Summer by the Sea

A collection of memories and dreams.

By Elizabeth Bonds

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Sample Copy

Summer by the Sea

This collection is a musical shoreline — a place where wind and water, memory and motion, quietly meet.
Each piece reflects a fleeting moment: the shimmer of fireflies, the hush of starlight, a kite drifting high, a seahorse suspended in quiet tide.
These are not grand declarations but gentle discoveries — glimpses of wonder, sketched in sound.
The music invites stillness and curiosity. It asks for space, breath, and imagination.
Performance notes have been included for each piece. These are not to contain your creativity. They are simply suggestions to help you begin shaping your own interpretation.

I hope, in playing these pieces, you glimpse something still and luminous that reaches quietly beyond the notes.

Elizabeth

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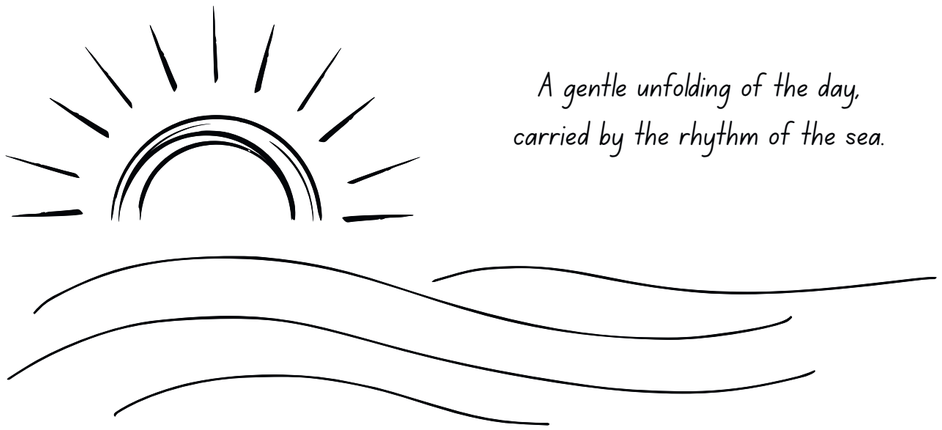
Morning Tide



A gentle unfolding of the day,
carried by the rhythm of the sea.

Performance Notes

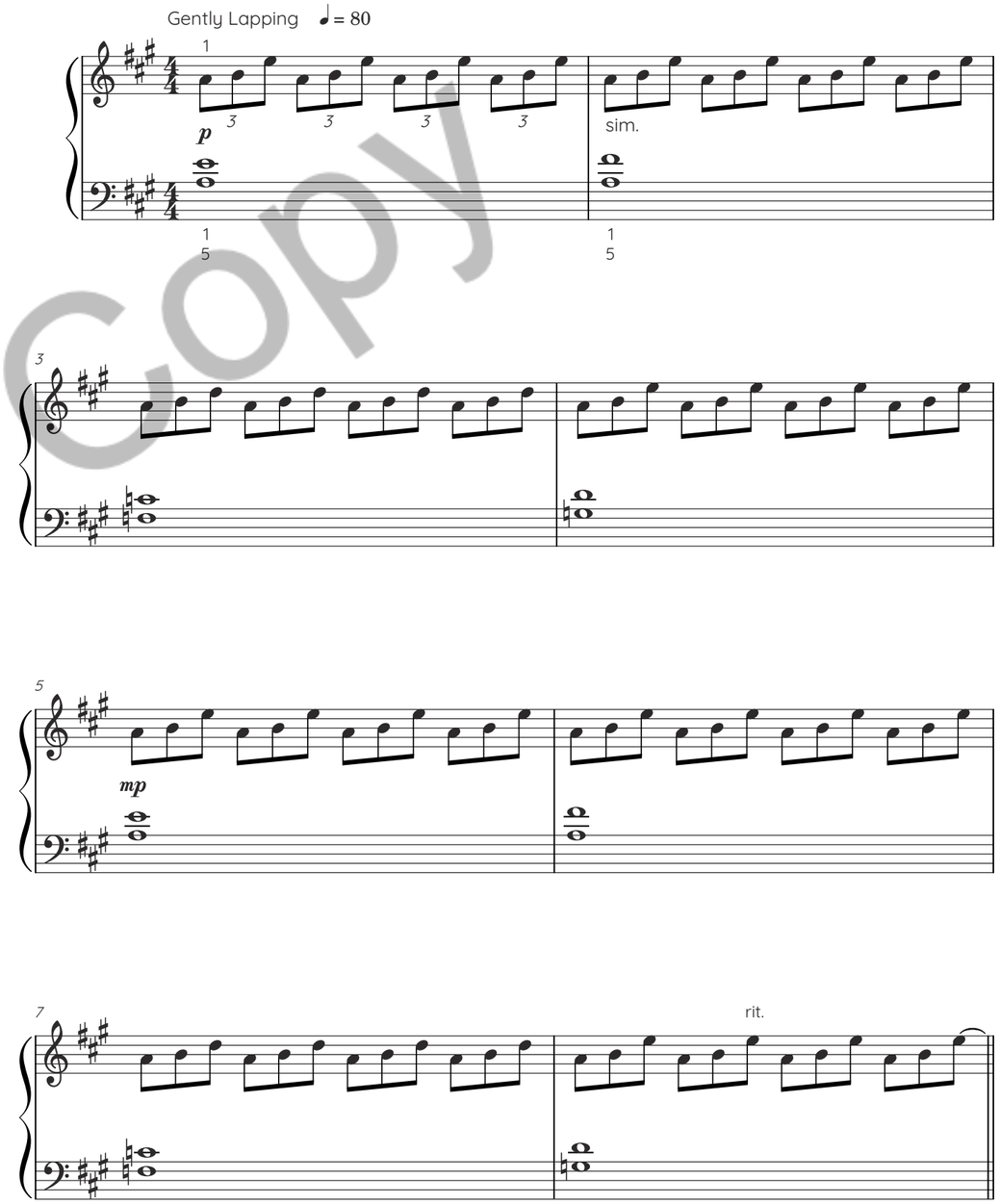
Morning Tide evokes the quiet rhythm of waves at dawn – gentle, steady, and reflective. The performer should approach the piece with sensitivity to phrasing and tone, letting the notes flow naturally like water.

- **Tempo:** Play with a calm, rippling pulse. Feel free to slightly push and pull the tempo to mimic the ebb and flow of a tide.
- **Tone & Touch:** Aim for a warm, translucent tone. Keep a light, supple touch in the triplets.
- **Pedalling:** Use the pedal delicately to blend harmonies without blurring the melodic line.
- **Expression:** This piece is more about atmosphere than drama. Think in terms of colour, texture, and motion rather than tension and release.
- **Imagery:** Let the piece unfold naturally, like the slow brightening of the horizon over water.

Sample Copy

Morning Tide

Elizabeth Bonds



9 a tempo

mf

11

1 2 5 4 3 4

13

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19

5 4 5 rit. 4 2 1

21 a tempo

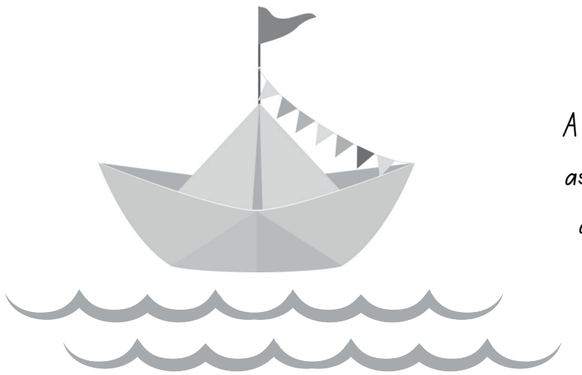
1

mp

23 rit.

Sample Copy

Paper Boats



A quiet journey begins as a tiny vessel drifts across sunlit water.

