

水調歌頭

Shui Diao Ge Tou

Water Tune Prelude

松聲操 Songsheng Cao (1687)
商音 Shang mode 1 2 4 5 6 1 2

Lyrics by 蘇東坡 Su Dongpo
Translation from 裘小龍 Qiu Xiaolong

9

Ming yue ji shi you, ba jiu wen qing tian.
When will the moon be clear and bright? With a cup of wine in my hand I ask the sky.

18

Bu zhi tian shang gong que, jin xi shi he nian?
In the heavens on this night, I wonder what season it would be.

30

Wo yu cheng feng gui qu, you kong qiong lou yu yu, gao chu bu sheng han.
I'd like to ride the wind to fly home, Yet I fear the crystal and jade mansions are much too high and cold for me.

39

Qi wu nong qing ying, he si zai ren jian.
Dancing with my moonlit shadow, It does not seem like the human world.

47

Zhuan zhu ge, di qi hu, zhao wu mian.
The moon rounds the red mansion, Stoops to silk-pad doors, shines upon the sleepless.

56

Bu ying you hen, he shi chang xiang bie shi yuan.
Bearing no grudge, why does the moon tend to be full when people are apart?

68

Ren you bei huan li he, yue you yin shi yuan que, ci shi gu li quan.
People experience sorrow, joy, separation and reunion, The moon may be dim or bright, round or crescent chaped, This imperfection has been going on / since the beginning of time.

Dan yuan ren chang jiu, qian li gong chan juan.
May we all be blessed with longevity, Though thousands of miles apart we are still able to share the beauty / of the moon together.

John Thompson