SOFTWARE & TECH

Laura Story Grace Piano Sheet Music

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The Story Behind the Song “Grace”

Laura Story is a name that resonates deeply within the contemporary Christian music scene. Known for her heartfelt lyrics and melodic piano ballads, she captured the hearts of millions with her 2008 hit “Grace.” The song is not just a musical piece; it is a testimony woven into notes and words. It emerged from a season of profound personal struggle—her husband Martin was diagnosed with a brain tumor shortly after their marriage. Instead of bitterness, Story penned a song about the unexpected, transformative power of God’s grace during hardship. The result is a worship anthem that has been sung in churches, living rooms, and concert halls worldwide.

Because of its emotional depth and singable melody, “Grace” has become one of the most requested pieces for pianists—whether beginners seeking a moving piece for a recital, intermediate players looking for a worship arrangement, or advanced musicians who want to interpret its nuances. This article explores everything you need to know about obtaining and playing **Laura Story Grace piano sheet music**, including where to find it, what versions are available, and how to master the song on the piano.

Why “Grace” Is a Must-Learn for Pianists

The piano sits at the heart of Laura Story’s sound. In “Grace,” the piano carries both the melody and the emotional weight. The song is built around a simple, repeating chord progression that swells into a powerful chorus—making it an ideal piece for pianists who want to practice expressing dynamics, rubato, and lyrical phrasing. Moreover, the lyrics tell a story of redemption, making it a favorite for personal reflection, church services, and even weddings.

When you search for **Laura Story grace piano sheet music**, you will find a variety of arrangements. Some are simplified for beginners, others are note-for-note transcriptions of the original recording, and still others are creative reharmonizations for the advanced player. Choosing the right sheet music depends on your skill level and your purpose for playing the song.

Understanding the Song Structure

Before diving into sheet music, it helps to understand the form of “Grace.” The song follows a typical verse-chorus-bridge structure:

- Verse 1: “My heart is so proud, my mind is so unsteady” — quiet, introspective.
- Chorus: “Grace, grace, God’s grace” — builds with fuller chords.
- Verse 2: Adds more instrumentation, but piano remains prominent.
- Chorus: More intense, possibly with key change or added ornamentation.
- Bridge: “It was my sin that held Him there” — climax of emotional release.
- Final Chorus: Resolves back to a tender, quiet ending.

Most piano arrangements follow this arc, giving the player ample opportunity to use the sustain pedal and dynamic contrast.

Where to Find Laura Story Grace Piano Sheet Music

Obtaining legal, high-quality sheet music is essential for both respecting the artist’s copyright and ensuring accurate notation. Here are the most reliable sources for **piano sheet music for Grace by Laura Story**:

Official Music Publishers and Websites

Laura Story’s music is published primarily through **Word Music** and **CCLI**(Christian Copyright Licensing International). You can purchase individual sheet music downloads from major online retailers:

- Musicnotes.com — Offers several versions of “Grace,” including easy piano, piano/vocal/chords, and an advanced solo. The site allows transposition to any key.
- Sheetmusicplus.com — Carries arrangements by various arrangers, including the official version published by Word Music.
- Christianbook.com — Often sells printed folios that include “Grace” along with other Laura Story hits.

Free vs. Paid Sheet Music

Free versions of **Laura Story Grace piano sheet music** exist on sites like *Musescore.com*or community forums, but quality and accuracy vary greatly. Many are user-created transcriptions that may contain wrong notes, incorrect rhythms, or missing sections. For serious practice and performance, purchasing the official sheet music is recommended—it supports the artist and guarantees a faithful arrangement.

If you are a church musician, your church likely has a CCLI license that grants you permission to print and use sheet music for congregational singing. However, for solo piano pieces, you still need to purchase the sheet music separately unless it’s provided in a worship songbook your church owns.

Different Arrangements and Skill Levels

One of the beauties of **“Grace” Laura Story piano sheet music**is its adaptability. Here are the most common types you will encounter:

Easy Piano / Beginner Arrangements

These versions keep the melody in the right hand and block chords in the left. The range is limited, and the key is often simplified (e.g., C major instead of the original B-flat major). Key signatures with few sharps or flats make it approachable for early intermediate players. The rhythm is straightforward, mostly quarter notes and half notes. Perfect for a student recital or personal worship at home.

Intermediate Piano / Lead Sheet Versions

A lead sheet includes the melody line with chord symbols (e.g., Bb, Eb, F). The pianist must interpret how to voice the chords and create an accompaniment. This is excellent training for improvisation and comping. Many worship pianists prefer lead sheets because they allow flexibility in arrangement. **Laura Story grace piano sheet music** in lead sheet form is widely available from sites like *Worship Together* or *Ultimate Guitar*(which also shows chord charts).

