Title: *The Path to the Moon*
Unison voices and piano

Composer: Eric H. Thiman

Text: Madeline C. Thomas

Publisher: Boosey & Hawkes, 1956 OCTB6114

Background Information:
*From: www.chesternovell.com1922/main.html:* The English composer, Eric Thiman (1900-1975) was a Professor at the Royal Academy of Music from 1926 –1945. He then became Dean of Faculty at London University until retirement. Thiman served as conductor of the Elysian Concert Society and Purley Choral Society. He was also an organist at City Temple. Most prolific in the fields of short choral pieces he also wrote a number of orchestral, chamber, and piano works.

*From: www.musicweb.uk.net/amateurs/Thiman.html:* Thiman’s choral music, like all his output, shows neat craftsmanship and easy melodic flow. Much of his music was written for children and has added attractive, gracious tuneful music to the children’s chorus literature.

Musical Elements:
*Meter:* 6/8, conduct in 2

*Form:* Through Composed - piano intro., a b c\textsuperscript{1} c\textsuperscript{11} c\textsuperscript{111}, piano interlude, a\textsuperscript{1}b\textsuperscript{1}, piano interlude, a c\textsuperscript{1} c\textsuperscript{11} c\textsuperscript{111}, piano coda

*Tonality:* Ab Major

*Phrasing and Harmony:* Marked in the score

*Dynamics:* $p$, $mp$, $mf$, $f$
Vocal Technique Elements:

*Range:* $e^b$ - $f^1$

*Tessitura:* $e^b$ - $c^1$

*Pitch set:* melody - $A^b$ do: $S_i L_i T_i D R M F S L$

*Rhythm:* $\approx$, $\cdot$, $\cdot$, $\cdot$, $\cdot$, $\cdot$, use of dotted rhythm pattern: $\cdots$

*Harmony:* The piano accompaniment provides traditional but rich harmonic functions.

*Text:* The whimsical, fantasy text is full of imagery that would appeal to all ages.

Elements Related to Teaching:

*Appropriate Grade Level:* Advanced 4th - 6th treble – girls chorus 6 – 12th

*Difficult Sections:* phrases containing $f^1$, leap of the octave and the syncopated sequence, mm.13-16. Also sustaining the long, legato phrases will be a challenge.

*Possible Teaching sequence):*

Objective: Beautiful cantabile singing – good breath management and open vowel sounds producing legato phrases.

Motivation: Ask for individuals to speak the first verse of the text dramatically observing the marked dynamic levels.


The piece would take approximately four to six 15-minute lessons to learn.
THE PATH TO THE MOON
for Unison Voices & Piano

Words by
MADELINE C. THOMAS

Music by
ERIC H. THIMAN

Andantino (d. = ca. 48) 

Voices

cantabile

Piano

long to sail the path to the moon
On a deep blue night, when the wind is cool:
A glistening path, that runs out to sea.
Silver the sails to carry me, to carry,
carry, carry me over the sea.

So will I sail, on a starry night
On the path to the Moon, a seabird's flight;
Skimming the waves, where the fishes play,
Travelling on, for many a day;
Silver the sails to carry me,
To carry, carry, carry me over the sea.