Moon on one side,  
Sun on the other  

for harp and interactive music system  
2006  

Robert Rowe
Program Note

*Moon on one side, Sun on the other* (2006) was composed for Sofía AsUNCión Claro, who gave the premiere at the 2007 International Computer Music Conference in Copenhagen. The piece combines a notated harp score with a computer program that accompanies the performance, applying effects processing, sound files, and compositional algorithms in real time as the piece progresses. The program was written by the composer in C++. The title comes a scene in Marilynne Robinson’s novel *Gilead* in which a father and son pause during their work to see the moon rising on one side of the horizon while the sun sets on the other.

Technical Requirements

- Apple Macintosh computer with audio I/O
- stand-alone OSX application available from composer
- microphone for the harp into computer
- stereo out from computer
- Mixer (minimum 3 channels) to house sound system
Excerpt from Gilead

Every prayer seemed long to me at that age, and I was truly bone tired. I tried to keep my eyes closed, but after a while I had to look around a little. And this is something I remember very well. At first I thought I saw the sun setting in the east; I knew where east was, because the sun was just over the horizon when we got there that morning. Then I realized that what I saw was a full moon rising just as the sun was going down. Each of them was standing on its edge, with the most wonderful light between them. It seemed as if you could touch it, as if there were palpable currents of light passing back and forth, or as if there were great taut skeins of light suspended between them. I wanted my father to see it, but I knew I’d have to startle him out of his prayer, and I wanted to do it the best way, so I took his hand and kissed it. And then I said, “Look at the moon.” And he did. We just stood there until the sun was down and the moon was up. They seemed to float on the horizon for quite a long time, I suppose because they were both so bright you couldn’t get a clear look at them. And that grave, and my father and I, were exactly between them, which seemed amazing to me at the time, since I hadn’t given much thought to the nature of the horizon.

My father said, “I would never have thought this place could be beautiful. I’m glad to know that.”

Marilynne Robinson

p. 14-15
Moon on one side, Sun on the other
for Sofia Asunción Claro

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Moon on one side, Sun on the other
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state 13

state 14

state 15
Moon on one side, Sun on the other
Moon on one side, Sun on the other
Moon on one side, Sun on the other
Moon on one side, Sun on the other

gradually lengthen duration of roll

state 24

state 25

E♭
Moon on one side, Sun on the other
Moon on one side, Sun on the other

bisbigliando

bisb.

bisb.

bisb.

bisb.

bisb.

bisb.

bisb.

Glissando

Glissando

Glissando

Glissando

state 29

state 30
Moon on one side, Sun on the other

state 31

state 32
Moon on one side, Sun on the other

194 4

194 4

198

gradually slow bisb.
into following measure

state 33

200

200

204

state 34

state 35