Kirk O'Riordan

Water Lilies

for Solo Piano

for more information:

www.kirkoriordan.com

Water Lilies (2000, rev. 2008)

for Solo Piano

Kirk O'Riordan (b. 1968)

Program Notes

Water Lilies for Solo Piano is the second in a series of *Water Lilies* pieces, which also includes versions for chamber winds and orchestra. Each version is based on the same melodic idea; in each piece this idea is developed using different compositional procedures. The result is a series of noticeably related but distinct pieces. The idea for these pieces comes from my impressions of an exhibit of Monet's *Water Lilies* at the *Musée de L'Orangerie* in Paris. The room that these magnificent works are displayed in is in the shape of an oval; and when sitting in the middle of the room one has the distinct impression that one is in the middle of Monet's pond.

My *Water Lilies* are not necessarily an attempt to reproduce each painting in sound; rather, they represent the attempt to reproduce the feeling of being surrounded by these images, which from far away seem perfectly clear and photographic but up close are rather blurry and repetitive. Indeed, Monet's genius lies in his ability to make his audience look upon his art from afar, taking in the whole view at once rather than focusing on the details of its construction. This series of pieces attempts to recreate this effect in sound.

Performance Notes

*The tempo of the performance should be chosen with regard to the resonance of the piano and the performance space: a more resonant instrument or hall will allow for a slower tempo. Choose the slowest possible tempo the conditions will allow.

**The dynamic contour of the piece may rise and fall with the number of voices sounding at any one time. The performer should allow the texture to control the dynamic contours of the piece. To this end, the performer should perform the entire piece in the range between *piano* and *mezzo-forte*, *ad libitum*.

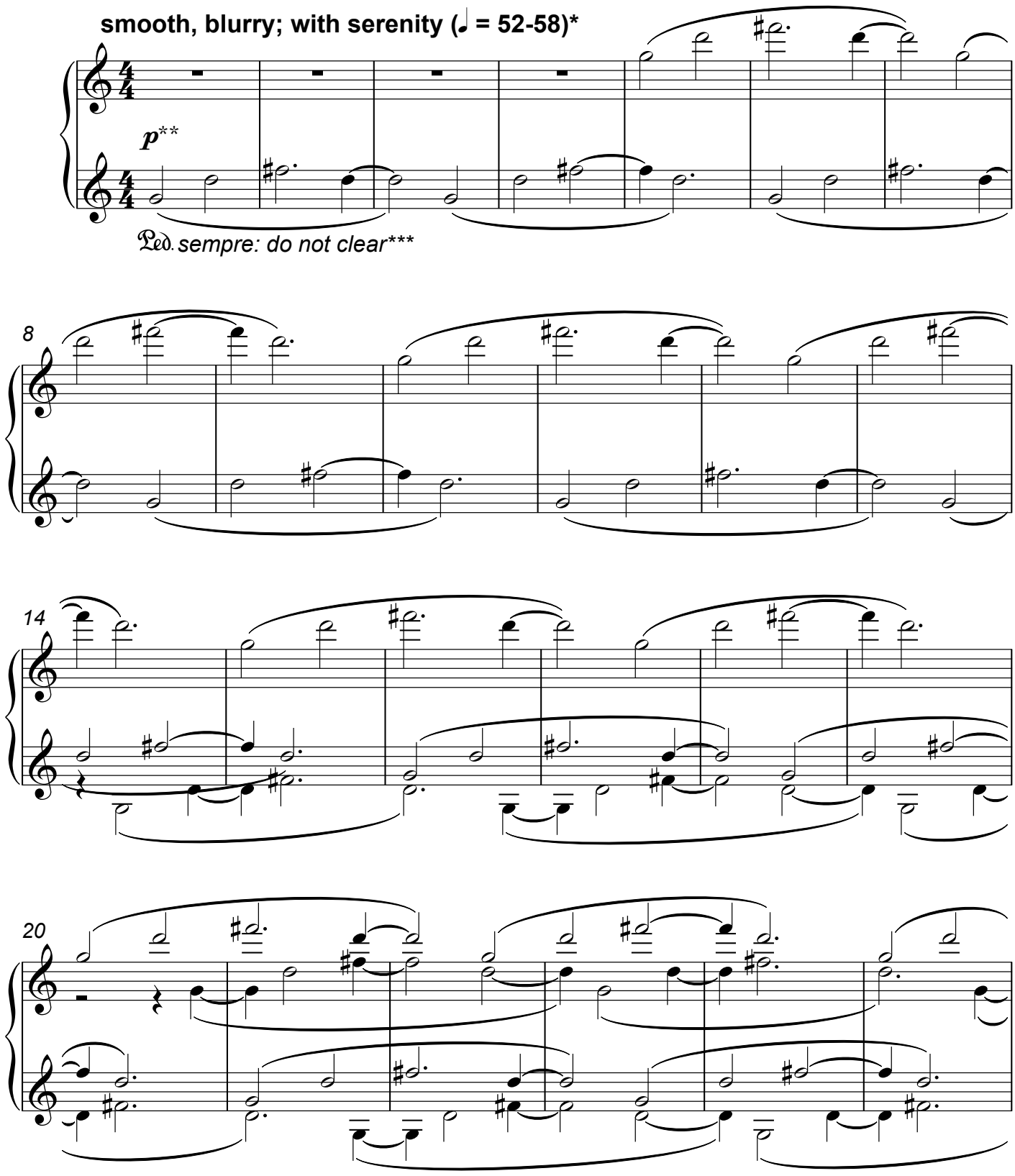
***The performer may experiment with pedaling to facilitate changes in color, balance, or dynamics.

