

The Calvin Cycle

Ethan Hazzard-Watkins, 2008

The musical score for "The Calvin Cycle" is written in G minor (one flat) and 4/4 time. It consists of four staves of music. The first staff begins with a Dm chord and ends with a C chord. The second staff features a first ending with Bb and C chords, and a second ending with Bb and C chords. The third staff starts with a (Bb) Dm chord and includes C and Gm chords. The fourth staff has two endings, both with Am chords. The melody is primarily composed of eighth and quarter notes, with some slurs and ties.

The light-independent (a.k.a. "dark") reactions of the Calvin Cycle comprise the second half of Photosynthesis, during which plants use energy captured from sunlight to convert carbon dioxide into glucose. I wrote this tune in 2008 and have played it often with Elixir as well as teaching it in several workshops. It languished without a title until 2014 when Kathleen and Jim Fownes (of the band Light Reaction) started sharing it. The title is a nod to their band name in appreciation of their enthusiasm for the tune.

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