

LOUIS VALENTINE JOHNSON

INNOVATIVE GUITAR

ASCAP



ON THE NATURE OF THINGS

AFTER EPICURUS

FOR SOLO GUITAR



ON THE NATURE OF THINGS

A little background to enhance your listening pleasure.

Lucretius, a Roman who flourished in the first century BCE, wrote the famous poem “On the Nature of Things.”

It remains a timely interpretation of the pleasure-based theories of Epicurus, the Greek philosopher (341 BCE to 270 BCE). Prolific Epicurus authored more than 37 volumes of work.

Although Epicurus and Lucretius hail from ancient times, they still engage curious minds today. In fact, they are the inspiration for this contemporary classical guitar piece.

As poets, scientists and philosophers continue to debate ideas such as “nothing comes from nothing” and “everything comes from something,” they hypothesize about matter being made entirely of small particles, called the “invisible minima” (aka atoms).

Perhaps notes are the “atoms” of music.

Lucretius said, “Life is a gift to no man...only a loan.” Epicurus maintained, “Not what we have but what we enjoy, constitutes our abundance.”

In a world so torn and troubled, such words offer a welcome perspective.

In this spirit of enjoyment and abundance, my guitar and I were compelled to compose this musical tribute, “On the Nature of Things.”

May you find magic in its movement. May you discover atoms of pure joy while you listen. And may you be filled with happiness—the kind that matters most to you.

Curious Composer, November 23, 2022

On the Nature of Things

after *Epicurus*
341 BCE - 270 BCE

for Solo Guitar

I

Friendships

Among Debates and Wars

by Louis Valentine Johnson, ASCAP

Largo

Contemplation... and consideration

IX con vib. II V II

Harm. XII Harm. XII

mp

5 2 3 4

3/4 4/4 4/4 3/4

Free Will is your guide...

5 5 6 VII II

vib. accel.

mf

5 6

3/4 4/4 4/4 4/4

7 (a tempo) VI IV

V vib. vib.

ff *mp*

1 0 4 3 2 3 4

3/4 4/4 4/4 4/4

5 II X VIII VII

mf

1 0 3 1 0 3 1 0 4 3 4 1 4 3 4 3 1 4

4 4 6 5 6 3 3 2

3/4 4/4 4/4 4/4

II Time and Motion

Fast

IV II

30

ord.
sub. *f*

VII

33

②

rit.

Slower*Testimony of the Senses ...*

36

vib.

p

39

③ ② ①

p

a little Faster

42

mf

III Freedom

7

With Liberties

Freedom is tough ...

Change is even harder ...

71

II,

mp

74

III II VII II

mf

to the infinite and eternal Universe ...

77

V ten. III I

p *mf*

80

mp *mf*

Improvisatory & Slow

molto rit. - - - VII the invisible minima ...

83

II X

mp

9

99 II *Calm the Absence of Suffering ...*

The musical score is written on a single staff with a treble clef and a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). The tempo/mood is marked '99' and the section is labeled 'II'. The title is 'Calm the Absence of Suffering ...'. The score begins with a series of eighth and sixteenth notes, some with fingerings (3, 1, 3) and a circled 3. This is followed by a section with vertical wavy lines and upward-pointing arrows, indicating a tremolo or rapid oscillation. The dynamics are marked 'mf' (mezzo-forte) and 'p' (piano). The score concludes with a series of notes, some with fingerings (6, 5, 4) and a circled 6, and a final note with a fermata. The harmonic structure is indicated by 'Harm. VII', 'Harm. XII', and 'Harm. VII'.

102 *mp* ord. 1 2 *vib.* *mp* ⑥ 2 *vib.* *X* 2 3 4 1 ③

105

VIII VII

③ ② ⑤ ④

107 II

V

To Télós

11

"Life is a gift to no man, only a loan."

Lucretius

♩ = c. 55

Before we are born...

125

mf

131

mf

138

mf

True permanence is non existence...

144

f

mp

146

p

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 Espresso
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
(Castrista)

Moderato - (F. Sor)

Estudio/Lagrima¹
(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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LouisValentineJohnson.com

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