

1. Your Light

I can feel your light shining down the centuries
And I know you're near
My human heart beats out the rhythm
To your music of the spheres

And though I know you're gone
My soul depends upon your light to guide me
In life you measured the skies
Now there your spirit flies, but my body binds me

Where I can feel your light shining down the centuries
And I know you're near
My human heart beats out the rhythm
To your music of the spheres

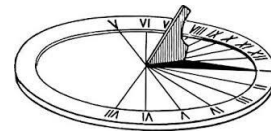
In life you measured the skies
Now free your spirit flies, but my body binds me
And though I know you're gone
My soul depends upon your light to guide me home



Johannes Kepler (1571-1630)

*“Mensus eram coelos, nunc terrae metior umbras:
Mens coelestis erat, corporis umbra jacet.”*

*“I measured the skies, now the shadows I measure
Skybound was the mind, earthbound the body rests.”*



This is Kepler's self-composed epitaph. His gravestone, the location of which is no longer known, is said to have been a sundial.



The stars we see with our naked eyes are between 5 and 2000 light years away – the light we see was emitted that long ago. That's why, when a star dies, we continue to see its light for years.

Some people are like stars: the light of their mind/soul still shines, long after they're gone. This song is inspired by Johannes Kepler whose three laws of planetary motion, formulated over 400 years ago, are still essential knowledge for astronomers, today. But his vision of the cosmos – which inspired him to discover these laws – is now dismissed. Kepler believed that the universe is governed by the laws of harmony: he was both a scientist and a mystic.

Kepler's bright light could well have been overcome by darkness: his life was tormented – he experienced poverty, the death of his wife and children, and the trial of his mother for witchcraft. Yet he continued to believe in the divine order of the cosmos and kept on with his search for the laws that govern the stars – during his mother's trial (he drew up her legal defense), Kepler published *Harmonices Mundi* ('Harmony of the Worlds').

For me, Kepler has been an inspiration in life, and who knows – if the stars are, as some believe, the souls of the dead – perhaps he will also be my guide when I make my final journey home.