

Sojourn

Phil Swasey

About the Music

Sojourn is written for level 2 players that are comfortable playing in fixed finger position with first position fretted and open notes on strings 1-3. The bass-notes in Guitar 3 should be taught by rote with additional attention paid to the alignment and quality of the harmonics in m.9. This piece is also easily adapted for level 3 players using right-hand alternation. The technical challenges are few but there are many opportunities to reinforce literacy with the mixed eighth note rhythms and fun ensemble challenges, including dynamic contrast between repeated phrases and accented notes.

The piece is in a simple ABA form with the “B” section representing a “Sojourn” or temporary stay away from home. The title is in reference to a “temporary stay” in a harsh northern winter. In February of 2021, the entire state of Texas was blanketed in snow, with sub-freezing temperatures persisting for over a week. Even though many of us weren’t able to leave our neighborhoods, the snow and circumstances turned our own backyards into distant and foreign worlds.

Classroom Activity

Using “Sojourn” as a theme, create an activity that gives the students an opportunity to express in writing or discussion, their own sojourn. Maybe it was a fun vacation or trip, a difficult but temporary moment/challenge, or a physical/mental space that they go to escape. Inviting student perspectives is a powerful way to learn about your students and engage them in the process of artistic decision making.

Sojourn

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$\text{♩} = 100$

Guitar 1
Level 2

Guitar 2
Level 2

Guitar 3
Level 1

mf

mf

open string (6)

fret 2 string (5)

mf

Gtr. 1

p

Gtr. 2

p

Gtr. 3

p

A

Gtr. 1

p

Gtr. 2

p

natural harmonics on fret 12 throughout

Gtr. 3

①

②

③

p

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Sojourn

Music notation for Section B, measures 1-4. The score is for three guitars (Gtr. 1, Gtr. 2, Gtr. 3) in treble clef, key of D major (one sharp).

Gtr. 1: Measures 1-4. Fingering: *i* (finger), *m* (middle finger), *0* (open). Dynamics: *mf* (measures 1-2), *f* (measures 3-4). Includes a *rit.* (ritardando) marking in measure 4.

Gtr. 2: Measures 1-4. Fingering: *i* (finger), *p* (palm mute), *0* (open), *2* (second finger). Dynamics: *mf* (measures 1-2), *f* (measures 3-4).

Gtr. 3: Measures 1-4. Fingering: *0* (open), *2* (second finger). Dynamics: *mf* (measures 1-2), *f* (measures 3-4).

C

Music notation for Section C, measures 5-8. The score is for three guitars (Gtr. 1, Gtr. 2, Gtr. 3) in treble clef, key of D major (one sharp).

Gtr. 1: Measures 5-8. Fingering: *4* (fourth finger), *2* (second finger), *0* (open), *4* (fourth finger). Dynamics: *mf*. Includes an *a tempo* marking in measure 5.

Gtr. 2: Measures 5-8. Fingering: *0* (open), *4* (fourth finger), *2* (second finger). Dynamics: *mf*. Includes an accent (*>*) in measure 5.

Gtr. 3: Measures 5-8. Fingering: *0* (open), *2* (second finger). Dynamics: *mf*.

Music notation for Section C, measures 9-12. The score is for three guitars (Gtr. 1, Gtr. 2, Gtr. 3) in treble clef, key of D major (one sharp).

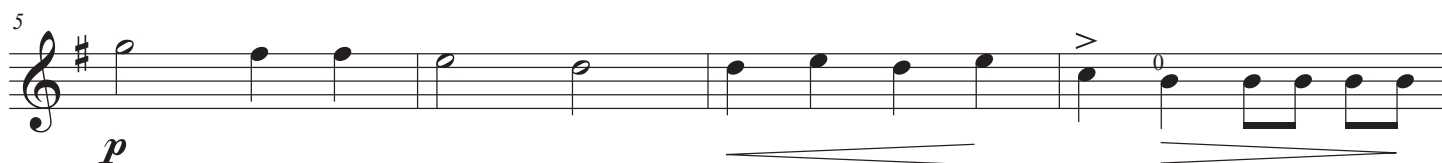
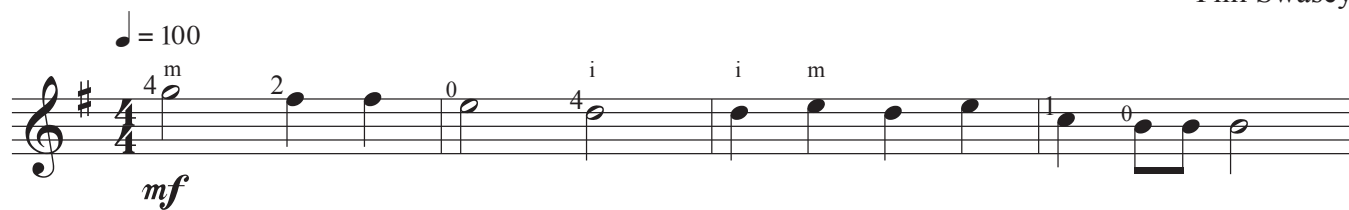
Gtr. 1: Measures 9-12. Fingering: *1* (first finger), *0* (open). Dynamics: *f*. Includes a *rit.* (ritardando) marking in measure 10 and an *a tempo* marking in measure 11.

