh!



(bar 10 continued) [word expression] howling, open phrase, fourth octave B crotchet, doubled slur, barline, D semibreve, tied to, barline,



D dotted crotchet, C quaver, gliss, D quaver, gliss, C quaver, gliss, D quaver, gliss, C quaver, gliss, barline, B dotted minim, A crotchet, barline, F dotted minim, end of phrase, bar continuation sign,



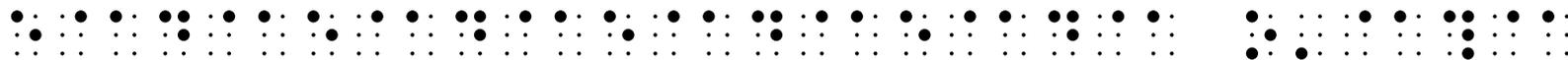
Oh!



(bar 14 continued) open phrase, fourth octave B crotchet, port. gliss., barline, D dotted minim, tied to D dotted crotchet, gliss, C quaver, gliss, barline



D quaver, gliss, C quaver, gliss, D quaver, gliss, C quaver, gliss, D quaver, gliss, C quaver, gliss, D quaver, gliss, C quaver, barline, D dotted minim, gliss, C crotchet, gliss, barline, B semibreve





9 bars rest, minim rest, crotchet, quaver, bar continuation,



And when they saw her face



(bar 28 continued) fourth octave E quaver, barline, B dotted quaver, A semiquaver, B quaver, C quaver, B minim, tied to, barline, B dotted minim, quaver rest, bar continuation sign,



And heard her mad, white tune;



(bar 30 continued) fourth octave E quaver, barline, B dotted quaver, A semiquaver, B quaver, C quaver, B minim, tied to, barline, B dotted minim, quaver rest, bar continuation sign,



They leaped and danced



(bar 32 continued) fourth octave B quaver, barline, natural C quaver, C quaver, B quaver, bar continuation sign,



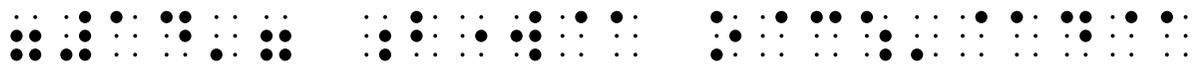
D dotted crotchet, C quaver, gliss, D quaver, gliss, C quaver, gliss, D quaver, gliss, C quaver, gliss, barline, B dotted minim, A crotchet, barline, F dotted minim, end of phrase, bar continuation sign,



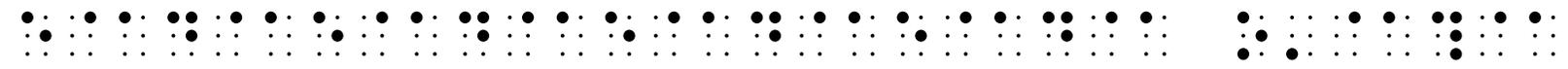
Oh!



(bar 48 continued) open phrase, fourth octave B crotchet, gliss., barline, D dotted minim, tied to D dotted crotchet, gliss, C quaver, gliss, barline



D quaver, gliss, C quaver, gliss, D quaver, gliss, C quaver, gliss, D quaver, gliss, C quaver, gliss, D quaver, gliss, C quaver, barline, D dotted minim, gliss, C crotchet, gliss, barline, B semibreve



B semibreve, end of phrase, barline, five bars' rest, double bar line.



Questions about braille

1. The first verse of this song uses alliteration, with repeated “m’s” in “Moon went mad” and “p’s” in “Pressed her face to the window panes To start at the people there”. What do you notice about the shape of these two letters in braille?
2. In braille music all the instructions in the score need to be put in a line. This piece has the instruction “[word expression] howling” twice. A sign is used before the word to show text is used rather than musical signs. What dots does that sign use?
3. This piece has semiquavers in several bars, such as bar seven and nine. It also has semibreves, as in bar six and eleven. What do you notice about the part of the cell that shows the notes are semiquavers or semibreves in braille?
4. In vocal music, where more than one note is sung to one syllable either slurs or phrase marks are used to show the notes involved. What do you notice about the signs for “open phrase” and “end of phrase” in braille music; see end of bar thirteen to end of bar eighteen?
5. Further to question four, the phrases that use the one syllable “Oh!” are long and in the braille use more than one line of music. A special sign is used to show the word is continued. What are the dots of this sign?

Musical points

1. There are two verses in this song. What is the bar number where the second verse begins? Why is there a rest in the first full bar of the first verse but not in the same place in the second verse?
2. What is root of the word “lunatic” used in bar thirty five? How does the tune suit this?
3. Most of the phrases in this song end with long notes. Find one, state the bar numbers and how long, in crotchets, the note is.
4. The first two phrases of each verse start with a pair of notes that leap up, an interval of a fifth. What are the pitches of these two notes? Can you sing them accurately? Why might this be called a “fifth”?

5. The quirky quality of the tune is partly achieved by having some notes that are lower in pitch than you might expect. These notes have natural signs. Look at bars thirty three to thirty five. All the G's here are G natural, not G sharp. Can you work out what the rule is for using a natural sign and for how long it lasts?