Performance Notes

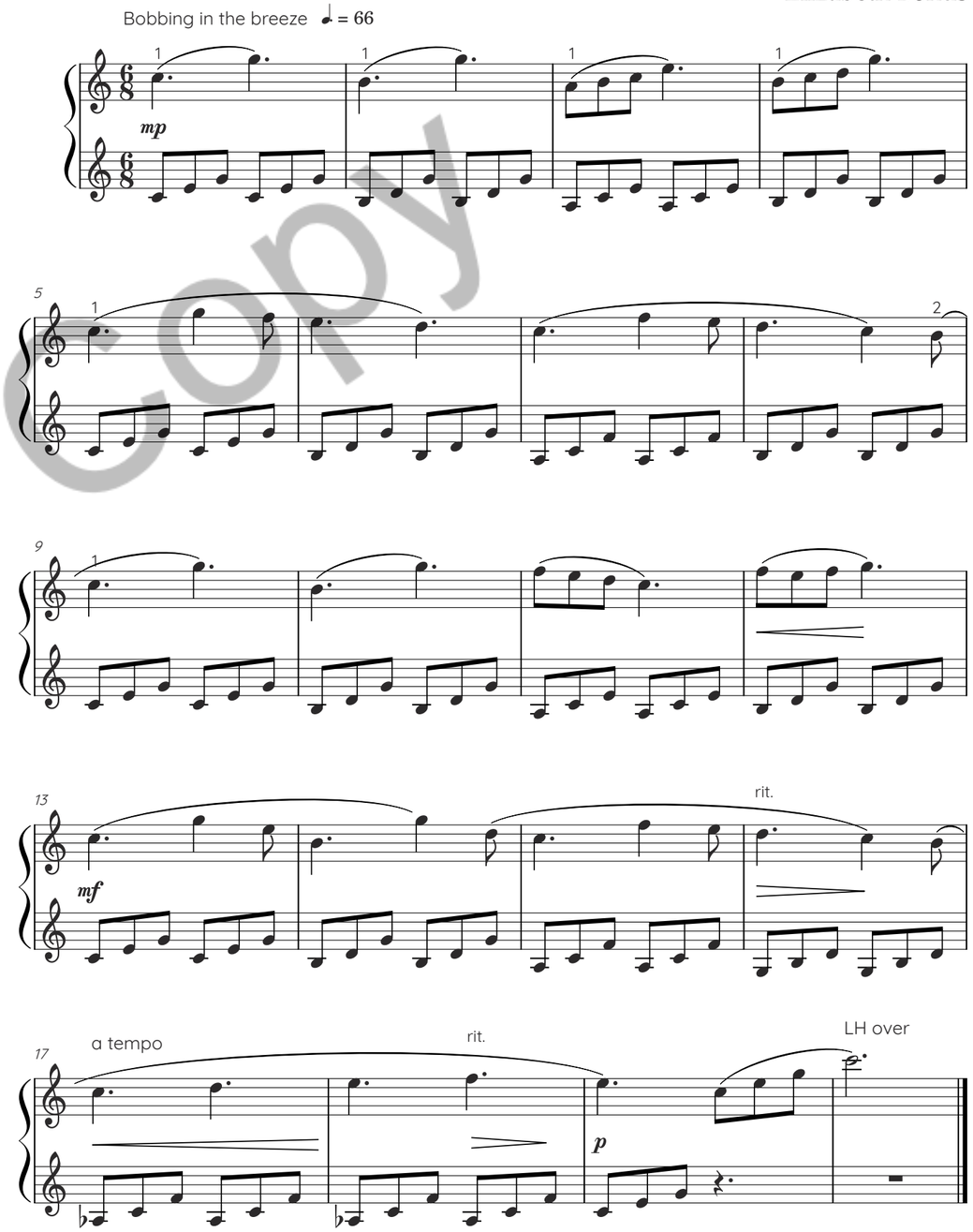
Paper Boats is a piece with innocence and delicacy. It captures the quiet wonder of a small paper boat drifting across calm water – gentle, uncertain, but full of quiet intention.

- **Tempo:** Maintain an unhurried and reflective tempo, as though following the slow current of a stream.
- **Tone & Touch:** Use a light, rounded touch throughout. Allow the melody to sing softly, with warmth and space. Keep voicing gentle – every note should feel placed with care, as if floating.
- **Pedalling:** Use the pedal to soften the sound. Always change the pedal when the left hand changes its broken chord.
- **Expression:** Shape dynamics with restraint and sensitivity. Let changes feel like ripples, not waves. The mood should remain contemplative and lightly nostalgic.
- **Imagery:** Picture watching a handmade paper boat float away – slow, uncertain, but graceful. Let the performance suggest both motion and stillness, carried gently by the current.

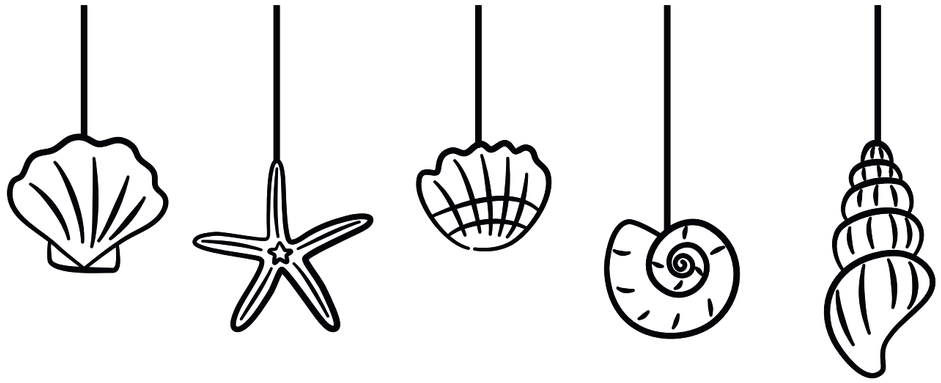
Sample Copy

Paper Boats

Elizabeth Bonds



Seashells



Delicate fragments of sound that shimmer like treasures on the sand.

Performance Notes

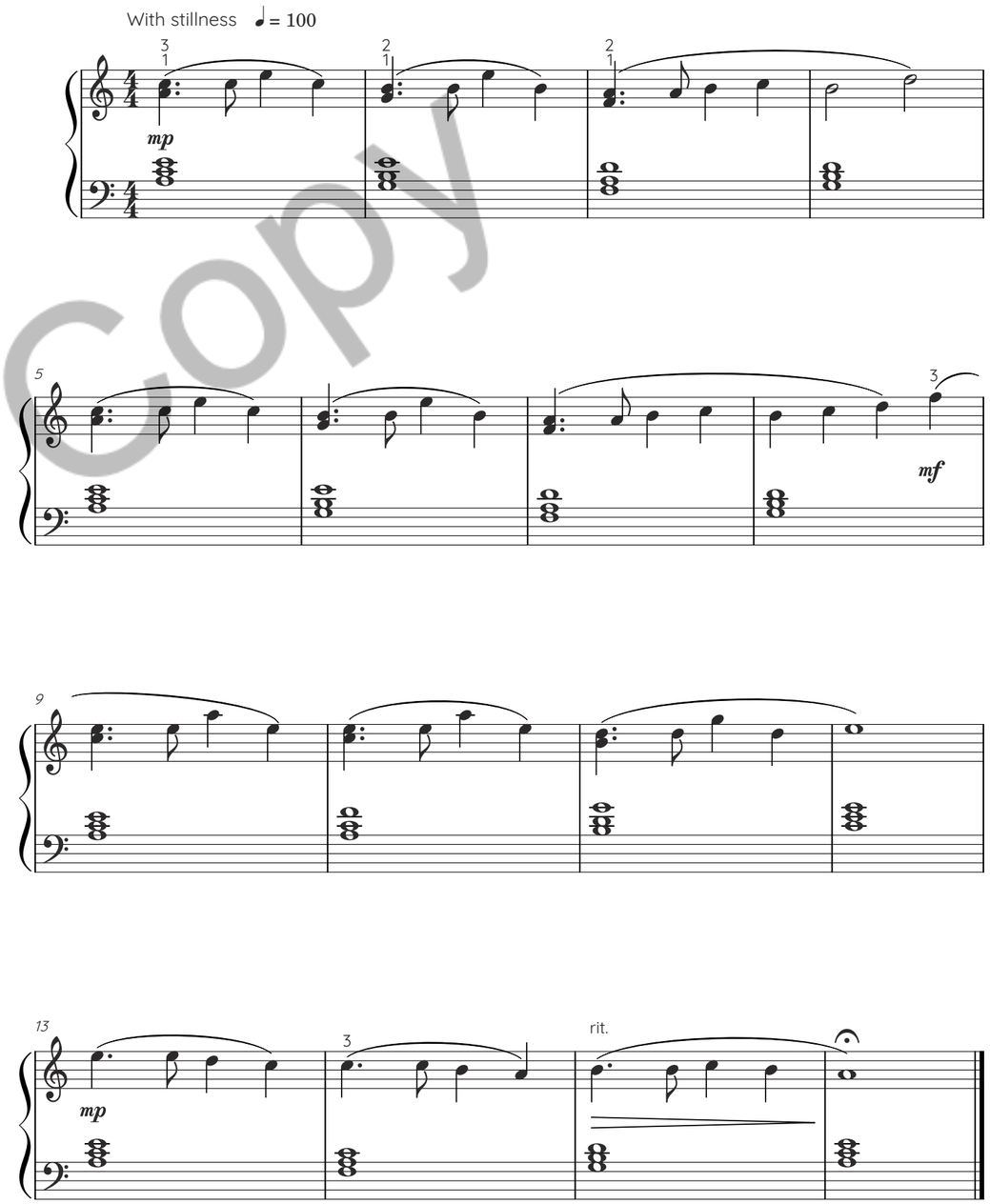
Seashells is a piece characterised by brightness, fragility, and miniature beauty. Each phrase should feel like a small treasure discovered on the shore – unique, glistening, and fleeting. The performer should approach the music with curiosity and finesse.

- **Tempo:** Keep the pulse lively but not rushed. The energy should sparkle and flicker, avoiding any sense of being pressed forward.
- **Tone & Touch:** Employ a light, articulated touch throughout. Envision the sound as sunlit and glassy. Let the treble lines sing, while lower voices remain gentle and supportive.
- **Pedalling:** Use minimal pedal to preserve clarity. Make sure the pedal is changed cleanly to avoid the left-hand chord changes overlapping.
- **Expression:** Let dynamic changes feel like sunlight catching on different surfaces – subtle and bright. Treat repetition with variation – ensure each return feels like a different shell held up to the light. There are few dynamic markings in the piece to give you space to choose your own.
- **Imagery:** Imagine collecting shells on a clear morning beach: each one small, beautiful, and distinct. Let your playing reflect both the precision and wonder of these quiet discoveries.

Sample

Seashells

Elizabeth Bonds



Sea Breeze

Cool and gliding, this piece dances
on the edge of the waves.

