

SAMPLES FROM harp solos

Dona Nobis Pacem

(Grant Us Peace)

Traditional Latin words, melody from the 16th Century
arranged for harp by Stephanie Bennett

This timeless melody, and its words that are a fervent prayer for peace, are appropriate all year as well as a beautiful message for holiday time. All the arrangements are appropriate for either lever harp or pedal harp. There are no lever or pedal changes.

The Beginner solo has just the melody, shared between the left and right hands. The Semi-Beginner solo has the melody accompanied by an ostinato (repeated 8-note figure) in the left hand.

The Intermediate and Advanced solos are actually rounds; the melody appears in more than one 'voice', layering over itself to create a beautiful harmony.

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Thank you for
bringing this music
to life,
and may you enjoy it
in peace!

Sincerely,
Stephanie Bennett

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Beginner Harp Solo

In this arrangement, both hands share the work of playing the melody. The notes with stems DOWN (and fingerings beneath) are to be played with the LEFT hand, and the notes with stems UP (and fingerings above) are to be played with the RIGHT hand.

If it's hard to remember which hand to use, you might make it easier by circling the LEFT hand notes with a BLUE pencil, and the RIGHT hand notes with a RED pencil.

It is also nice played an octave lower than written. Try it both ways and see which you like; or, for a longer arrangement, play it first as written, then repeat the whole song an octave lower.

SAMPLE

Beginner Harp Solo

Dona Nobis Pacem

Serenely ♩ = 72

1 3 2 1 2 3 3 4
Do - na no - bis pa - cem pa - cem,

Easy Harp Solo with Ostinato

This arrangement is one step more complex than playing just the melody with one hand. For a nice full sound, you play the melody with the right hand while playing an ostinato (a repeated bass part) with the left hand. (“Ostinato” is from the Italian for “obstinate” - meaning it keeps doing the same 8 measures over and over again!)

SAMPLE

21

1 1 2 2 3 2 1 4 2

do - na no - bis pa - cem.

1 2 1 3

Two-Part Round for Harp Solo

(Intermediate Solo, or Easy Duet)

It's trickier than it looks, to play two different melodies at the same time! It's great coordination practice.

If you like to sing, try singing the 'right hand' part (top staff) and playing just the 'left hand' part (bottom staff).

Or, have a friend who sings or plays flute, oboe or violin, handle the top staff while you play the bottom staff on harp.

SAMPLE

33

2. 2. 1 2 3 3 4

Do - - na no - bis pa - cem,

mf

2 4 1 2 4 1 1 2 3 3 4

Detailed description: This is a musical score for a harp solo, consisting of two staves: a treble clef staff (top) and a bass clef staff (bottom). The piece is numbered 33. The treble staff contains a melody with lyrics: 'Do - - na no - bis pa - cem,'. The first two measures have a fermata over the first note. Fingerings are indicated above the notes: 2, 2, 1, 2, 3, 3, 4. The bass staff contains a bass line with fingerings indicated below the notes: 2, 4, 1, 2, 4, 1, 1, 2, 3, 3, 4. The dynamic marking *mf* is placed in the first measure of the bass staff.

Three-Part Round for Harp Solo

Quite a bit more advanced - you eventually have all THREE voices going at once, with only two hands!

SAMPLE

The image shows a musical score for a harp solo, measures 37 through 40. The score is written for two staves, Treble and Bass clef. Measure 37 starts with a treble clef and a 4/4 time signature. The right hand plays a sequence of notes: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), D5 (quarter), E5 (quarter), F5 (quarter), G5 (quarter). The left hand plays a sequence of notes: G3 (quarter), F3 (quarter), E3 (quarter), D3 (quarter), C3 (quarter), B2 (quarter), A2 (quarter), G2 (quarter). Measure 38 continues the right hand sequence: A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), D5 (quarter), E5 (quarter), F5 (quarter), G5 (quarter), A5 (quarter). The left hand continues: F3 (quarter), E3 (quarter), D3 (quarter), C3 (quarter), B2 (quarter), A2 (quarter), G2 (quarter), F2 (quarter). Measure 39 is marked *poco rit.* and features a 1/4 time signature. The right hand plays: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), D5 (quarter), E5 (quarter), F5 (quarter), G5 (quarter). The left hand plays: G3 (quarter), F3 (quarter), E3 (quarter), D3 (quarter), C3 (quarter), B2 (quarter), A2 (quarter), G2 (quarter). Measure 40 is marked *poco rit.* and features a 1/4 time signature. The right hand plays: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), D5 (quarter), E5 (quarter), F5 (quarter), G5 (quarter). The left hand plays: G3 (quarter), F3 (quarter), E3 (quarter), D3 (quarter), C3 (quarter), B2 (quarter), A2 (quarter), G2 (quarter). The score ends with a double bar line.