

LOUIS VALENTINE JOHNSON

INNOVATIVE GUITAR

ASCAP



 *Dos
Almas*
INNOVATIVE GUITAR

SOLSTICE

FOR SOLO GUITAR



Aleksandra Sapok

SOLSTICE

I wrote *Solstice* in the spring of 2020 when Aleksandra Sapok inquired if I had composed any new pieces. Aleksandra brought her impressive resume of guitar competitions and studies from the Fryderyk Chopin University of Music in Warsaw, Poland, to apply for the Alexander L. Johnson, Song of Peace Guitar Educational Scholarship. She won by unanimous committee decision in 2016 and 2017. Aleksandra writes here about how she approaches her art with the guitar:

"When I have a new piece, I start with sight reading to get to know what kind of piece it is and what I can find inside. After that, I can expect what problems could occur during practicing. From the very beginning I try to make my vision of a piece in my head. I think that it is most important; the head needs to know what it wants to do and then fingers would follow that idea. It is changing during practicing, but I know what direction I want for that piece."

"Also, I must notice that modern/contemporary music is very close to me. I have played many pieces by Brouwer, Rodrigo and Dyens, for example. I feel much more free and emotionally connected with that music than ones that were written in other periods. Both pieces by Lou V. Johnson, I liked from the very beginning. The differences between character, structure and possibilities made my process of learning very interesting and creative. I wanted to show two different worlds in those two pieces. From one side: lightness, good, calmness and the other side much more gusty, sharp, deep, also even painful. Especially I liked the slow movement in the middle part of "Portraits" which is the first movement of "The Peace Concerto." Also I have read all the information on the composer's website. The story of Alex could move every soul. I think it somehow helps for interpretation too."

Aleksandra Sapok, April 15, 2016
Warsaw, Poland

The title *Solstice* from Rome 1st century BC (Latin: *sol* sun, *sistere* stand still) is when the sun hesitates in the sky. These phenomena are nature's signals of shorter days to come.

Movement I, *Summer*, is our longest day with the most daylight of the year. It begins with a cheerful springtime allegretto melody in D Major moving quickly to A Major. A springtime pinnacle ensues with rapid scale passages, presenting sunlight. A grave section speaks to the beauty, pain, and joys of life. Harmonies tilt and gravity pulls.

Movement II *Shadows from the North*, is an autumn equinox transition. Harvest arrives. Colors light to dark imbue shades in between. There is a chill in the evening air. We light a bonfire. Portamentos, arpeggiations, tambouras, glissandos, bends, scale passages, tremolos and chords of yellow, brown, and orange touch our hands, ears and minds. Flowers fade and leaves fall from the trees.

Movement III, *Winter*, the shortest, darkest day of the year, arrives in a commotion as a repeating e minor suspended 2nd chord to illustrate the journey of wind over mountains, valleys, through every branch of each tree to finally touch us. Wind, snow, and ice abound. These harmonic transitions imitate unpredictable events with a (unusual for us guitarists) foray into the key of D sharp. A feeling of change is in the cool air of the season. Something different is happening. Short days and long nights bring a December chill. Firewood for below zero is more than a necessity. Hibernation becomes reality.

Live life, do your best, endure the difficulties and enjoy the rest. Winter ends with a storm. We stay warm inside longing for the sweet melody of summer.

Lou V. Johnson, June 20, 2020
Grass Valley, California

Solstice

I

Summer

for Aleksandra Sapok

Allegretto

Louis Valentine Johnson, ASCAP

$\text{♩} = \text{c. } 108$ $\vee$ "a Summer Day ..."

mf f $ff/sub.pp$

$cresc. poco a poco$ ff

ff ff

ff ff ff

ff ff ff

Moderato
 $\text{♩} = \text{c. } 88$

"the Sun Stops ..."
con vib.

ord.

vib.

Harm. VII mp

Solstice

II

Shadows from the North

for Aleksandra Sapok

Adagio

♩ = c. 60

Louis Valentine Johnson, ASCAP

"a Dark Autumn Equinox ..."

IX Bend norm. Slide

sul tasto *p* Tamb. *f*

4 vib. vib.

