

NICKY SOHN

HOME

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(2022)

Instrumentation

Violin Solo

Violin I

Violin II

Viola

Cello

Bass

(Minimum 3, 3, 3, 2, 1 players per part)

Duration - ca. 20 minutes

Program note:

“Home” was written in tandem with the Women’s Home, a rehabilitation facility that strengthens communities and supports families while women overcome their addiction.

Along with violinist Mary Grace Johnson and choreographer Kayla Collymore, I had the privilege of interviewing three women who had gone through the rehabilitation program at the Women’s Home. Inspired by these women’s hardships, unique odysseys, and remarkable perseverance, “Home” invokes the lifecycle of the Phoenix, a mythological creature that is swallowed by its own flames and is reborn from its ashes. Much like the immortal and fearless Phoenix, these three women rose from the ashes of their past, reborn with a new hope for the future.

When I began this work, I was determined to stay true to myself musically while continuing to challenge my compositional boundaries. I wanted my embrace of a new compositional approach to reflect and honor the vulnerability of a new life journey. This was my way of paying respect to the experiences of these extraordinary women. The resulting piece expresses pain in a raw and truthful light while serving as a larger commentary on the the cruel and unrelenting nature of the world. Most importantly, it intends to pay homage to individuals who choose to shoulder great burden in order to find a brighter path.

When sharing their accounts, all three women acknowledged what’s done is done. They believed that the the individual is in control of the ways in which life unfolds. Pain can transform into something new, and through the scorching flames and the resulting ashes, a new life can be found. With the notion of rebirth in mind, the piece culminates in a turbulent rhythmic unity, the energy of which quickly melts into a prolonged and quiet sustain. This I felt symbolized a sign of togetherness and acceptance while also ushering in a new beginning.

Writing “Home” opened my eyes to the importance of community. I learned that coming together and working toward a collective goal is necessary in order to overcome odds. As I reflect upon the community that has supported me through the writing process, I want to express my deepest gratitude to the Kinetic Ensemble, my family and friends, and especially to Mary Grace Johnson. It has been an honor to be included in a project that carried such personal significance for her. This experience truly would not have been possible without her tremendous support, inspiration and kindness.

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♩ = 60

The score is for a 4/4 piece in G major. It features a Violin Solo part starting with a triplet of eighth notes (p espress.) and a dynamic shift to mf. The ensemble parts (Violin I, Violin II, Viola, Cello, and Double Bass) enter in the second measure with a *pp* dynamic and *Sul tasto non vib.* instruction. The Cello and Double Bass parts include triplet markings in the final measure.

This musical score is for the second page of a piece titled "Home". It features a variety of instruments and includes performance instructions such as *ord.*, *mp*, *p*, and *sul pont.*. The score is divided into four measures, with a key signature change from 3/4 to 4/4 in the second measure. The instruments and their parts are as follows:

- Vln. (Solo):** Violin Solo, starting at measure 7. It features a melodic line with slurs and accents.
- Vln. I (A):** Violin I (A), marked *mp*. It plays a rhythmic accompaniment.
- Vln. I (B):** Violin I (B), marked *mp*. It plays a rhythmic accompaniment.
- Vln. II (A):** Violin II (A), marked *mp*. It plays a rhythmic accompaniment.
- Vln. II (B):** Violin II (B), marked *mp*. It plays a rhythmic accompaniment.
- Vla. (A):** Viola (A), marked *mp*. It plays a rhythmic accompaniment.
- Vla. (B):** Viola (B), marked *mp*. It plays a rhythmic accompaniment.
- Vc. (A):** Violoncello (A), marked *mp*. It plays a rhythmic accompaniment.
- Vc. (B):** Violoncello (B), marked *mp*. It plays a rhythmic accompaniment.
- D.B.:** Double Bass, marked *mp*. It plays a rhythmic accompaniment.

Performance instructions include *ord.* (ordinario), *mp* (mezzo-piano), *p* (piano), and *sul pont.* (sul ponticello). The score also includes dynamic hairpins and slurs.

11

Vln. (Solo) *p*

Vln. I (A) *pp* Sul tasto

Vln. I (B) *pp* Sul tasto

Vln. II (A) *pp* Sul tasto

Vln. II (B) *pp* Sul tasto

Vla. (A) *pp* Sul tasto

Vla. (B) *pp* Sul tasto

Vc. (A) *pp* Sul tasto

Vc. (B) *pp* Sul tasto

D.B. *pp*

pp

Detailed description: This is a page of a musical score for the piece 'Home', page 3. The score is for a string ensemble and includes a solo violin part. The music is in a key with one flat (B-flat major or D minor) and a common time signature. The solo violin part (Vln. (Solo)) begins at measure 11 with a piano (*p*) dynamic, playing a melodic line with a long, sweeping slur. The other string parts (Vln. I (A) and (B), Vln. II (A) and (B), Vla. (A) and (B), Vc. (A) and (B), and D.B.) enter in measure 11 with a pianissimo (*pp*) dynamic. The Vln. I and Vln. II parts are marked 'Sul tasto', indicating a soft, breathy sound. The Vc. and D.B. parts provide a harmonic foundation. The score is written in a clean, professional style with clear notation and dynamic markings.