

First Steps

for solo violin

to Christopher Fox and Susan McNally

Duration

7 minutes

Performance notes

First Steps is a gradual awakening, dawning or discovering; it should not be performed like a technical exercise, but musically and expressively, with a pure and open tone (using only a small amount of vibrato). The whole piece must be performed in first position.

Each bar should be performed the number of times specified at its head.

The piece should begin *piano* and at the specified tempo, but after the first line or so should very gradually begin to quicken and get louder naturally as the speed of the notes increases. The player should not attempt to maintain the same tempo artificially, but should allow the gradual forward and upward flow of the piece to dictate speed and dynamic. At the start of each G-natural section the dynamic reverts to *piano* and the tempo drops back towards ♩ = 92, before moving upwards again. By the end of the piece the tempo should have reached approximately ♩ = 108 and the dynamic *forte*. As a whole, the style of performance must have an easy and natural flow.

♩ = 92
x3

II

x2 x3 x3 x2 x2 x3

x2 x2 x3 x2 x3 x2 x3 x3 x2

x2 x3 x2 x3 x2 x2 x3 x2

x3 x3 x3 x2 x2 x3 x3 x3 x3 x2 x3 x2

x2 x3 x3 x2 x3 x2 x3 x3 x3 x3 x2 x3 x3 x2

x3 x3 6 x2 x3 6 x2 6 x3 6 x2 6 x2 6 x2 v v x2 v v v v x2 v v v v

x3