Performance Notes

Sea Breeze should be played with a sense of openness, movement, and gentle lift. The character is flowing and sunlit, as though caught in the motion of air over water. Keep textures transparent and phrasing lyrical, with an emphasis on ease and momentum.

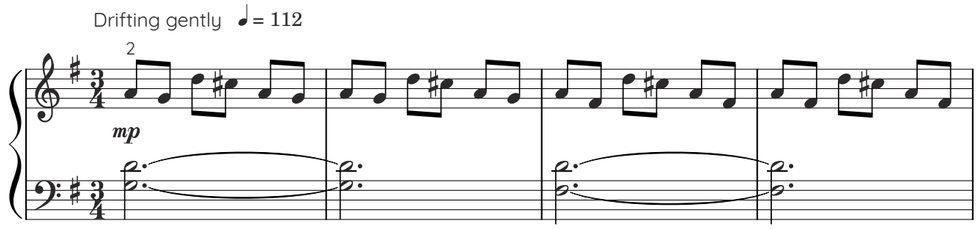
- **Tempo:** Maintain a gentle, swaying rhythm – steady but never stiff. Let the tempo feel natural, like wind in motion. Some light rubato will add to the carefree, breezy nature.
- **Tone & Touch:** Aim for a light, singing tone. Use supple wrist and finger motion to keep the articulation buoyant and effortless. Upper lines should glisten; lower harmonies should support with transparency.
- **Pedalling:** Use sparingly to preserve clarity, but allow for subtle resonance.
- **Expression:** Dynamics should move like waves – soft swells and retreats. Let phrases breathe. The overall mood is carefree and clear, with quiet energy rather than intensity.
- **Imagery:** Picture a gentle sea breeze moving over open water – light, playful, and ever in motion. Let that sensation guide your interpretation and pacing.

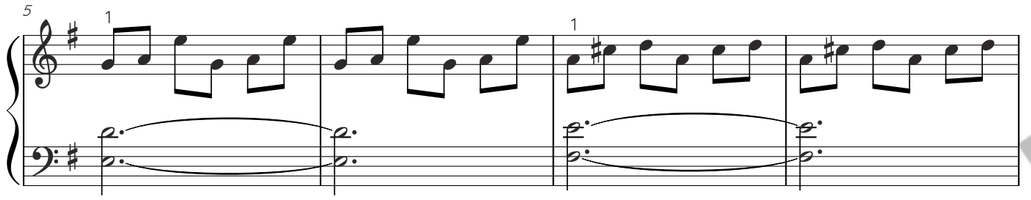
Sample Copy

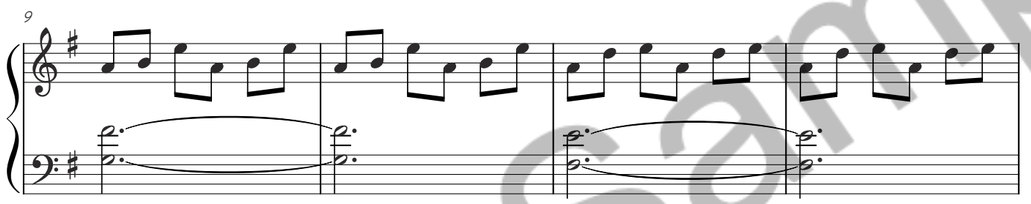
Sea Breeze

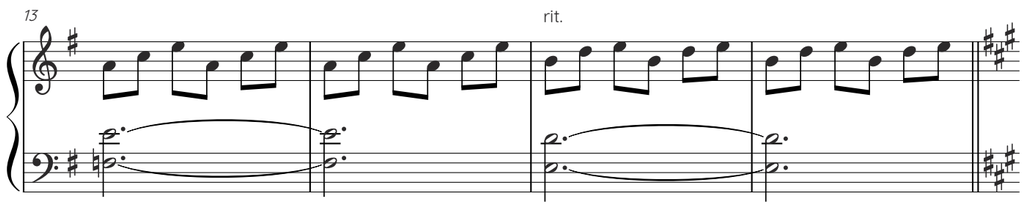
Elizabeth Bonds

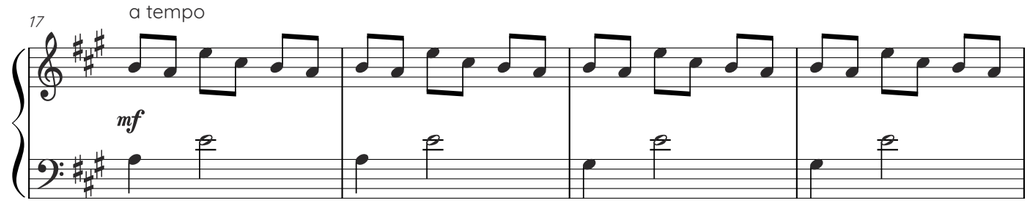
Drifting gently ♩= 112

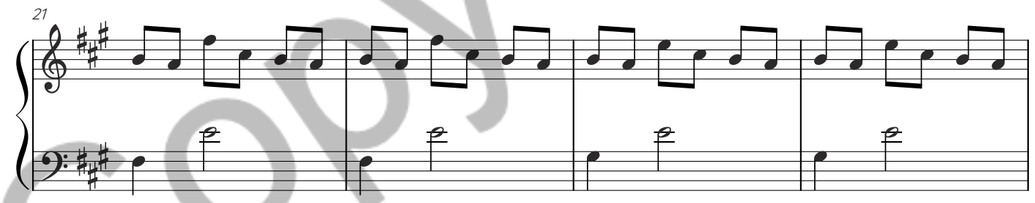


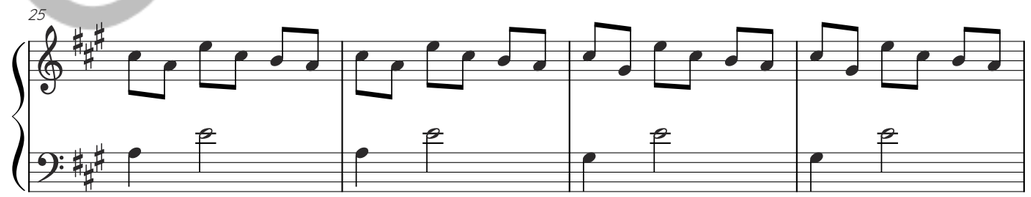


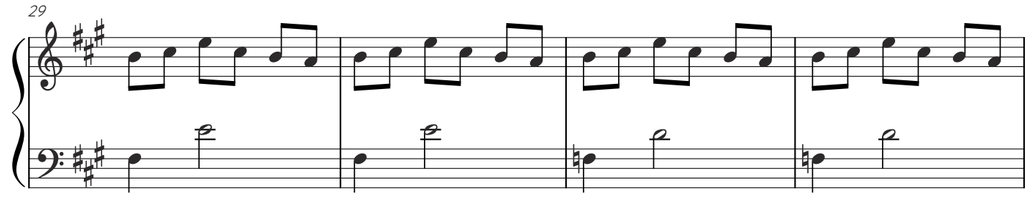


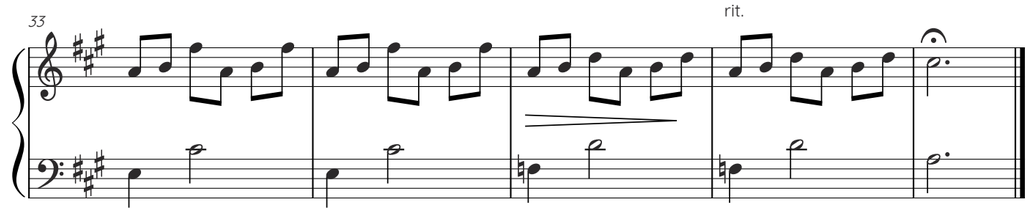












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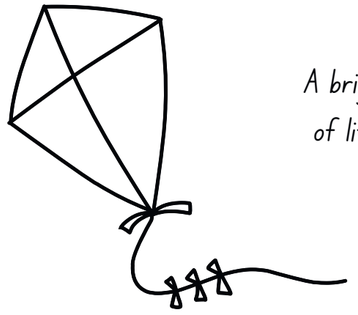
Kite Tails



A bright and breezy flight, full of lift, tilt, and playful turns.

