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

水調歌頭 髡庵 三和氏

When will the moon be clear and bright?
With a cup of wine in my hand I ask the sky.

不知天上宮闕，今夕是何年?

I wonder what season it would be.

起舞弄清影，何似在人間?

Dancing with my moonlit shadow. It does not seem like the human world.

轉朱閣，低綺戶，照無眠。

The moon rounds the red mansion, stoops to silk-pad doors, shines upon the sleepless.

不应有恨，何時長向別時圓。

Bearing no grudge, why does the moon tend to be full when people are apart?

人有悲歡離合，月有陰晴圓缺，此事古難全。

People experience sorrow, joy, separation and reunion. The moon may be dim or bright, this imperfection has been going on, since the beginning of time.

但願人長久，千里共鶯鶯。

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