

Shuǐ Diào Gē Tóu

水调歌头

Prelude to Water Melody —Sū Shì 苏轼

Míng yuè jǐ shí yǒu

明月几时有？

“When will the bright moon appear?”

Bǎ jiǔ wèn qīng tiān

把酒问青天。

I am raising a cup of wine and asking the dark blue sky.

Bù zhī tiān shàng gōng què

不知天上宫阙，

I am wondering in the palace of heaven,

Jīn xī shì hé nián

今昔是何年？

this night is which year as it is in the celestial time?

Wǒ yù chéng fēng guī qù

我欲乘风归去，

I wish to soar with the wind and return to (the heaven palace);

Yòu kǒng qióng lóu yù yǔ

又恐琼楼玉宇，

yet I am afraid of the jade pagoda and crystalline palace

Gāo chù bú shèng hán

高处不胜寒。

for the lofty heaven will be too bitterly cold.

Qǐ wǔ nòng qīng yǐng

起舞弄清影，

Rising to a dance and casting slim shadows,

Hé sì zài rén jiān

何似在人间？

it doesn't seem like in the mundane world at all.

Zhuǎn zhū gé

转朱阁，

The moon is turning its beams toward the red chamber,

Dī qǐ hù

低绮户，

descending its light through latticed window,

Zhào wú mián

照无眠。

and shining upon the sleepless.

Bù yīng yǒu hèn

不应有恨，

We should not bear any resentment.

Hé shì cháng xiàng bié shí yuán

何事长向别时圆。

Why at the time of partings, the moon often is so bright and full?

Rén yǒu bēi huān lí hé

人 有 悲 欢 离 合，

People have their own sorrow, joy, parting, and
reunion.

Yuè yǒu yīn qíng yuán quē

月 有 阴 晴 圆 缺，

The moon has its dimness, brightness, waning,
and waxing.

Cǐ shì gǔ nán quán

此 事 古 难 全。

Since ancient times, life has never been perfect.

Dàn yuàn rén cháng jiǔ

但 愿 人 长 久，

May we all be blessed with longevity.

Qiān lǐ gòng chán juān

千 里 共 婵 娟。

Although a thousand miles apart, we can still
share the beautiful moon together.