

Alexander Vella Gregory

Taħnina

Taħnina (2021) is the Maltese word for 'lullaby' but also means 'fondling' or 'stroking'. The music uses an ostinato bass with slowly shifting rhythmic patterns, giving a sense of constant if somewhat irregular cradling. A mournful melody is heard above the bass. The melody is repeated three times, each time in a different key. The piece focuses on simple rhythmic shifts and long legato phrases, two very important musical elements for the young pianist to master.

Tahnina

Alexander Vella Gregory
b. 1984

Andante tranquillo ♩ = 60

Musical notation for measures 1-6. The piece is in 3/4 time. The right hand starts with a whole rest in measure 1, followed by a melodic line with a triplet of eighth notes in measure 2 and a half note in measure 3. The left hand plays a steady eighth-note accompaniment. Dynamics include *p cantabile* and *Red.* (ritardando). Fingerings are indicated with numbers 1-5.

Red. * *simile*

Musical notation for measures 7-12. The right hand continues the melodic line with a triplet in measure 7 and a half note in measure 8. The left hand accompaniment remains consistent. Dynamics include *pp* and *ppp*.

Musical notation for measures 13-16. The right hand features a triplet in measure 13 and an octave extension marked *8va* in measure 15. The piece concludes with a *ppp* dynamic and a *rit. al fine* instruction.