Advanced Solo Piano Arrangements

For concert-level pianists, some arrangers have created virtuosic settings of “Grace.” These might include arpeggiated left-hand patterns, added runs, key modulations, and lush jazz-influenced harmonies. If you want to play a stunning instrumental interlude or offertory, seek out advanced sheet music,

often labeled as “Solo Piano” or “Performance Arrangement.” Mark Hayes and Carol Tornquist have each arranged “Grace” in their signature styles—Tornquist often writes elegant, flowing piano solos that remain faithful to the original while adding artistic depth.

Tips for Learning and Performing “Grace” on Piano

Once you have your **Laura Story grace piano sheet music**in hand, the next step is practice. Here are some practical strategies to master this beautiful song:

1. Listen to the Original Recording First

Before touching the keys, listen to Laura Story’s original recording several times. Pay attention to tempo fluctuations, the gentle piano intro, and the way she breathes between phrases. The song has a natural ebb and flow—it’s not metronomic. Try to internalize how the piano supports the vocals, especially in the chorus where the chords ring out.

2. Identify the Key and Chords

The official key for “Grace” is B-flat major (two flats: Bb and Eb). However, many easy versions transpose to C major or D major. Knowing the chord progression will help you memorize the piece faster. The main chords are: Bb, Eb, F, Gm, and occasional Cm and Dm7. Practice these chords in root position and inversions so your left hand moves smoothly.

3. Work on Dynamics

“Grace” is a dynamic journey. The verses are intimate and soft (piano or mezzo-piano). The chorus should swell to mezzo-forte or forte, but never harsh. The bridge—“It was my sin that held Him there”—is the emotional peak; here you can use full arm weight on the chords but maintain a warm tone. The final lines fade away to a whisper. Mark dynamic markings in your sheet music if they aren’t already present.

4. Pedaling Techniques

Sustain pedal is crucial for this piece. Use it to connect chords in the left hand and to create a legato melody in the right. Avoid pedaling through chord changes—lift the pedal cleanly on the beat of the new chord to prevent muddiness. For the quiet sections, use half-pedaling to add a touch of resonance without blurring.

5. Embellishments and Personal Interpretation

If you are playing from a lead sheet or an intermediate arrangement, feel free to add your own ornaments: a gentle appoggiatura before the first note of the melody, rolling the chords in the left hand, or adding a single-note bass line. These small touches make the performance your own. Listen to how Laura Story herself improvises when performing live—she often extends the ending with a delicate arpeggio.

Where to Use This Piece: Context and Performance

Because “Grace” is first and foremost a worship song, most pianists learn it for church settings. Here are some typical contexts:

- Offertory or Prelude: A solo piano arrangement can set a reflective atmosphere before a service.
- Communion: The lyrics about sacrifice and forgiveness make it suitable for communion meditations.
- Personal Devotion: Playing “Grace” at home can be a powerful way to meditate on the message of unmerited favor.
- Concerts or Recitals: In a Christian music concert, a piano rendition can serve as an instrumental interlude that connects with the audience.
- Weddings: With its themes of acceptance and love, some couples choose “Grace” for unity

ceremonies or wedding processions.

If you are performing for an audience, consider pairing the piano version with a vocalist. The sheet music for piano/vocal/guitar is very common and allows you to accompany a singer. Alternatively, you can play the solo and let the instrument “sing” the melody itself.

Digital Resources and Video Tutorials

Beyond printed sheet music, a wealth of online resources can help you learn **Laura Story grace piano sheet music** more effectively:

- YouTube Tutorials: Search for “Grace Laura Story piano tutorial” and you will find step-by-step lessons from channels like Piano Tutorial Easy, HDpiano, and Worship Piano Tutorials. Some display the sheet music on screen while the instructor plays slowly.
- Synthesia Videos: For those who learn by visual pattern, Synthesia renditions show falling notes on a piano keyboard. These can be helpful for building muscle memory, but they are not a substitute for reading notation.
- Online Courses: Platforms like Flowkey and Simply Piano occasionally include worship songs; you can check if “Grace” is in their library.

Combining sheet music with video tutorials accelerates learning, especially for understanding tricky rhythms or fingerings.

Common Challenges and How to Overcome Them

Even with excellent **piano sheet music for Grace by Laura Story**, pianists often encounter specific hurdles:

Challenge 1: Reaching the High Notes in the Right Hand

If the melody goes above the staff, beginners may struggle with note recognition. Solution: Mark the note names in pencil above the staff until you are comfortable. Practice hands separately for the high sections.

Challenge 2: Syncopated Rhythm in the Chorus

The chorus has a syncop

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