

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.

Score

Sojourn

Phil Swasey

$\text{♩} = 100$

Guitar 1 Level 2

Guitar 2 Level 2

Guitar 3 Level 1

Gtr. 1

Gtr. 2

Gtr. 3

A

Gtr. 1

Gtr. 2

Gtr. 3

$\text{♩} = 100$

mf

i *2* *0* *4* *i* *i* *m*

i *0* *4* *2* *p* *i*

open string (6) fret 2 string (5)

mf

p

p

p

A

p

p

p

natural harmonics on fret 12 throughout

① ② ③

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2

B

Sojourn

Gtr. 1

Gtr. 2

Gtr. 3

rit.

i *m*

p

f

f

rit.

C

a tempo

Gtr. 1

Gtr. 2

Gtr. 3

mf

mf

mf

a tempo

21

Gtr. 1

Gtr. 2

Gtr. 3

rit.

a tempo

f

f

Sojourn

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$\text{♩} = 100$

mf

5

p

rit.

A

p

B

mf

rit.

C

a tempo

mf

21

rit.

a tempo

f

Guitar 2

Level 2

Sojourn

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$\text{♩} = 100$

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

f

rit.

a tempo