Performance Notes

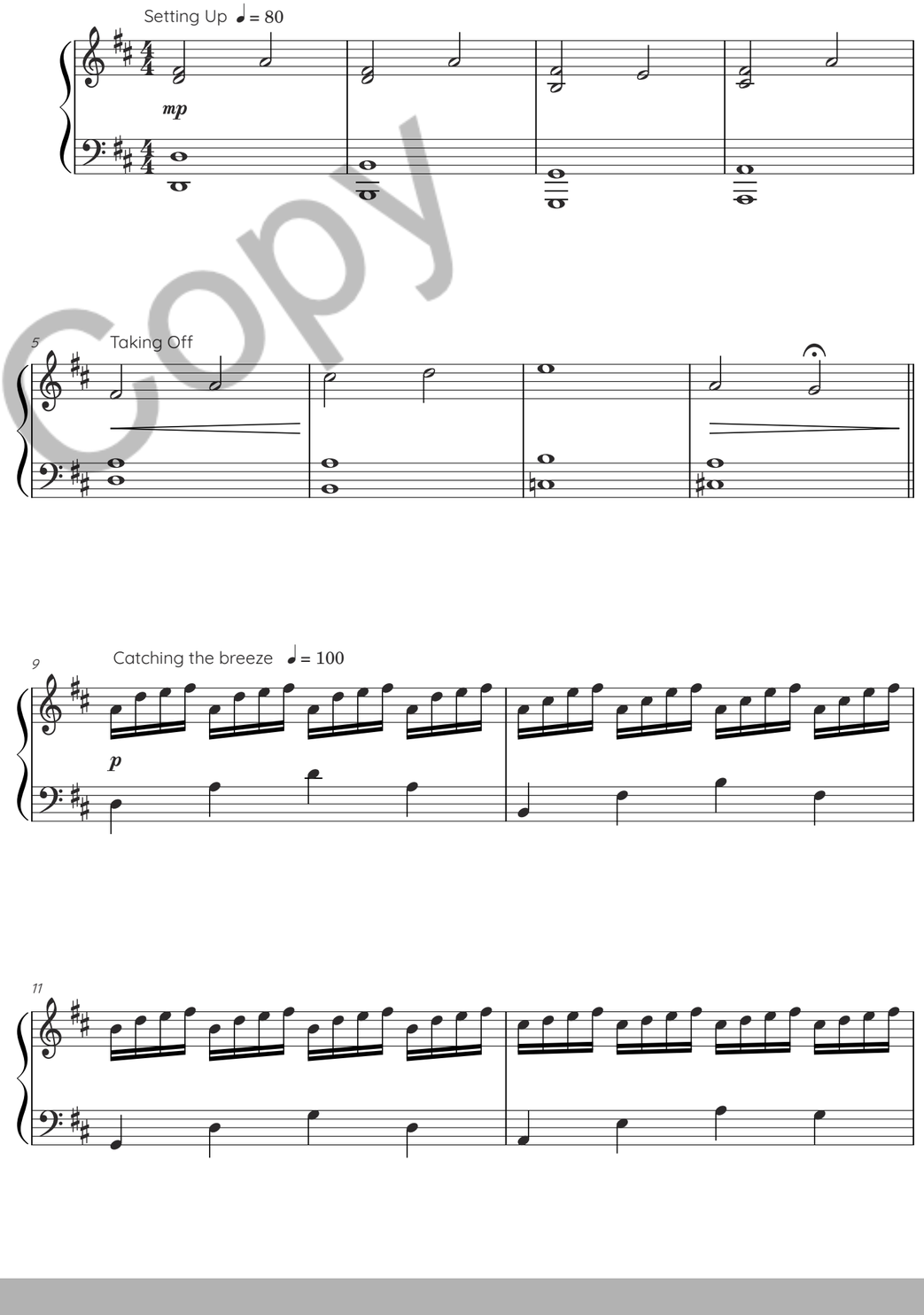
Kite Tails is a light, airy piece filled with movement and playful lift. It evokes the sight of a kite weaving through the sky on a sunny, gusty day, twisting, gliding, and rising with joyful unpredictability. The performer should keep the mood lighthearted but poised, with crisp articulation and graceful phrasing.

- **Tempo:** Keep the tempo springy and forward-moving, but allow subtle give at phrase ends to mimic the natural pause of wind in air.
- **Tone & Touch:** Aim for a clear, delicate tone with minimal pressure. Let each note feel as if it's caught and lifted by the breeze. Maintain a nimble, fingertip-based touch, especially in upper register flurries.
- **Pedalling:** Use the pedal at the start and end of the piece to give resonance to the chords. In the semiquaver passages, use more sparingly. Enough to soften the sound but avoid too much blurring.
- **Expression:** Think in arcs and swoops - phrases should rise, dip, and flutter gently. Let dynamic changes reflect shifts in wind - sudden lifts or momentary lulls. Keep energy high but refined - there's excitement here, but always with charm and control.
- **Imagery:** Picture a kite dancing at the end of a string on a bright afternoon. Let that image shape the freedom and delicacy of your performance.

Sample Copy

Kite Tails

Elizabeth Bonds



13

mp

15

2 1 3 1

Soaring

17

mf

19

5

3 1 4 1 1 4

21

8va

f

23

8va

3 1 4 1 3 1 4 1 3

25

Down ♩ = 80

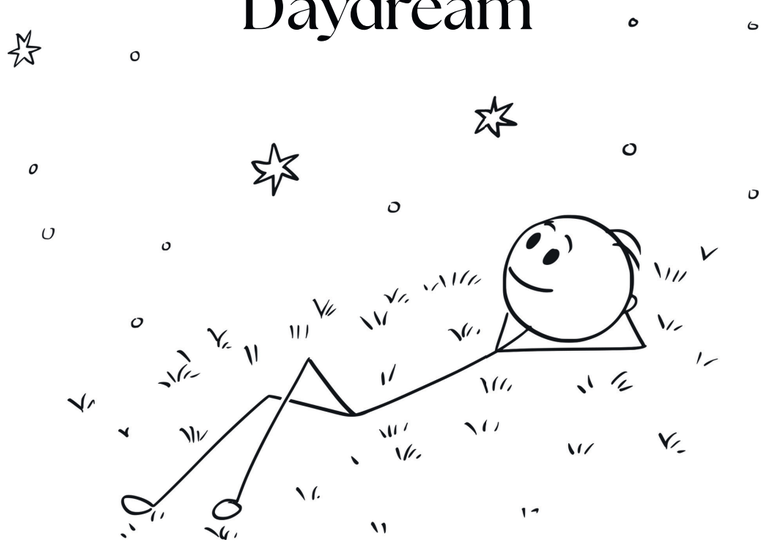
mp

29

rit.

Sample Copy

Daydream



Drifting inward, this piece moves like thoughts in sunlight.

Performance Notes

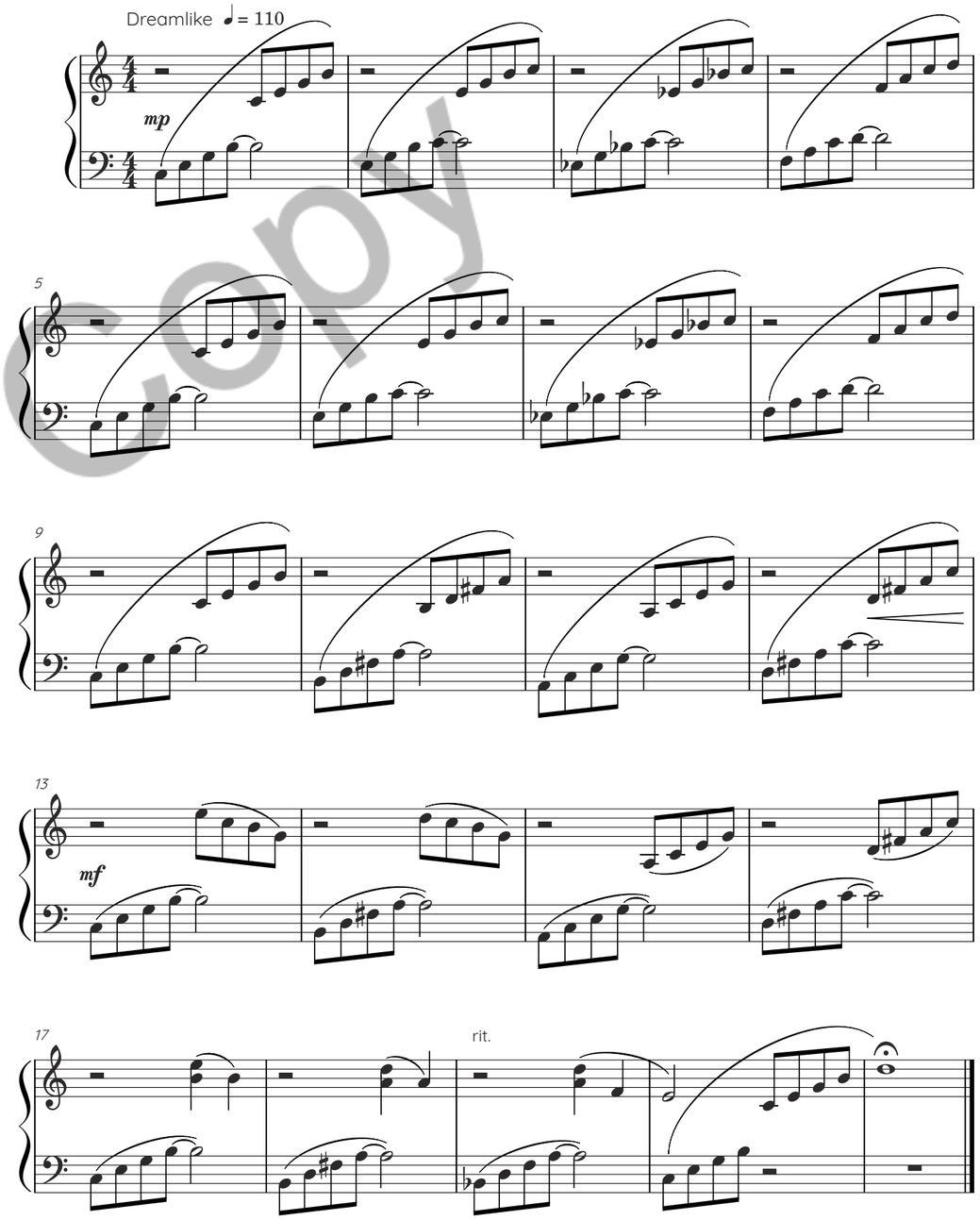
Daydream drifts gently, like sunlight flickering through half-closed eyes. The performer should play with softness and ease, letting each phrase unfold as if half-remembered. This is music that floats – weightless, simple, and luminous.

