
Eighth Note Publications

Nicole's Aria

Glen Gillis

Nicole's Aria was written in 2002 for Nicole Elizabeth Gillis, daughter of the composer. The piano accompaniment was edited by the composer's mother, Thelma Gillis. The piece is modal, based on an aeolian scale, sometimes referred to as a natural or pure minor scale. The composer wrote in a minor mode trying to fill the void of minor-keyed songs for this age as most children's songs are in major keys. Students are encouraged to practice the aeolian scale (B to B in the key of D for alto saxophone) both ascending and descending to hear the tonal flavour.

The work is an easy level alto saxophone and piano composition in binary form (AB) and cast in the Aeolian mode with repeated themes (intro at measure 1, A section at letter A, bridge at measures 20-21, B section at letter C). Students are encouraged to practice in a legato style and sing through the instrument, paying close attention to the dynamic and articulation markings. Students may listen to Dr. Gillis perform Nicole's Aria accompanied by Thelma Gillis on piano, and/or play along with the piano accompaniment alone; both recordings can be found at:

www.usask.ca/music/faculty_staff/faculty/gillis.html

PREVIEW ONLY

Glen H. Gillis, Associate Professor of Music, is Director of Bands, as well as Saxophone and Music Education Instructor at the University of Saskatchewan. Dr. Gillis conducts the Wind Orchestra as well as several chamber ensembles at the U of S. In 2005 the Wind Orchestra released their 1st Commercial CD, Winds of the Prairie: A Celebration as a part of Centennial Saskatchewan. Several years ago Dr. Gillis returned to Canada after a ten-year residence in the United States where he was Director of Bands at Cameron University in Lawton, Oklahoma where he also served as guest conductor of the Lawton Philharmonic Orchestra for three years. Previous to that he was assistant Director of Bands at the University of Missouri-Columbia, and adjunct woodwind instructor at Central Methodist College in Fayette, Missouri.

Apart from his reputation as a teacher and conductor, Dr. Gillis has also maintained a high profile as a saxophone soloist. Recently he returned from Florida Atlantic University where he recorded his compositions *Meta-Morphi* and *Impromptu* with James Cunningham on Wisdom Records. In the last five years his most notable and invited performances included performing his own compositions at the 2005 North American Saxophone Alliance Region IV Conference at Arkansas State, 2004 North American Saxophone Alliance Biennial Conference at the University of North Carolina - Greensboro, the 2003 World Saxophone Congress at the University of Minnesota, the 2003 Contemporary Art Series at Fort Hays State University in Kansas, the 2003 North American Saxophone Alliance Region IX Convention in Vancouver, and the 2002 North American Saxophone Alliance Biennial Conference at the University of North Texas.

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DIFFICULTY RATING: Easy-Medium
Alto Saxophone and Keyboard

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NICOLE'S ARIA

Glen Gillis

E♭ Alto Saxophone

Piano

♩ = 80

mp *dolce*

mf *dolce* *mp*

A

mf

mf

mf

mf

mp *mf*

mp *mf*

B

B

First system of musical notation, featuring a vocal line and piano accompaniment. The piano part consists of a treble and bass clef. The vocal line is in a treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#).

Second system of musical notation. It includes dynamic markings *rit.* and *mf*. The tempo instruction *Piu mosso* is written above the vocal line, accompanied by a common time signature *C* in a box. The piano accompaniment continues with a treble and bass clef.

Third system of musical notation, featuring dynamic markings *f* and *mf*. A large, semi-transparent watermark reading "PREVIEW ONLY" is overlaid across the center of the page.

Fourth system of musical notation, including dynamic markings *f*, *mf*, and *p*. It features a *rit.* marking and an optional second ending indicated by *opt.* and a repeat sign. The piano accompaniment includes a treble and bass clef.

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