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





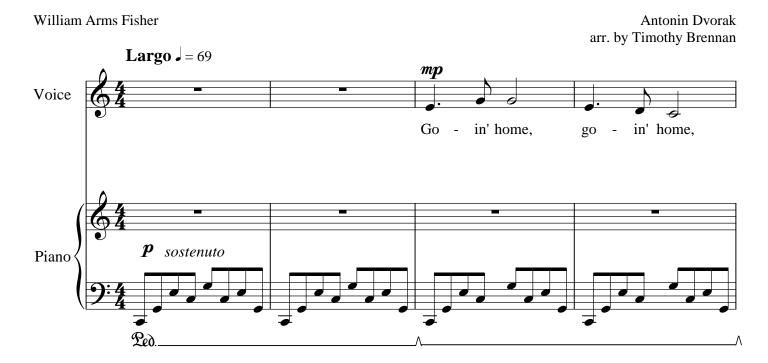
Programme Notes

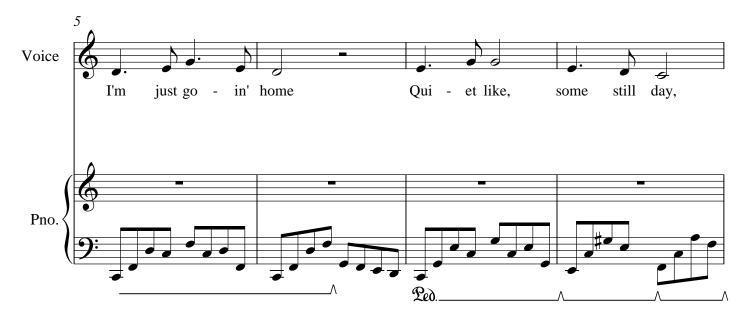
In 1892, Antonin Dvorak was asked to come teach at the National Conservatory of Music of America, in New York City. This was a big change for the famous Czech composer. The United States, still a comparatively young country to most European nations of the day, was looking to foster their new and unique 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. for the NSO "Symphony Goes to School Program"

GOIN' HOME





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