- **Tempo:** Unhurried and steady – like a slow breath. A touch of rubato adds to the dreamlike feel.
- **Tone & Touch:** Keep the sound rounded and tender. Let the hands interplay as if they are one. Each chord passes from hand to hand seamlessly.
- **Pedalling:** Use light pedal to soften and coluor the sound. Slight blurring is welcome in this piece.
- **Expression:** Shape phrases with gentle dynamic swells and releases.
- **Imagery:** Imagine lying on a sandy beach on a warm sunny day, listening to the waves softly lapping the shore. The music should shimmer, settle, and lift again – always hovering at the edge of awareness.

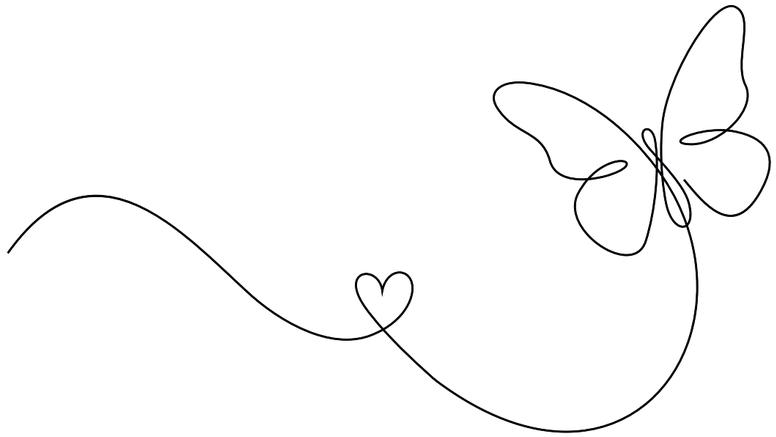
Sample Copy

Daydream

Elizabeth Bonds



The Butterfly's Awakening



Tender and unfolding, a moment of awakening and fragile beauty.

Performance Notes

The Butterfly's Awakening begins with stillness and emerges into soft motion, like wings opening for the first time. The performer should play with great delicacy, allowing each phrase to unfurl like new wings: fragile, slow, and filled with breath.

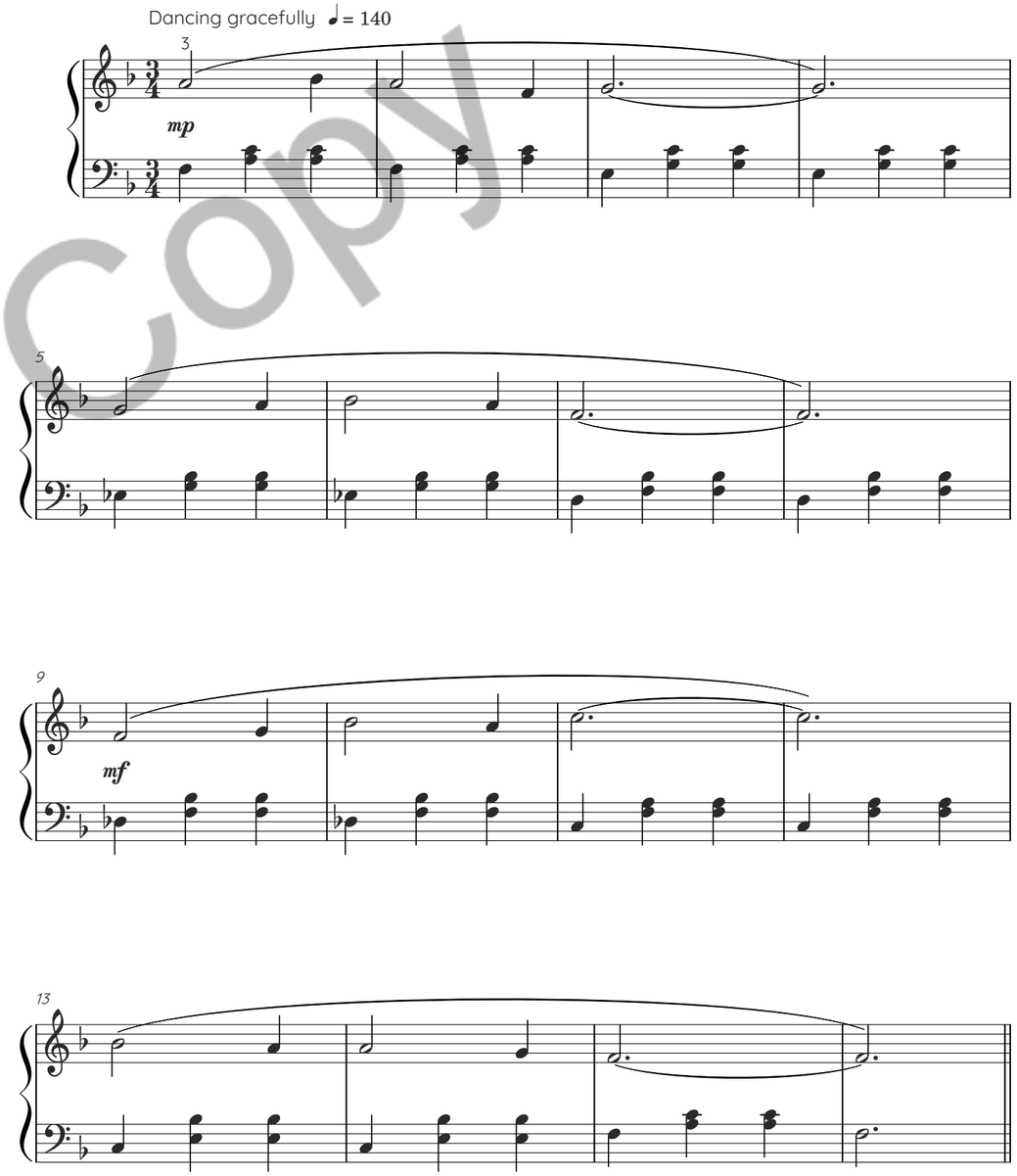
- **Tempo:** Though the tempo suggests a certain briskness, let the music drift gently, never hurried. A touch of rubato in the middle section brings to life the fluttering uncertainty of a newly awakened butterfly, learning the rhythm of its own wings.
- **Tone & Touch:** Strive for a tender, bell-like tone for the melody in the opening and closing sections. Use gentle arm weight and finger control to let melodies emerge naturally from the texture in the middle section.
- **Pedalling:** The pedal should be transparent enough to support colour, but not so much as to blur the light textures.
- **Expression:** Dynamics should swell and retreat like a slow inhale and exhale. The overall tone is delicate, reflective, and inward.
- **Imagery:** Envision the moment a butterfly first stirs – uncertain, weightless, and full of quiet beauty. Let each note reflect that sense of gentle becoming.

Sample Copy

The Butterfly's Awakening

Dedicated to Reverend Master Mugo White

Elizabeth Bonds



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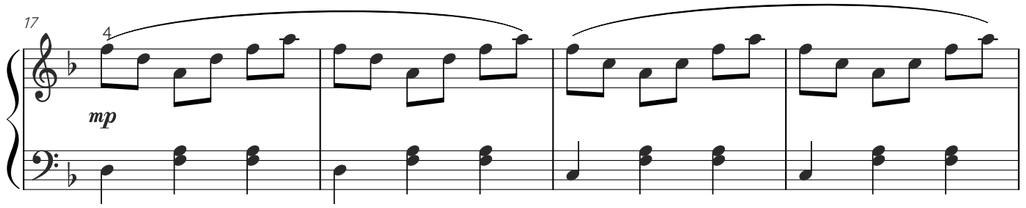

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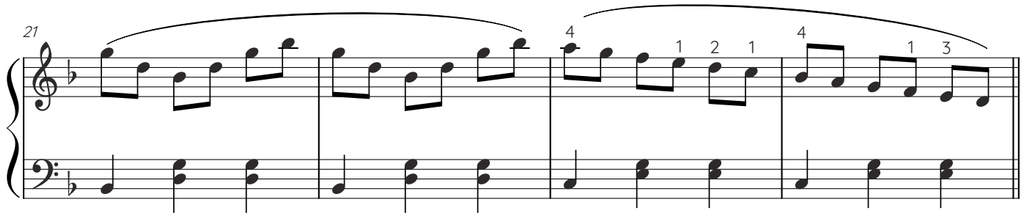

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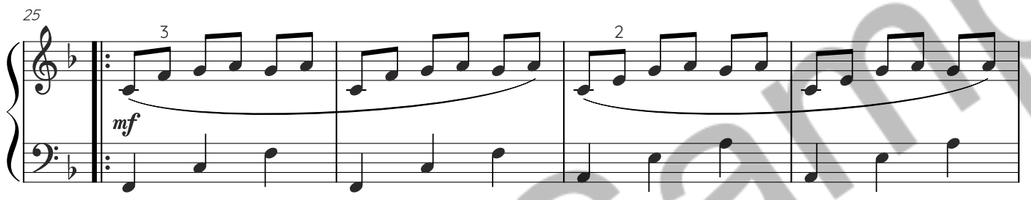

