

Mahmoud Abuwarda



PROGRAM NOTE

Composed in 2021 and dedicated to Mona Kriegler, *Nocturne No. 1* explores the emotional complexities surrounding her final visit to Gaza City. The piece was born out of Mona's poignant question: "*Do I go back to Gaza again?*"

This nocturne expresses the inner tension and sadness of uncertainty, woven through delicate melodies and shifting harmonies. The music captures a sense of both longing and apprehension, reflecting the emotional journey of a person torn between a desire to return and the weight of unresolved fears.

As the piece unfolds, it mirrors the anxiety and introspection in Mona's mind, her silent questioning echoing through the waves of sound. The music grows increasingly fragile and unresolved, with moments of reflection that seem to suspend time itself. The work serves as both an intimate portrayal of Mona's experience and a universal meditation on the bittersweetness of revisiting a place where history and emotion are deeply intertwined.

Through *Nocturne No. 1*, the listener is invited to share in this deeply personal moment of contemplation, witnessing a dialogue between memory and possibility, and ultimately, the unanswered question of return.



To Mona Kriegler

Nocturne No.1

Last Day in Gaza
for Piano solo

Mahmoud Abuwarda

Largo ♩ = 45

The first system of musical notation is in 4/4 time, marked *mp* (mezzo-piano). It features a treble and bass staff. The treble staff begins with a half note G4, followed by a series of eighth notes. The bass staff starts with a half note F3, followed by a series of eighth notes. A large, stylized watermark 'halidon' is visible in the background. The system concludes with a double bar line.

The second system of musical notation continues the piece. It features a treble and bass staff. The treble staff begins with a half note G4, followed by a series of eighth notes. The bass staff starts with a half note F3, followed by a series of eighth notes. A large, stylized watermark 'halidon' is visible in the background. The system concludes with a double bar line.

The third system of musical notation continues the piece. It features a treble and bass staff. The treble staff begins with a half note G4, followed by a series of eighth notes. The bass staff starts with a half note F3, followed by a series of eighth notes. A large, stylized watermark 'halidon' is visible in the background. The system concludes with a double bar line.

Nocturne No.1

7 *mp*

9 *mf* *mp* *p subito*

11 *rit.* *mp* *p subito* *pp subito*

14 *Adagio* ♩ = 52 *mp*