

The Way Home

piano solo

Murray Gross

2022

The Way Home

dedicated to the memory of
José-Luis Maúrtua

Performance Notes:

Some pedaling is indicated, but the sustaining pedal should also be used freely at your discretion. An "M" before the marking indicates the middle (sostenuto) pedal; when there is no "M" use the right (sustaining) pedal.

There are 3 notes that are "muted" in this piece: D3, F3, and A4. These should be marked in some way (tape/chalk) to make them easy to find. The muting is done by using a finger to press down on all three strings, a couple inches inside the piano, enough to keep them from vibrating normally; do not use an eraser or other object to mute the strings.

*These short muted passages are intended to add an unexpected color to the chaotic opening of the piece. However, if using a piano where the crossbars interfere with the muting or if the muting is too awkward, it is permissible to omit this effect and simply play those notes as written (with either hand, whichever is more comfortable).

♩ = 96 anxious, nervous, dramatic

Musical score for measures 1-4. The piece is in 4/4 time. Measure 1: Treble clef, *mf*, quarter note Bb, quarter rest, eighth note G, eighth rest, quarter note F. Bass clef, quarter rest, quarter note G# (pedaled), quarter note F, quarter note E. Measure 2: Treble clef, quarter note G (pedaled), quarter note F, quarter note E, quarter note D. Bass clef, quarter note G# (pedaled), quarter note F, quarter note E, quarter note D. Measure 3: Treble clef, quarter note E (pedaled), quarter note D, quarter note C, quarter note B. Bass clef, quarter note G# (pedaled), quarter note F, quarter note E, quarter note D. Measure 4: Treble clef, quarter note B (pedaled), quarter note A, quarter note G, quarter note F. Bass clef, quarter note G# (pedaled), quarter note F, quarter note E, quarter note D. Dynamics: *mf* (measures 1-2), *pp* (measure 2), *p* (measure 3), *ff* (measure 4). Fingerings: 3 (measure 1), 5 (measure 2), 3 (measure 3), 5 (measure 4). A box in measure 4 says: "Hold down middle (sost.) pedal through m. 11."

Musical score for measures 5-8. Measure 5: Treble clef, quarter rest, quarter note G, quarter note F, quarter note E, quarter note D. Bass clef, quarter note G# (pedaled), quarter note F, quarter note E, quarter note D. Measure 6: Treble clef, quarter note G (pedaled), quarter note F, quarter note E, quarter note D. Bass clef, quarter note G# (pedaled), quarter note F, quarter note E, quarter note D. Measure 7: Treble clef, quarter note E (pedaled), quarter note D, quarter note C, quarter note B. Bass clef, quarter note G# (pedaled), quarter note F, quarter note E, quarter note D. Measure 8: Treble clef, quarter note B (pedaled), quarter note A, quarter note G, quarter note F. Bass clef, quarter note G# (pedaled), quarter note F, quarter note E, quarter note D. Dynamics: *mp* (measure 5), *pp* (measure 6), *p* (measure 7). Fingerings: 3 (measure 5), 5 (measure 6), 3 (measure 7), 5 (measure 8). A box in measure 5 says: "Left hand mutes D3 and F3 through m. 11." (RH) is written above the right hand staff.

Musical score for measures 9-10. Measure 9: Treble clef, quarter note G (pedaled), quarter note F, quarter note E, quarter note D. Bass clef, quarter note G# (pedaled), quarter note F, quarter note E, quarter note D. Measure 10: Treble clef, quarter note E (pedaled), quarter note D, quarter note C, quarter note B. Bass clef, quarter note G# (pedaled), quarter note F, quarter note E, quarter note D. Dynamics: *mf* (measure 9), *f* (measure 10). Fingerings: 5 (measure 9), 3 (measure 10). A box in measure 9 says: "top line espr." (p) is written above the right hand staff.

Musical score for measures 11-13. Measure 11: Treble clef, quarter note G (pedaled), quarter note F, quarter note E, quarter note D. Bass clef, quarter note G# (pedaled), quarter note F, quarter note E, quarter note D. Measure 12: Treble clef, quarter note E (pedaled), quarter note D, quarter note C, quarter note B. Bass clef, quarter note G# (pedaled), quarter note F, quarter note E, quarter note D. Measure 13: Treble clef, quarter note B (pedaled), quarter note A, quarter note G, quarter note F. Bass clef, quarter note G# (pedaled), quarter note F, quarter note E, quarter note D. Dynamics: *mf* (measure 11), *mf* (measure 12). Fingerings: 5 (measure 11), 3 (measure 12), 5 (measure 13). A box in measure 11 says: "end muting" is written above the right hand staff.

Musical score for measures 14-16. Measure 14: Treble clef, quarter note G (pedaled), quarter note F, quarter note E, quarter note D. Bass clef, quarter note G# (pedaled), quarter note F, quarter note E, quarter note D. Measure 15: Treble clef, quarter note E (pedaled), quarter note D, quarter note C, quarter note B. Bass clef, quarter note G# (pedaled), quarter note F, quarter note E, quarter note D. Measure 16: Treble clef, quarter note B (pedaled), quarter note A, quarter note G, quarter note F. Bass clef, quarter note G# (pedaled), quarter note F, quarter note E, quarter note D. Dynamics: *f* (measure 14), *mp* (measure 15). Fingerings: 5 (measure 14), 3 (measure 15), 5 (measure 16).

17 *p*

20 *mf* *mp*

23 *pp* *ff*

26 *p* *mp*

29 *mf* *f* *mf* *mp*

32

3/4

36

3/4

40

mf p f ff p

3/4

44

Left hand mute A4

end muting

mp

3/4

48

calando

f mp

3/4

52 $\text{♩} = 63$ *accel.*

p *pp*

56 *accel.* *a tempo* $\text{♩} = 96$

cresc. *mp* *mf*

60

p

63

mp *mf* *f*

66

ff

70

p Left hand mute A4 *f p*

M

73

f *mf* *mp*

77

mf

81

rit. *mp* *p*

85

♩ = 72

rit. *mp* *mf*

♩ = 66

88 *rit. - - -*

f *mp* *ff*

92 $\text{♩} = 60$

mp *p*

97

mf *mp*

102 *cédez* $\text{♩} = 54$ $(\text{♩} = 108)$

pp *mp* *p*

107

mp *p* *mp*

110 *molto rit.*

mf *mp* *pp*

114 *(♩ = 108) flexible, dreamy a tempo* *cédez*

p *mp* *mf*

117 *a tempo* *cédez*

p

120 *slowly, thoughtfully* *a tempo*

pp *mf* *p*

122 *poco accel.* *poco rall.* *(♩ = 54)*

mf *mp* *f* *mf* *mp*

125

mf *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *mp* *p*

130

f *mp* *pp*

8vb

Like a prayer - pleading, very legato
and expressive, bring out the top line

♩ = 96

134

p *mp* *pp* *p*

140

mp

146

mf *mp* *p*

RH

3

151

mf *p* *mf* *f* *mf*

155

p *ff*

159

(sempre ff) *p*

slightly slower,
take time until the end

164

p

169

p

8va