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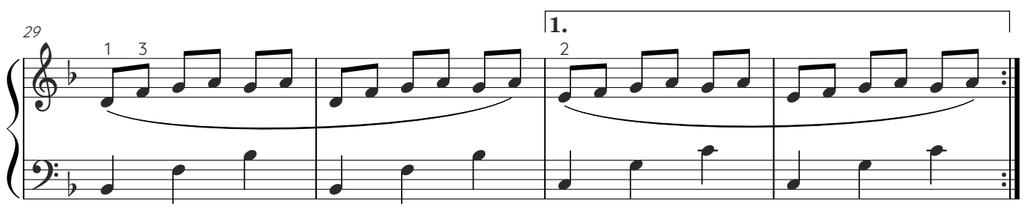

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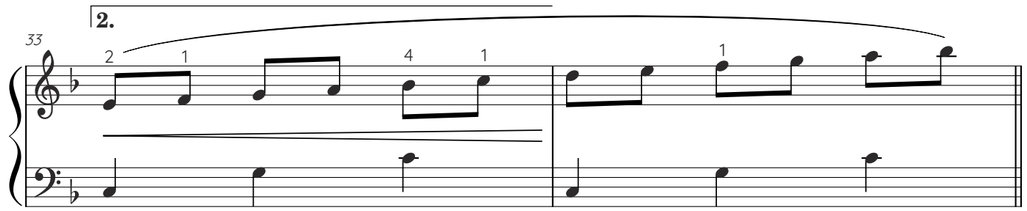

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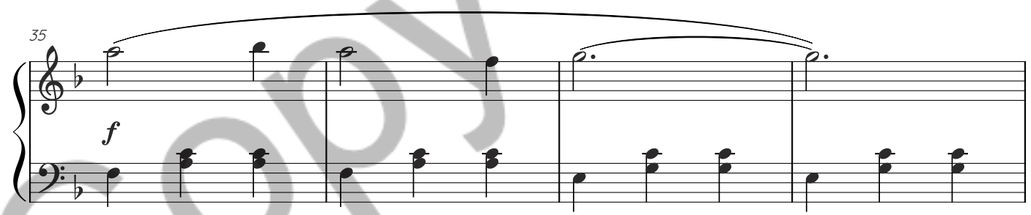

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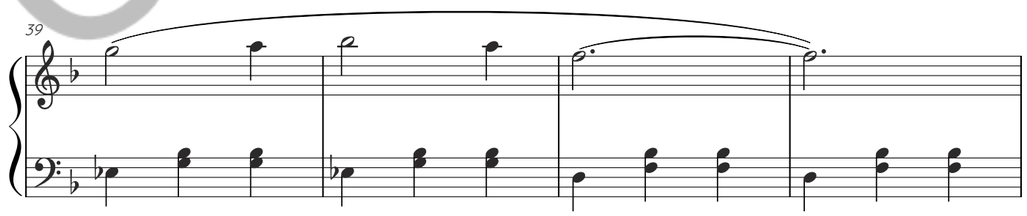

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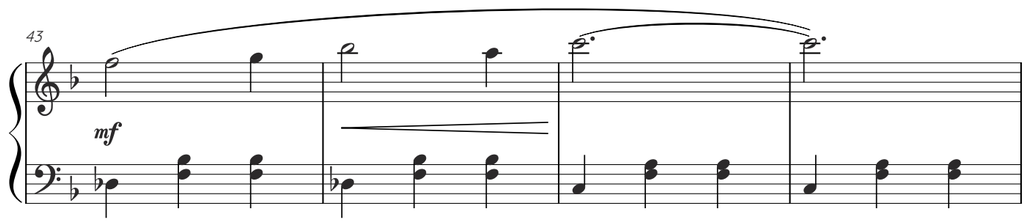

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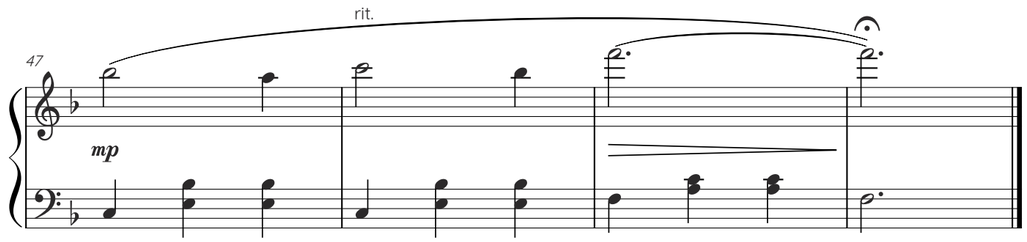

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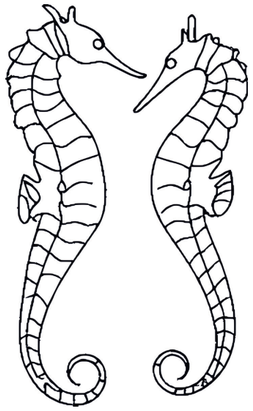
Seahorses



Weightless and lyrical, like drifting through an underwater forest.

Performance Notes

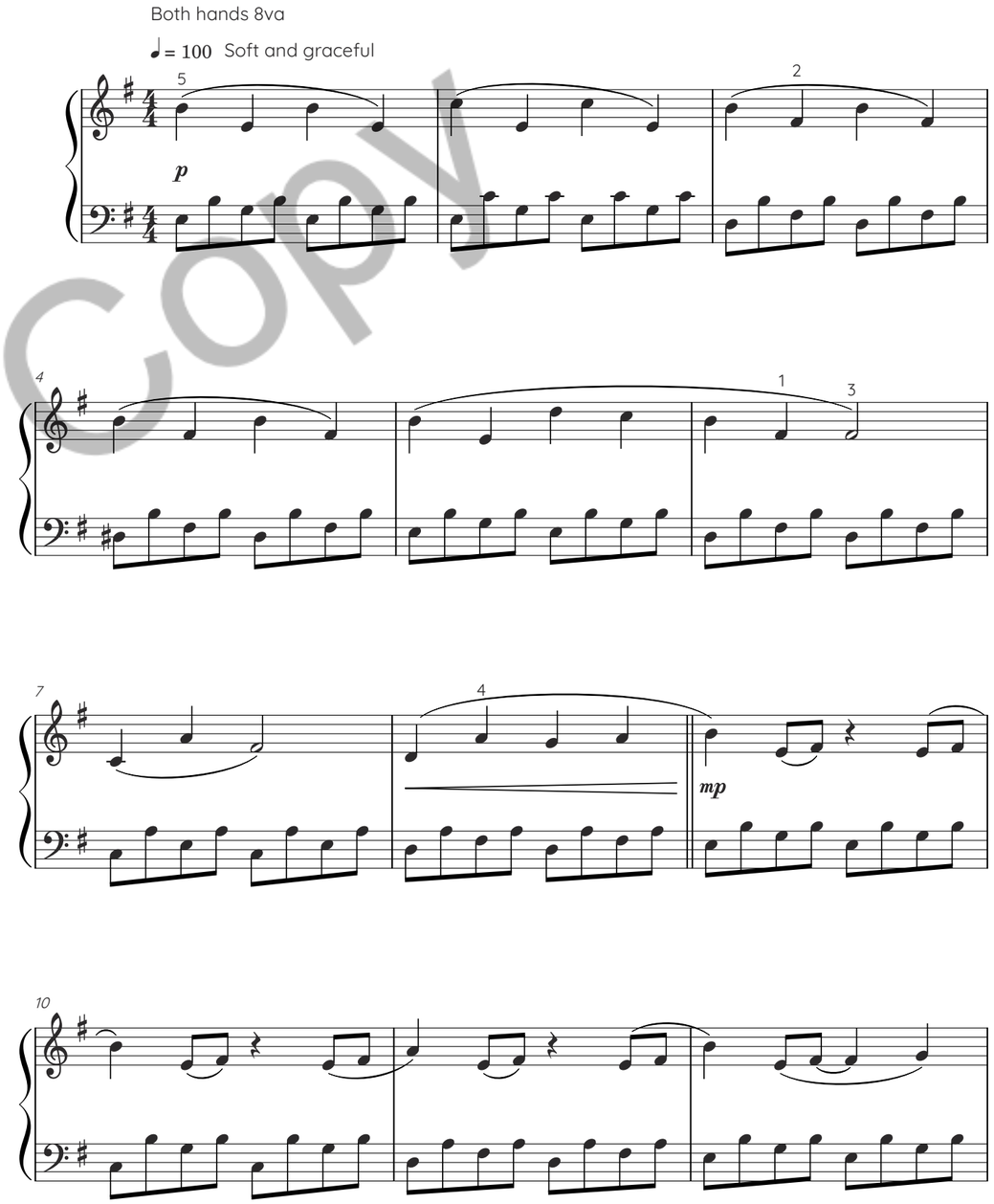
Seahorses should be performed with subtle control and poetic restraint. The sound world is soft, flowing, and full of quiet motion. Avoid anything percussive – this piece lives in the realm of shimmer and breath.

- **Tempo:** Gentle and flexible. Let phrases ebb and flow naturally, like a seahorse drifting with the tide.
- **Tone & Touch:** Play with a light, rounded tone. Let the upper melodies shimmer softly above the harmony. Keep voicing gentle, with no sharp edges.
- **Pedalling:** Use sustained pedal to create a fluid, underwater resonance – but with clarity.
- **Expression:** Aim for connected, flowing lines with minimal separation. Even repeated notes should feel like soft pulses rather than mechanical strikes. Let dynamics bloom slowly and dissolve gently.
- **Imagery:** Think slow ripples, shafts of sunlight underwater, and tiny movements in a vast, quiet space.