for Holly Roadfeldt

Water Lilies

for solo piano

Kirk O'Riordan (2000 rev. 2008)



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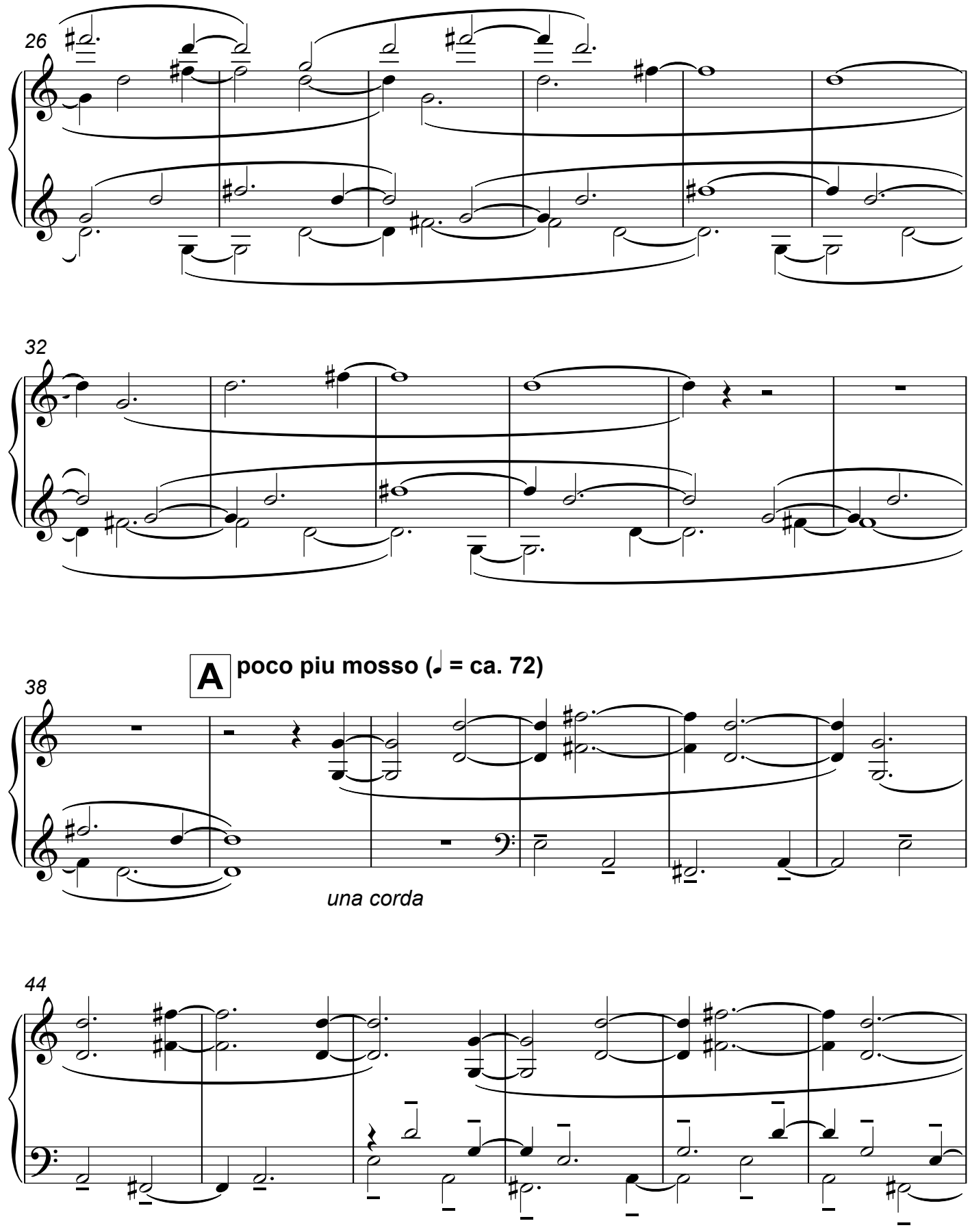
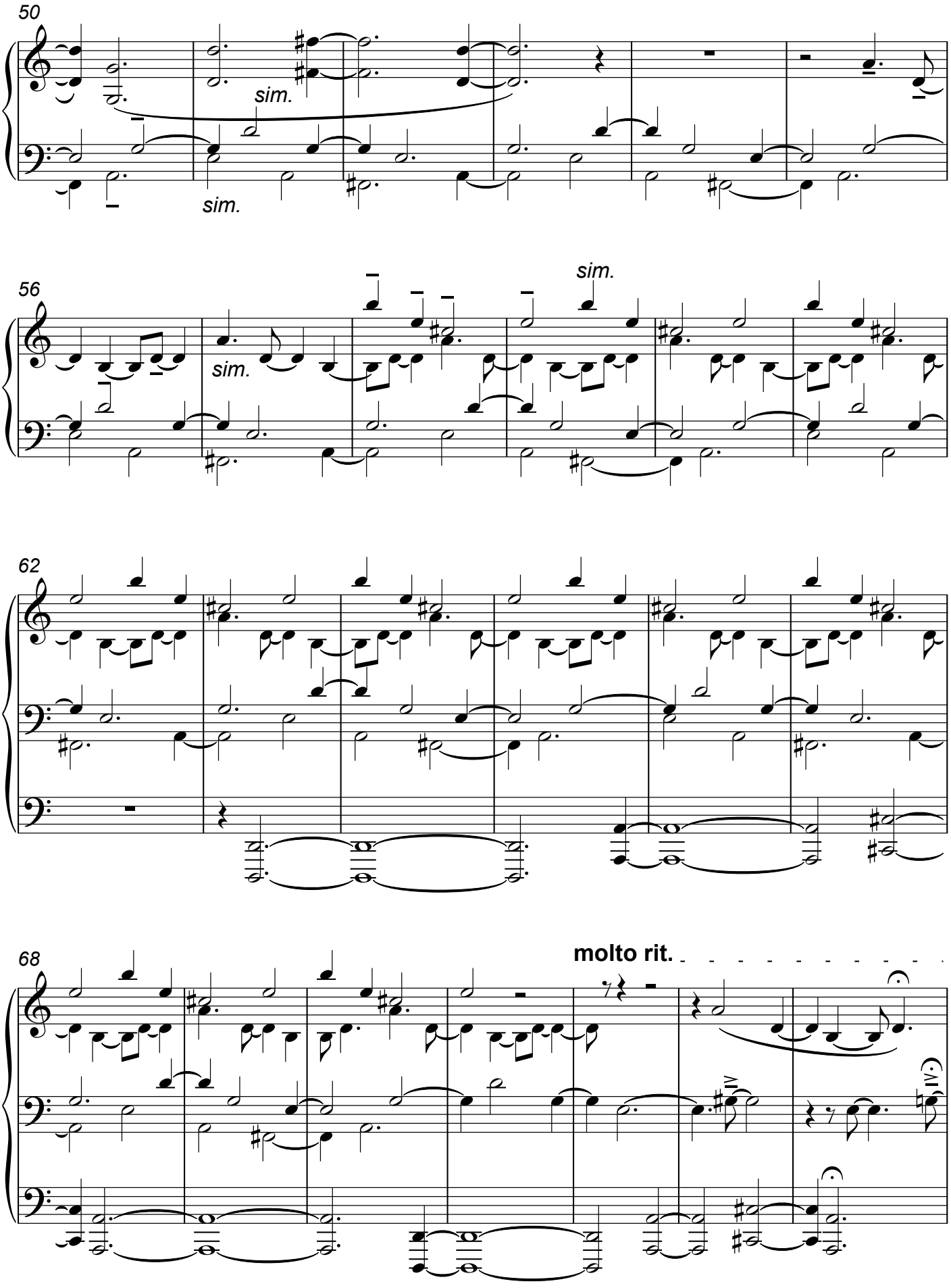

