

L Subramaniam

Journey

Violin & Piano

Journey was originally written as a violin duet and performed at the United Nations, New York in 1987 by the composer and Yehudi Menuhin. It was subsequently recorded. The piece is based on a pentatonic scale called *Mohanam*. With D as the tonic, the notes are D, E, F#, A, B. The scale can be transposed to any tonic, but as long as the relative intervals are the same, it is still *Mohanam*.

The first slow *ad lib* section is written to be similar to *Alapana* (*raga* improvisation) in Indian classical music. It is followed by the main theme in bars 22-53. Bars 54-63 are a piano solo bridge leading to the second part of the composition. In bars 98-112, the second half of the theme is repeated up an octave with a harmony line on the piano. In bars 113-200, a 'trade-off' between violin and piano ensues: another feature of Indian classical music. The length of each call and response gets shorter and shorter, leading to a rhythmic coda and a recapitulation of the theme in bar 241.

Performance notes by L Subramaniam