Sample Copy

Seahorses

Elizabeth Bonds



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rit.

Sample Copy

Twilight Tango

A dusky, swaying rhythm charged with quiet drama and allure.

Performance Notes

Twilight Tango should be performed with dramatic flair, rhythmic control, and expressive sharpness. It's a stylised piece – part dance, part drama – requiring both clarity and passion.

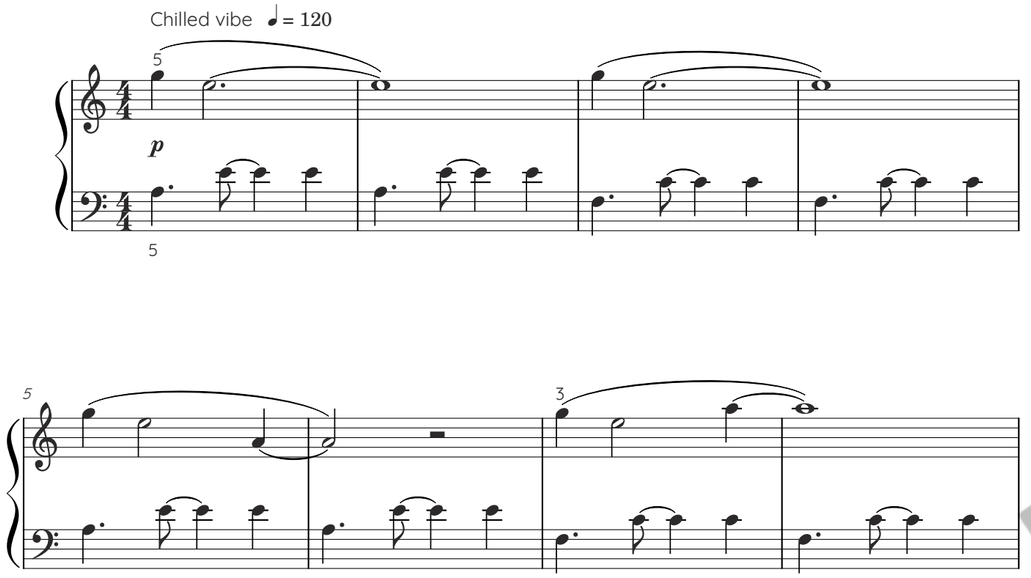
- **Tempo:** Play with steady rhythmic drive, but allow flexibility for expressive phrasing. Subtle tempo fluctuations (rubato) can be used tastefully to build tension or highlight phrases.
- **Tone & Touch:** Keep left-hand bass lines steady but weighted. Right-hand lines should have sparkle and bite. Imagine them as flourishes in a dancer's step or flick of a heel.
- **Pedalling:** Use the pedal to add fullness and resonance to your performance but don't allow too much blurring of sound.
- **Expression:** The tango rhythm is key. Accented off-beats, crisp dotted patterns, and occasional hesitation should be articulated cleanly but with character. Think of the dancer's poised, flickering movements. Be bold – dynamic contrasts create the emotional landscape. Use sudden swells and quick drop-offs to reflect the push and pull of the tango.
- **Imagery:** This tango is not carefree—it's moody, sensual, and just a little dangerous. Let each phrase smolder, and always maintain a sense of elegance and control, like a dancer who knows they're being watched.

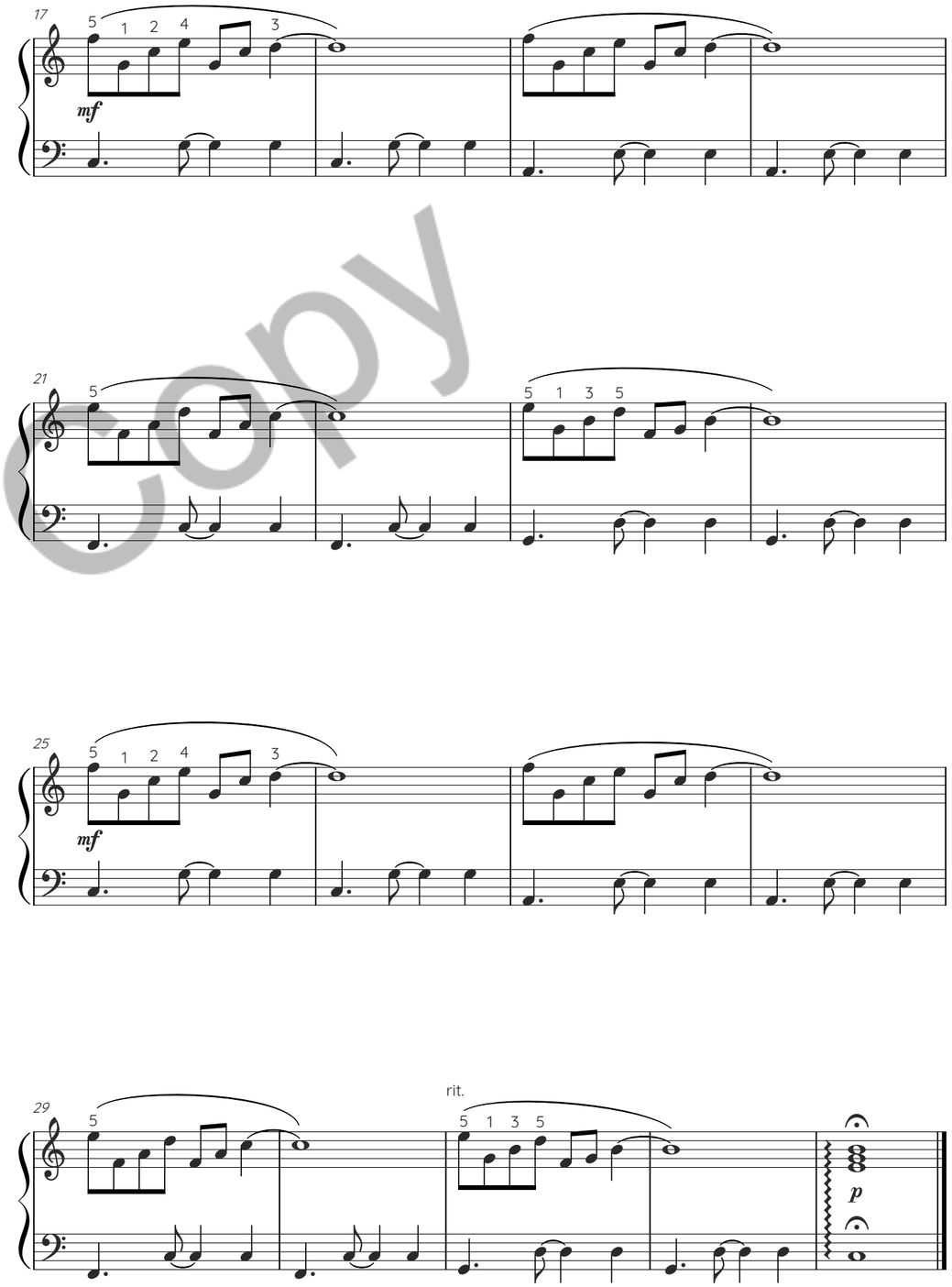
Sample Copy

Twilight Tango

Elizabeth Bonds

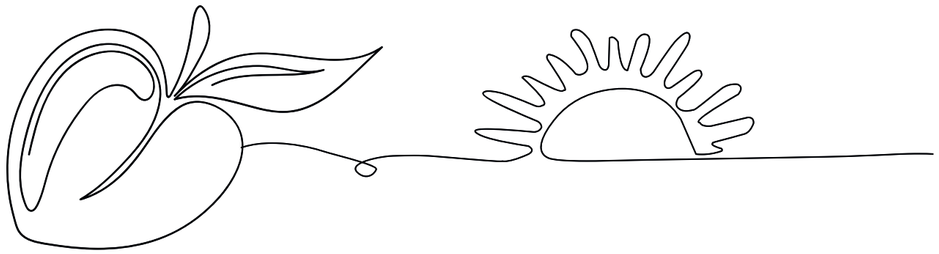
Chilled vibe ♩ = 120





Sample Copy

Peach Sunset



A warm, glowing farewell, fading slowly into soft dusk.