26
32
A
poco piu mosso (♩ = ca. 72)
38
una corda
44


50
sim.
sim.
56
sim.
sim.
62
68
molto rit.

B **meno mosso; sparkling (♩ = 48)**

75

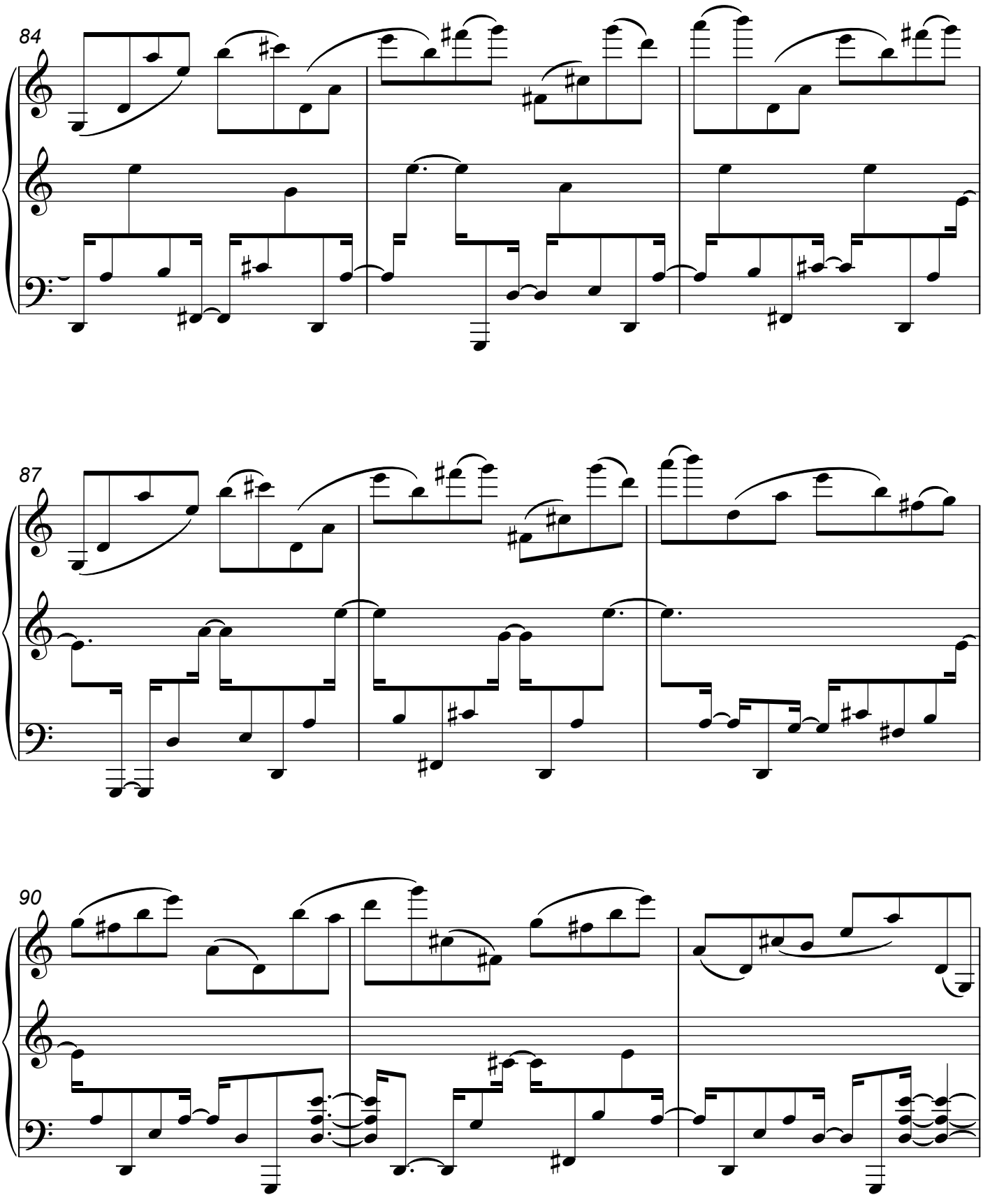
tre corde

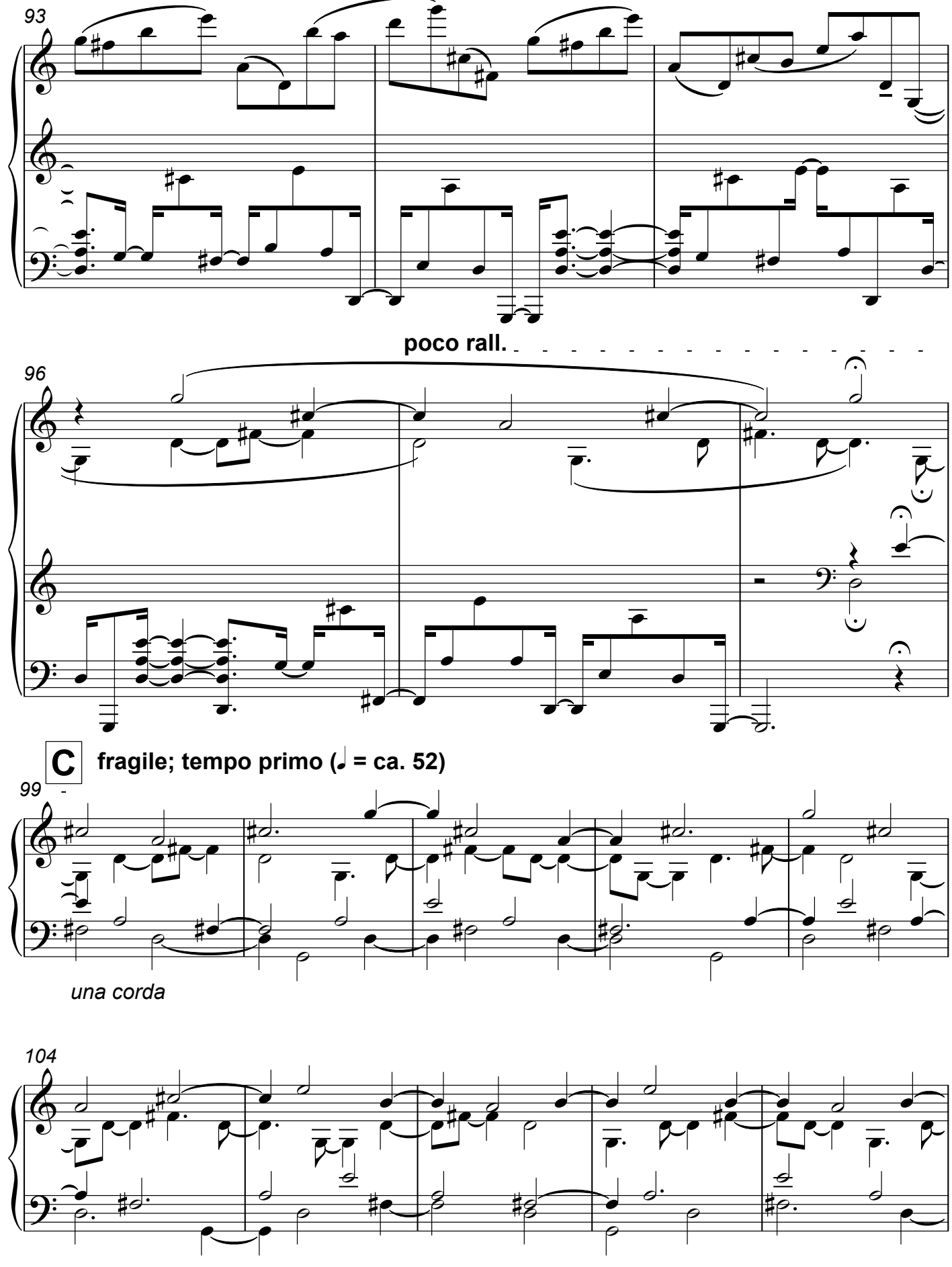
78

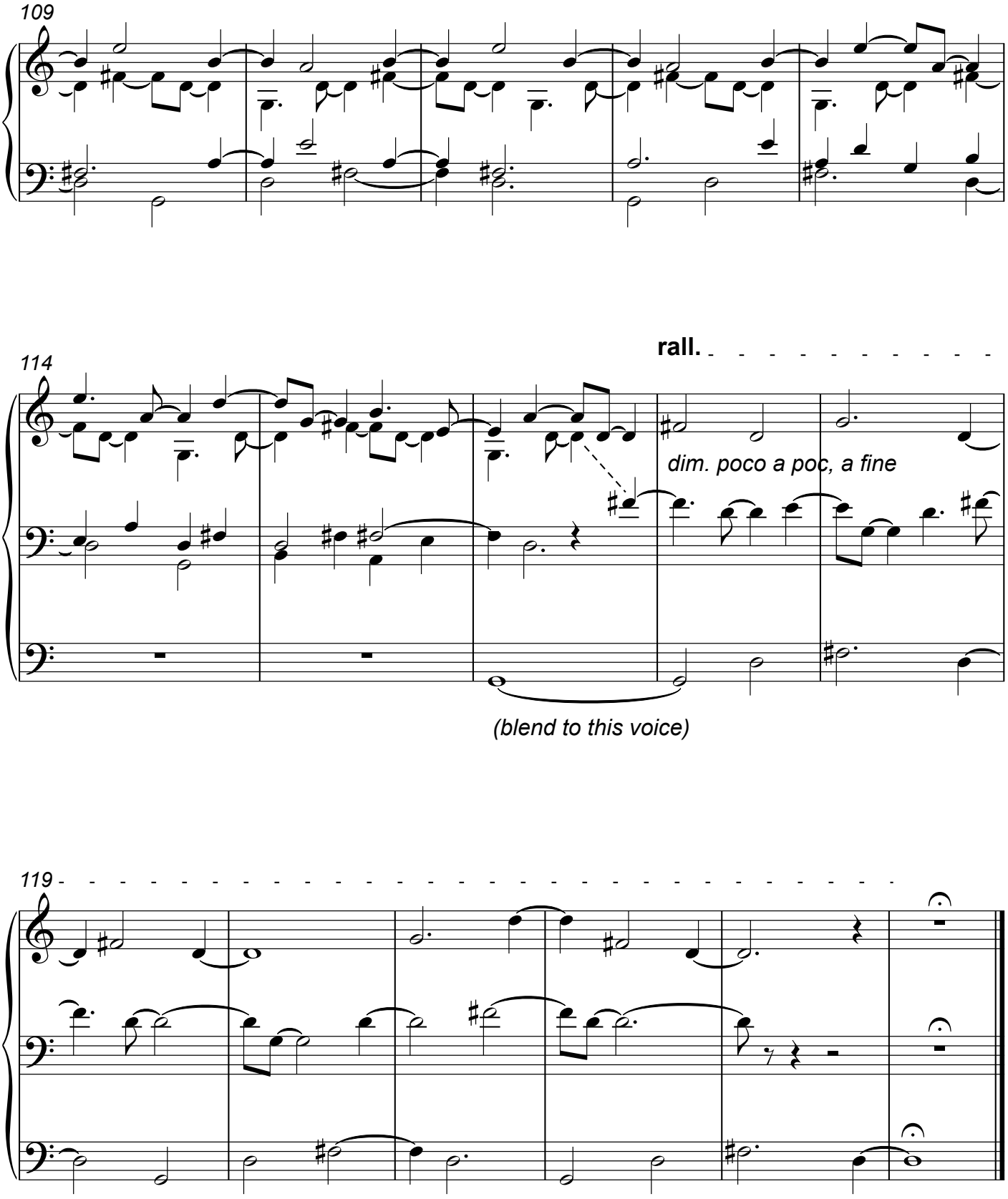
81

8va

8va


84
87
90


93
poco rall.
96
C
fragile; tempo primo (♩ = ca. 52)
99
una corda
104


109
114
rall.
dim. poco a poc, a fine
(blend to this voice)
119

Kirk O'Riordan
Composer

Kirk O'Riordan's music has been referred to as "unapologetically beautiful" and is often praised for its uniquely "visual" qualities that depict a wide range of striking moods. His