

# **UWOHALI**

*for Piano*

By

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Duration: ca. 4:10

*Uwohali* was commissioned by pianist Ewa Plonka for her featured performances in the United States and Israel following her prize-winning performance in the Oklahoma-Israel Exchange International Competition. Ewa asked me for a short, virtuosic piano piece a la Liszt, but one colored by the traditions of America and Oklahoma in particular.

As an Oklahoma Native and part-Cherokee myself, I wanted to write something expressing the imagery of Oklahoma and the Native American traditions still very present in my home state. I began to think of how I might encapsulate these different references with one short solo work, and decided that if the music would fly over the piano as in a Liszt piece, perhaps the idea of flight could play a role in the work. I began to imagine the beginning as a “taking off” and the body of the piece as a great bird, perhaps an eagle, flying freely with power and grace over the Great Plains.

The resulting piece progresses from one lush piano texture to the next, until the great bird comes to a peaceful rest at the end of this exhilarated flight.

“Uwohali” means “Eagle” in Cherokee.

# UWOHALI

for Ewa Plonka

molto vivace, but gracefully  $\text{♩} = 64$

(2009)

Piano

*sfz mp*

*Ped.\**

\* (pedal marks should be strictly observed)

3

*mf*

*mp*

5

*mf*

*mp*

8

*mf*

*mp*

10

*mf*

*mp*

12

*mf*

*mp*

14

Musical notation for measures 14-16. The system consists of two staves. The upper staff features a melodic line with eighth-note patterns and slurs, including a trill-like figure in measure 15. The lower staff provides a harmonic accompaniment with eighth-note chords. A fermata is placed over the final note of measure 16.

17

Musical notation for measures 17-19. The system consists of two staves. The upper staff continues the melodic line with slurs and a fermata over the final note of measure 19. The lower staff continues the accompaniment with eighth-note chords.

19

Musical notation for measures 20-22. The system consists of two staves. The upper staff features a melodic line with slurs and a fermata over the final note of measure 22. The lower staff continues the accompaniment with eighth-note chords.

22

Musical notation for measures 23-25. The system consists of two staves. The upper staff features a melodic line with slurs and a fermata over the final note of measure 25. The lower staff continues the accompaniment with eighth-note chords.

24

Musical notation for measures 26-28. The system consists of two staves. The upper staff features a melodic line with slurs and a fermata over the final note of measure 28. The lower staff continues the accompaniment with eighth-note chords.

27

Musical notation for measures 29-31. The system consists of two staves. The upper staff features a melodic line with slurs and a fermata over the final note of measure 31. The lower staff continues the accompaniment with eighth-note chords. The system concludes with a double bar line and a 3/4 time signature.

**A** floating (poco meno mosso if desired)

29

32

35

38

**B** maestoso (poco meno mosso if desired)

41

*f*

43

Musical notation for measures 43-44. The system consists of a grand staff with a treble clef on the upper staff and a bass clef on the lower staff. The right hand plays a melodic line with slurs and accents, while the left hand plays a bass line with sixteenth-note chords, each marked with a '6' for fingering. The key signature has one sharp (F#).

45

Musical notation for measures 45-46. Similar to the previous system, it features a grand staff with treble and bass clefs. The right hand continues the melodic line, and the left hand plays sixteenth-note chords with a '6' fingering. The key signature has one flat (Bb).

47

Musical notation for measures 47-48. The system continues with a grand staff. The right hand has slurs and accents, and the left hand plays sixteenth-note chords with a '6' fingering. The key signature has one sharp (F#).

49

Musical notation for measures 49-50. The system continues with a grand staff. The right hand has slurs and accents, and the left hand plays sixteenth-note chords with a '6' fingering. The key signature has two sharps (F# and C#).

51

Musical notation for measures 51-52. The system continues with a grand staff. The right hand has slurs and accents, and the left hand plays sixteenth-note chords with a '6' fingering. The key signature has two sharps (F# and C#).

53

6

55

6

57

*f*

6

*ff*

(both hands 8va)

8va

59

**C** Tempo I; leggero, floating

*sub. p*

(*sfz*)

*Red.*

6

62

6