

Awaken



Performed by: Damien Escobar
Composers: Damien Escobar and Alexandre Varela Da Veiga
Nationality: American
Source/Date: *Boundless* (2017)

'Awaken' is a violin solo written by Damien Escobar and Alexandre Varela Da Veiga, and features on Damien Escobar's 2017 album *Boundless*. The track was originally released as a single in 2015, before being added to the violinist's second album. Escobar is an American violinist from New York. He started playing violin when he was eight years old, and at the age of ten, became the youngest student to be accepted into Julliard School of Music. After graduating, he went on to achieve notable success with duo Nuttin' But Stringz, before going on to perform solo from 2012. In 2015 he released his first solo single, which debuted at number 15 on the iTunes chart.

Performance Notes



Damien Escobar has a uniquely expressive sound and style, and it is important to study his original recording in order to capture this and adopt into your own personalised performance. Many of these stylistic elements are translated in the score; namely, Escobar's very expressive dynamic swells (e.g. bars 4-7), and short phrases (such as in verse 1) which mustn't be clipped; rather, the ends of the second notes should themselves have a feeling of 'lifting away'.

Similarly, in-keeping with Escobar's style are the various slides and articulations, all of which add character. Take time to study how Escobar delivers these, and experiment with your own technique to try and emulate the sound. Variation is brought into Verse 2, where a mix of *pizzicato* and *arco* techniques are used, before a dramatic *crescendo* through the end of the second Pre-Chorus. In this section, it is important not to be tempted to rush, particularly on the triplets in bar 48. You must also keep an eye on your timing through the more demanding passages within the second chorus, especially the final flourish. If performing to the backing track, try to 'lock in' to the underlying pulse. You can practise this by tapping your foot as you play, internalising the downbeats. This may be tricky at first, but you can develop this skill with a metronome at lower speeds before bringing up to performance tempo.

Audio Access

Audio for this book can be accessed via the **QR code** on the right (*requires a compatible smartphone or tablet*) or by using the **URL and download code** shown on page 5.



Awaken

By Damien Escobar and Alexandre Varela Da Veiga

Damien Escobar

INTRO

$\text{♩} = 92$

mp *mf* *mp* *mf* *mp*

VERSE 1

mf *f* *mf*

mf

PRE CHORUS 1

mf

f *mf*

CHORUS 1

f *p* *mp* *p* *mp* *p*

f *p*

Technical Exercises

There are three groups of technical exercises at Grade 6:

- Group A: Scales
- Group B: Arpeggios
- Group C: Technical Studies

For groups A and B, the examiner will request a selection from each group to be performed. For group C, you may choose **one** technical study to perform from the three listed in the grade book.

Group A: Scales

All scales must be played:

- Unaccompanied (recommended minimum tempo: ♩=90)
- Ascending and descending across the number of octaves as shown for each example

Major and minor scales:

- Can be played with 'even notes' (quavers) **or** 'long tonic' rhythms (candidate choice).

If choosing 'even notes' (quavers):

- Three octave scales must be played **either** with separate bows, **or** slurred: three quavers to a bow
- Two octave scales must be played **either** with separate bows, **or** slurred: four quavers to a bow

If choosing 'long tonic' rhythms:

- Three octave scales must be played **either** with separate bows, **or** slurred: one octave (seven quavers) to a bow
- Two octave scales must be played **either** with separate bows, **or** slurred: four quavers to a bow

Major Scales

B^b major, three octaves

The image shows the musical notation for a B^b major scale, three octaves. It consists of two staves. The first staff shows the ascending scale starting on B^b (the second line) and ending on B^b (the second line) three octaves higher. The second staff shows the descending scale starting on B^b (the second line) three octaves higher and ending on B^b (the second line). The key signature has two flats (B^b major).

C major, two octaves

The image shows the musical notation for a C major scale, two octaves. It consists of one staff. The scale starts on C (the first line) and ends on C (the first line) two octaves higher. The key signature has no flats or sharps (C major).

Ear Tests

The examiner will play a two-bar diatonic melody in the key of E^b major, with a range up to an octave. There will be an E^b root note at the beginning of the test, then the melody will be played twice, each preceded by four clicks. After this, there will be a one-bar count-in and then candidates need to play the melody back to a drum backing. The first note of the melody will be either the root or fifth. It is acceptable for candidates to play over the track as the test is being played and there will be 10 seconds to practise after the second playing. The tempo is ♩=95.

The downloadable audio is representative of what candidates will hear in an exam.

Melodic Recall | Example



Please note: The tests shown are examples: The examiner will give you a different version in the exam.