

Faculty Recital  
June 1, 1971

MLT-0658

THE MOMENT

music by

Knut Nystedt

text by

Kathleen Raine

Soprano  
Celesta  
Vibraphone  
Percussion

A. Dalapas  
S. Rivers  
G. Zyskowski  
M. Zyskowski

Never, never again  
This moment, never  
These slow ripples  
Across smooth water,  
Never again these  
Clouds white and grey  
In sky sharp crystalline  
Blue as the tern's cry  
Shrill in light air  
Salt from the ocean,  
Sweet from flowers.

Here coincide  
The long histories  
Of forms recurrent  
That meet at a point  
And part in a moment,  
The rapid waves  
Of wind and water  
And slower rhythm  
Of rock weathering  
And land sinking.

In teeming pools  
The life cycle  
Of grown weed  
Is intersecting  
The frequencies  
Of diverse shells  
Each with its variant  
Arc or spiral  
Spun from a point  
In tone and semitone  
Of formal octave.

Here come soaring  
White gulls  
Leisurely wheeling  
In air over islands  
Sea pinks and salt grass,  
Gannet and eider,  
Curlew and cormorant  
Each a differing  
Pattern of ecstasy  
Recurring at nodes  
In an on-flowing current,  
The perpetual species,  
Repeated, renewed  
By the will of joy  
In eggs lodged safe  
On perilous ledges.

The sun that rises  
Upon one earth  
Sets on another.  
Swiftly the flowers  
Are waxing and waning,  
The tall yellow iris  
Unfolds its corolla  
As primroses wither,  
Scrolls of fern  
Unroll and midges  
Dance for an hour  
in the evening air,  
The grown moth  
from its pupa emerges  
And the lark's bones  
Fall apart in the grass.

The sun that rose  
From the sea this  
morning  
Will never return,  
For the broadcast light  
That brightens the leaves  
And glances on water  
Will travel tonight  
On its long journey  
Out of the universe,  
Never this sun,  
This world, and never  
Again this watcher.