

for the NSO "Symphony Goes to School" Program

GOIN' HOME

Theme from Symphony no. 9: Largo

For Voice (High) and Piano Accompaniment

Antonin Dvorak

arr. by Timothy Brennan



ca. 2:00

Programme Notes

In 1892, Antonin Dvorak was asked to come teach at the National Conservatory of Music of America, in New York City. This was a big change for the famous Czech composer. The United States, still a comparatively young country to most European nations of the day, was looking to foster their new and unique musical identity. In addition to his appointment at the National Conservatory, the New York Philharmonic also commissioned him to write a symphony. The product was his 9th Symphony, affectionately known as “From the New World.” It has since become a standard of orchestral repertoire and is considered one of the greatest pieces ever written. Neil Armstrong took a recording to the moon on the Apollo 11 mission of 1969 – the very first moon landing.

Upon arriving in the United States, Dvorak became very interested in the folk music of African-American peoples. He was fascinated by the blend of these traditional spirituals, chants and songs with Western European art music, and considered this to be a new, ‘American’ style of music. His 9th Symphony “From the New World” attempts to cohesively blend these influences, and accurately depict the American way of life.

The melodies Dvorak wrote were entirely original, but the second movement (Largo) in particular was so much like an African-American spiritual that a student of his named William Arms Fisher (an African-American himself) decided to write lyrics for it. The product is the piece “Goin' Home,” often mistaken for a true spiritual, though it is of Dvorak's creation.

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GOIN' HOME

William Arms Fisher

Antonin Dvorak
arr. by Timothy Brennan

Largo ♩ = 69

Voice

mp

Go - in' home, go - in' home,

Piano

p sostenuto

Ped.

5

Voice

I'm just go - in' home Qui - et like, some still day,

Pno.

Ped.

9 *mf*

Voice I'm just go - in' home. It's not far, just close by;

Pno. *mp*

13

Voice Through an op - en door. Work all done, care laid by

Pno.

17 *p*

Voice gon' to fear no more! Mo - ther's there

Pno. *pp*

20

Voice

'spect - in' me, Fa - ther's wai - tin' too. Lots o' folks,

Pno.

24

Voice

mf

ga-thered there! All the friends I knew. I'm just go - in

Pno.

mp

28

Voice

mp *p*

home. I'm just go - in home.

Pno.

mf *ppp*

Red.