debut compact disk, *Strange Flowers*, was released by Ravello Records in November, 2013 and was praised by Audiophile Audition as "one of the most impressive and beautiful collections of chamber music I have heard in awhile….This is all just so lovely and invokes exactly the emotions that good music should be able to induce in all of us." Gramophone Magazine praised O'Riordan as "a composer for whom imagery is a defining inspiration….[he] is a deeply sensitive composer who savours going gently into the night." His second release, *The Preludes Project* (Holly Roadfeldt, piano) is praised for "forming a myriad of pixels of little pictures that ultimately combines to form a moveable feast for both eye and inner ear."

O'Riordan (b. 1968) is an active composer, conductor, saxophonist, and teacher. In 2009 Dr. O'Riordan joined the faculty of Lafayette College where he serves as Associate Professor of Music and Director of Bands, teaching courses in music theory, and composition. In addition, he teaches in the First-year Seminar program and conducts the Lafayette College Concert Band and Contemporary Music Ensemble. He holds the Doctor of Musical Arts degree from Arizona State University (the first recipient of that degree from ASU); the Certificate of Performance in Saxophone from Northwestern University; and three Master of Music degrees (composition, saxophone performance, and conducting).

Kirk has studied composition with Rodney Rogers, Randall Shinn, James De Mars, Glenn Hackbarth, Jay Alan Yim, Burton Beerman, Marilyn Shrude, and Donald M. Wilson. He has studied saxophone with Frederick L. Hemke, John Sampen, Eugene Rousseau, and Iwan Roth.

Music for Piano by Kirk O'Riordan

Solo Piano

Water Lilies (2000, rev. 2008)

Three Pieces (2002)

Lacrimosa (2011)

Twenty-Six Preludes (2013)

Beautiful Nightmares (2017)

Duo Piano

Humming Spheres (2010)

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