

Mahmoud Abuwarda

Nocturne No. 2

Stars Over the Sleeping City

for solo piano
(2025)

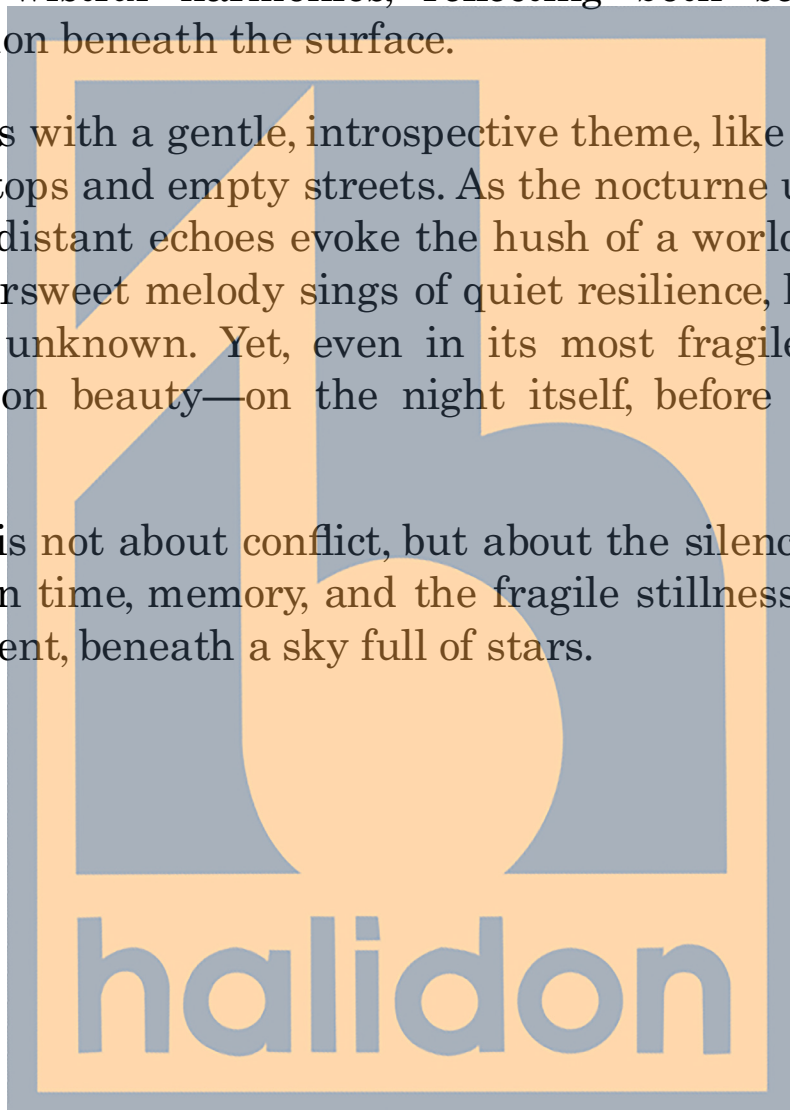
halidon

PROGRAM NOTE

In the quiet embrace of night, a city breathes in stillness, unaware of the coming storm. Stars Over the Sleeping City captures this fleeting moment of peace—a final lull before history shifts. Inspired by the last tranquil evening in Gaza before conflict, this nocturne weaves delicate melodies and wistful harmonies, reflecting both serenity and an unspoken tension beneath the surface.

The piece opens with a gentle, introspective theme, like the soft glow of stars over rooftops and empty streets. As the nocturne unfolds, rippling arpeggios and distant echoes evoke the hush of a world on the edge of change. A bittersweet melody sings of quiet resilience, longing, and the weight of the unknown. Yet, even in its most fragile moments, the music lingers on beauty—on the night itself, before dawn reshapes everything.

This nocturne is not about conflict, but about the silence before it. It is a meditation on time, memory, and the fragile stillness that lingers, if only for a moment, beneath a sky full of stars.



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Stars Over the Sleeping City

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Adagietto

Piano

p 3

con Ped.

poco rall.

a tempo

mp *p*

Pno

6

12

Pno

17

mp *dim.* *p*

3

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Nocturne No. 2

Adagio

molto rall.

Pno

23

mp

p cresc.

mf

Pno

27

Pno

31

dim.

mp

Pno

35

cresc.