

Max Kielly

PATHS OF AMBER

For Solo Piano

2025

Full Score

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Written for

World Piano Teachers Association Australia

Duration: ca. 1,30 minutes

PROGRAM NOTE

There are paths in outer Kangaroo Valley that I would often walk through. If the time of day was right, the escarpment would glow of amber, illuminating the burned trees on the ridge line. Since 2020, much of the land has been going through a process of quiet regeneration. Although now the damage is almost invisible, there are still small signs of what was. I frequent those paths less often now, but I walk through them when I can. This work was written quickly, in one night and lots of the harmonic language goes back to my first musical influences – Bill Evans in particular. As well as this, I was feeling the nostalgia of returning to a place that holds so many complicated memories. It was a strange feeling – like running into an old friend, and partway into the conversation, you realise you in fact have nothing in common anymore, and you don't even know how to meaningful talk to this person. The piece simultaneously looks back to what was, and forward to what may be.

PERFORMANCE NOTES

The piece is written almost as a written-out improvisation. Therefore, the overall 'feel' of the interpretation should be spontaneous and expressive. All grace should be played as an anacrusis to the beat, and all pedal indications are only recommended. The performer may make other pedalling choices at their own discretion. The performer should exercise their freedom when playing the little ornaments and arpeggios – feel free to improve slightly around what has been written whilst maintaining the harmonic structure of the piece

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Tenderly, with Rubato (♩=60)

depress silently
una corda.

sost.

5

9

(sim.)

(una corda.)

12

Slowing...

tre corda.

(Tempo)

15

Gradually Fading Until the End

(sim.)

19

pp

ad lib.

una corda.

hold until the sonorities naturally fade...