Gtr. 2: Measures 9-12. Fingering: *2* (second finger). Dynamics: *f*. Includes an accent (*>*) in measure 11.

Gtr. 3: Measures 9-12. Fingering: *2* (second finger), *0* (open). Dynamics: *f*. Includes an accent (*>*) in measure 11.

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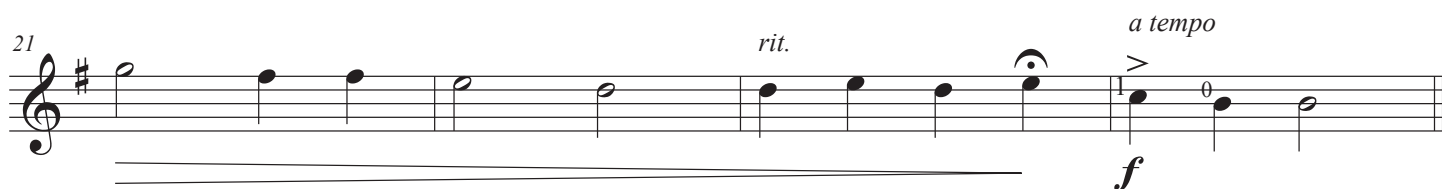
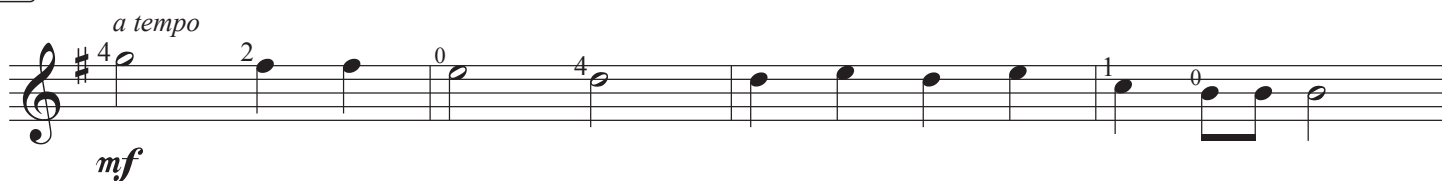
A



B



C



[illegible]

A

The first system of the musical score is marked with a square box containing the letter 'A'. It begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a dynamic marking of *p* (piano). The melody consists of eighth notes. The first measure contains four eighth notes (G4, A4, B4, C5). The second measure contains four eighth notes (D5, E5, F#5, G5), with a '2' below the staff indicating a second ending. The third measure contains four eighth notes (G5, F#5, E5, D5). The fourth measure contains four eighth notes (C5, B4, A4, G4). The system concludes with a fermata over the final note (G4) and a hairpin indicating a decrescendo.

B

musical score for Example 1, Part B. The score is written on a single staff in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The piece begins with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic and a half note G4. It then moves to a piano (*p*) dynamic with a half note A4. The tempo is marked 'rit.' (ritardando). The piece ends with a half note G4. The dynamics are *mf*, *p*, and *mf*. The tempo is marked 'rit.'

C

a tempo

mf

0 4 2

[illegible]

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♩ = 100

open
string (6)

fret 2
string (5)

mf

5

p

A

natural harmonics on fret 12 throughout

p

B

mf

f

rit.

C

a tempo

mf

21

mf

rit.

a tempo