

étude

petit hommage to Leo Brouwer

(2023)

This étude was inspired by my recent commission of a new work by Leo Brouwer for solo guitar. My intention with this music was to create a Brouwer-like atmosphere and journey for students to explore. One question usually asked about studying etudes like this is, "what will it teach me?" Learning etudes can teach you a variety of skills like rhythms, techniques, and key centers.

In this case, the etude serves as a short study for developing your interpretation skills. The study presents you with many musical gestures where proper command of dynamics and articulation will make it come to life.

One thing I've learned from Mtro. Brouwer from studying his music and from taking a masterclass with him is that he approaches music composition and interpretation much like architecture. Because he knows the guitar so well and is a masterful composer, he constructs everything with intention. Dynamics, rhythms, articulations, timing indications are all arranged with sharp attention to detail in order to create his iconic sound.

Unfortunately, some etudes that students learn (depending upon the time period and edition of the music) don't always have musical considerations like dynamics, articulations, etc. present in the score. Some Fernando Sor studies for example present us with just the notes and a tempo indication. Whereas the lack of these markings could give an artist more freedom to decide what to do with the music, it doesn't help students who are still learning to shape phrases and don't know what to do yet. With those crucial parts to the whole missing, the whole never quite becomes what it could be.

Notes:

- 1) This piece is for the upper intermediate to advanced player. The reading might seem a bit complex, but much like Mtro. Brouwer's music I tried to make it so that once you read and understand it, the music fits nicely under the fingers.
- 2) Take this opportunity to practice the dynamics and the articulations as written with intention. If you'd like to try other approaches (i.e. changing markings) go for it and own it. Don't do nothing.
- 3) This piece borrows much influence from Brouwer's first guitar sonata - the first large scale work by Mtro. Brouwer I learned in undergrad. Additionally, material in m.9 is a quote from Mtro. Brouwer's "Danza Característica" Check it out if you don't already know it!
- 4) I'm calling this a petit hommage because I hope to flesh this out into a larger work at some point that properly pays respect to Mtro. Brouwer. For now, you could think of this étude as a prelude to more to come.

Questions? Comments? Say hello? Reach out at mkaplan@kaplanguitar.com



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étude

petit hommage a Leo Brouwer

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Quasi Improvisado

♩ = 80

The musical score is written for guitar in 4/4 time. It begins with a treble clef and a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The tempo is marked 'Quasi Improvisado' with a quarter note equal to 80 beats per minute. The score consists of several systems of music:

- System 1 (Measures 1-3):** Features a melodic line with triplets and a bass line with a forte (*f*) dynamic. A *sfp* dynamic marking is present in the bass line.
- System 2 (Measures 4-6):** Continues the melodic and bass lines, ending with a first ending bracket.
- System 3 (Measures 7-10):** Shows a second ending bracket and a *pp* dynamic marking in the bass line.
- System 4 (Measures 11-13):** Includes a *mf* dynamic marking and a section labeled 'movido fluido'.
- System 5 (Measures 14-15):** Features a *pp* dynamic marking and a section labeled 'P i m i'.
- System 6 (Measures 16-17):** Includes a *pp* dynamic marking and a section labeled 'P i m i a'.
- System 7 (Measures 18-20):** Starts with a *f* dynamic marking, followed by a *p* dynamic marking. A 'Tempo Primo' marking is placed above the staff.

The score includes various guitar-specific notations such as fret numbers (0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6), slurs, and dynamic markings (*f*, *sfp*, *pp*, *mf*, *p*).

21

3

24

6

3

5

3

mf

sfp

27

3