

# NAME BURNS THE BELLINGHAM HERALD

## Seattle composer uses child's creation for her inspiration.

Luna

By Morgan Waidelich

Moon gray alone melancholy  
Sees millions of stars and planets  
Light years away

I remember when first space shuttle landing on my glassy face so alone so sad  
Orbiting the one friend that seldomly speaks

**Emily Weiner,**  
The Bellingham Herald

A Bellingham 12-year-old will take a bow Sunday during a concert in Town Hall in Seattle. A poem Morgan Waidelich wrote was used by Seattle composer Carol Sams as lyrics for a section of "Singing the Moon," a 25-minute piece Northwest Boychoir will premiere Sunday.

Morgan wrote "Luna" last spring, when he was a fifth-grader at Silver Beach Elementary School. His teacher, Gretchen Offutt, put the moon poems Morgan and his classmates wrote on the school's Web site. Meanwhile, Sams was asked to create a new piece for

Northwest Boychoir, an ensemble that performs internationally. Sams decided on a moon theme, googled "moon poems," and found the Silver Beach poetry page. She contacted the school to find Morgan's family and ask permission to use his words. "I thought it was kind of weird," Morgan said. "I didn't spend a lot of time on the assignment." But Sams thought the poem had a sense of drama.

"It's a very touching image," she said. Morgan, now a student at Whatcom Middle School, said the moon looked lonely to him because "there's not really anything close to it." Other sections of "Singing the Moon" incorporate nursery rhymes,

a riddle and poetry by Walter de la Mare and Art Mampel.

Northwest Boychoir will sing Morgan Waidelich's poem, set to music by Carol Sams, during a 7:30 p.m. concert May 1, at Town Hall, 1119 Eighth Ave., Seattle. To order tickets go to [www.nwchoirs.org](http://www.nwchoirs.org) or (206) 524-3234.

"It's an overview of the way people look at the moon," said Sams, 59. She thinks it's cool that boys about Morgan's age will be singing his words. "Why should we only get the grownup point of view?"

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