6 **a tempo** II IV VII Harm. ord. VII Harm. XII

f sub. *pp sub.*

8 **ad libitum** **rit.** **a tempo** Bend III

Perc. Tamb. Perc. Tamb. B. Lower Bridge L.B. Bout

pp sub. *ppp* *ff sub.* *vib.*

11 IV

mf *ff* *pp sub.*

13 III V

*Solstice*III
Winter**Animato***for Aleksandra Sapok*

Louis Valentine Johnson, ASCAP

♩ = c. 66

II Rasq. 3

I Rasq. 3

f *ff*

X

3

Rasq. VII

Rasq. V

rit. *Adagio* ♩ = c. 62 "Comes the Wind ..."

6

mf

9

pp

12

mf

p

VII

16

(poco pont.)

(ord.)

19

rit. a tempo

22

mp

mf

mp

LOUIS VALENTINE JOHNSON COMPOSITIONS

FOR SOLO GUITAR

Walking the Yuba River
Remembrance
White Bird Pass
(A Message To Mama)
Two Boys¹
To the Poets
Snake River Sunset
Wapello Morning
A Winter Day
Saigon - 1965
One
The Journey
Ragdoll
Lament at Fort Hall
September Eleventh¹
Reflections 911³
Twenty One Years²
Monkey Mind
Valentine Waltz²
Goodbye To Mexico
Pandemic Phantasma¹
The Devil's Path
A Christmas Carol (*after Dickens*)
On The Nature of Things (*after Epicurus*)
Valentine Voluntary²

Arrangements also available for
¹Guitar Duo, ²Guitar/Cello, ³Guitar/Violin/Cello
Guitar/Viola, Guitar/Violin/Cello

TRES PENSAMIENTOS LATINOS

Snowfall in El Escorial
Lullaby of Love
Malagueña California!

Arrangements also available for
Guitar Duo, Guitar/Cello, Guitar/Viola,
Guitar/String Quartet, Percussion
and Castanets

THREE PASTORALES

A Soldier in Paradise
Dark Honey
The Ferris Wheel

Arrangements also available for
Guitar/Cello, Guitar/Trombone

TWO HAIKUS

If Only
Water Wind & Stone

Arrangements also available for
Guitar/Violin

FOR SOLO GUITAR

THE PEACE CONCERTO
Portraits
Song of Peace
The Question

Arrangements also available for
Guitar Duo, Guitar/Violin, Guitar/Flute,
Guitar/String Quartet, Guitar/String Orchestra,
Guitar/Viola, Guitar/Cello, Guitar/Piano

SOLSTICE

Summer
Shadows from the North
Winter

Arrangements also available for
Guitar/String Quartet, Guitar/Piano

TWELVE MOMENTS
from the Peace Concerto
Valiantly Running with Fire
Sad the Death
Song of Peace
A Boy's Tears Play the Guitar
I Am Here
A Photograph of Love
A Little Boy Runs
The Journey Begins
Thoughts of the Dark Fire
Happy with Mama and Daddy
Without My Daddy
Always in My Heart

Arrangements also available for
Guitar Duo, Guitar/String Quartet,
Guitar/Violin, Guitar/Viola, Guitar/Cello,
Guitar/Piano, Guitar/Flute, Guitar/Clarinet,
Guitar/Trombone

FOR THE CHILDREN

Heidi's Song
Children Dancing
The First Night
Graduation

Arrangements also available for
Guitar/Viola, Guitar/Clarinet,
Guitar/String Quartet,
Guitar/String Orchestra

FOR GUITAR AND HARPSICHORD

THREE MEMORIES
I
Allegro Appassionato
II
Andante Espressivo
III
Allegro

ARRANGEMENTS

La Hora Azul
(Elorriaga)
A Day in the Country
(Mexican Trad.)
Plegaria - (Gomez)
Mazurka - (Fortea)
Evocacion - (Merlin)
Romanza - (Anon.)
Mi Noche Triste
(Castríota)
Moderato - (F. Sor)
Estudio/Lagrima^{1,4}
(Tarrega)
Song of the Birds¹
(Casals)
Minuets I & II
Gavottes I & II
(J.S. Bach)
Allegretto in B Minor,
Opus 35 - Number 22^{2,3,4}
(Fernando Sor)
Toccata, Evocation, and Fandango^{1,3,5,6}
(Mark A. Radice)
J.S. Bach Prelude BWV1007
La Folia de Espana¹
(Arcangelo Corelli)
Jácaras¹
(Antonio de Santa Cruz)
Fantasia X¹
(Alonso Mudarra)

Arrangements also available for
¹Solo Guitar, ²Guitar/Cello,
³Guitar/String Quartet, ⁴Guitar/Viola,
⁵Guitar/Piano, ⁶Guitar/String Orchestra



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