Performance Notes

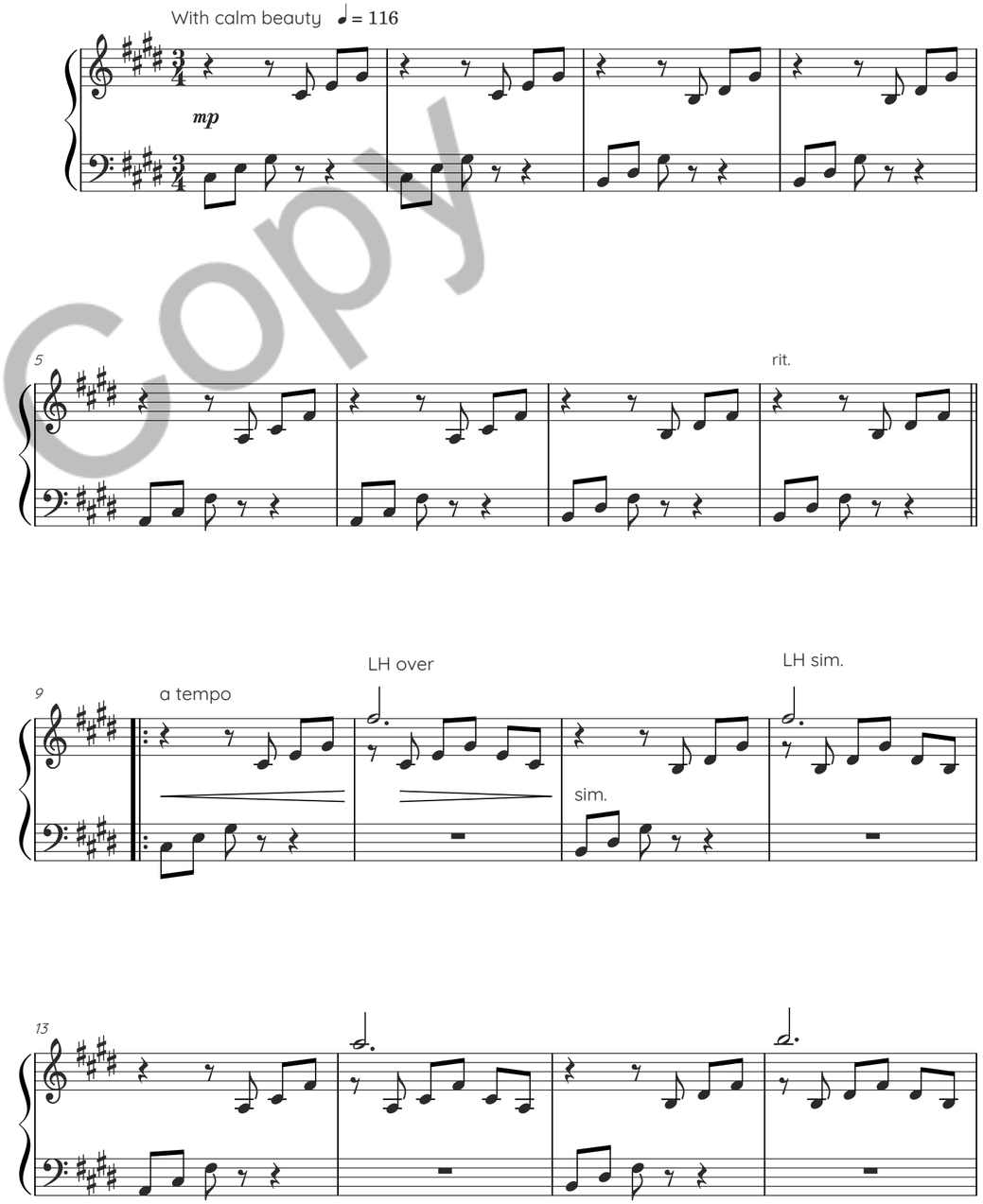
Peach Sunset should be performed with a sense of stillness and quiet radiance. It evokes the slow fade of daylight, where sound and silence seem to hover together. The mood is reflective, understated, and emotionally warm.

- **Tempo:** Keep the pulse steady but flexible. Rubato is essential – allow each phrase to breathe, especially at moments of harmonic or dynamic change.
- **Tone & Touch:** Play with a rounded, luminous tone throughout. Use a light, weighted touch to bring out melodic contours with clarity and warmth. When the left hand crosses to the upper register, allow those notes to shine like a final burst of sunlight – present and radiant, but never forced.
- **Pedalling:** Pedal should be used generously but transparently. Allow harmonies to blend fluidly, but lift and replace cleanly to mark subtle shifts in colour.
- **Expression:** Dynamics should rise and fall with grace. An example hairpin has been added as a guide – shape the rest of the section in the same way. This piece is not about arrival or tension, but about existing in the glow of something quietly unfolding.
- **Imagery:** Picture the final light of sunset softening the landscape in hues of peach, gold, and rose. Let the music drift like colour on water – slowly deepening, until it slips softly away into silence.

Sample Copy

Peach Sunset

Elizabeth Bonds



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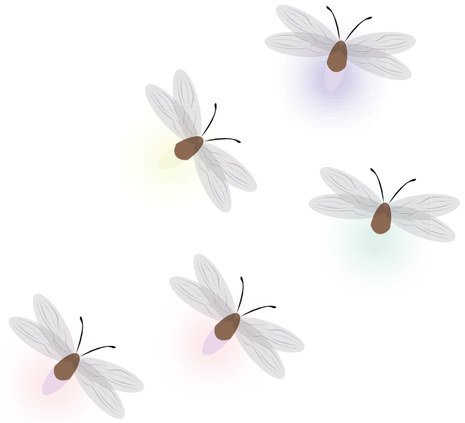
Fireflies



A shimmer of brightness flickering through still air.

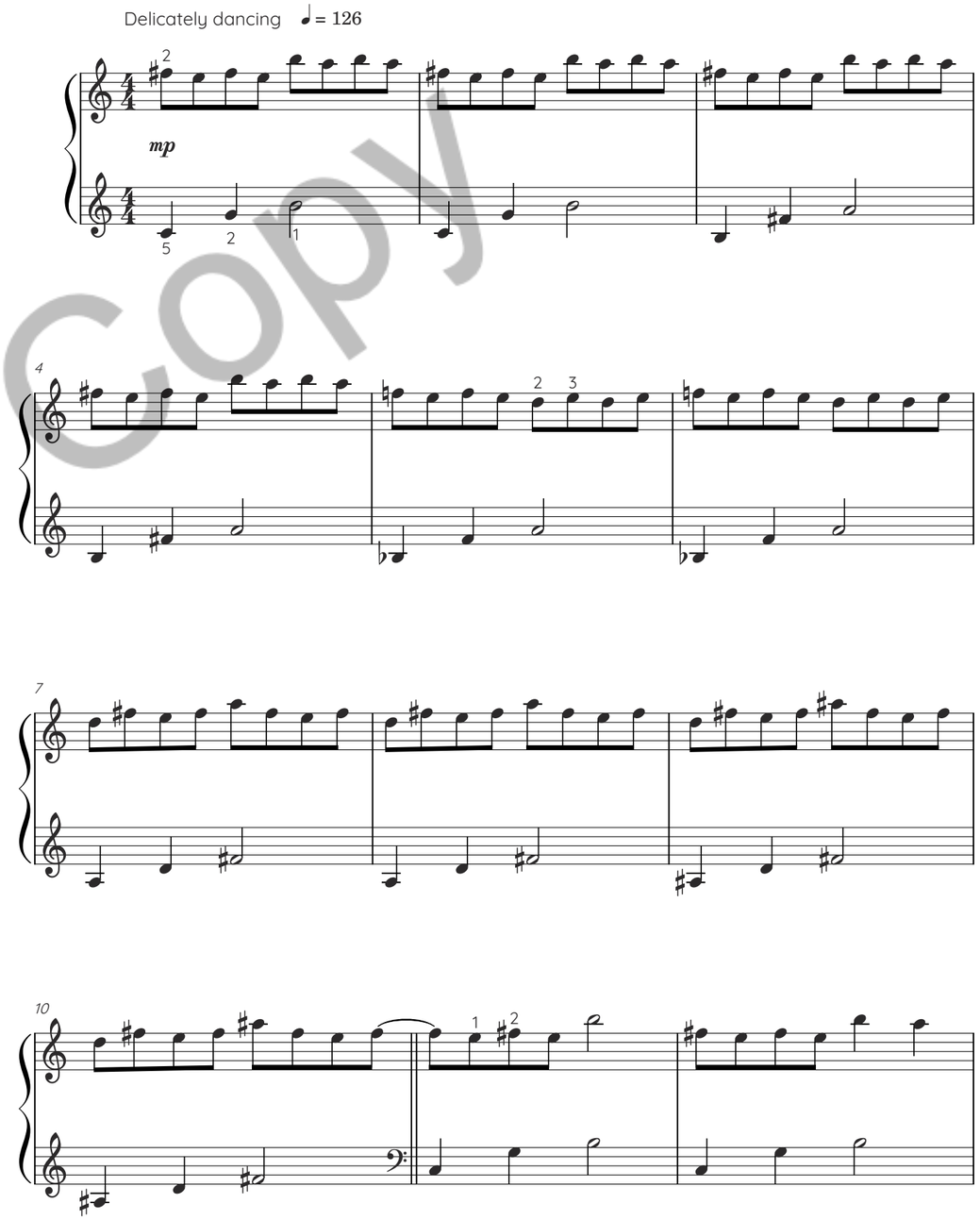
Performance Notes

Fireflies represents a playful and quietly magical scene. The music should evoke an airy and delicate atmosphere, resembling flickers of brightness in a twilight field. The performer should allow the sound to shimmer and hover, full of wonder but never with weight.

- **Tempo:** Maintain a lightly moving tempo, akin to wings fluttering through warm air. A gentle rubato will help the music lift and breathe.
- **Tone & Touch:** Employ a nimble, clear touch. Each note should glow briefly before vanishing. Avoid weight or force, as the music should never fully settle to the ground.
- **Pedalling:** Use light pedalling to add ambience, but keep the texture clean and sparkling. Listen closely to find the right balance – enough to support the sound, but never enough to blur its brightness.
- **Expression:** Dynamics should shift like flickers – sudden brightness, then a soft fade. Let the longer notes feel charged, as if something just passed by unseen.
- **Imagery:** Envision dozens of tiny lights floating, looping, and vanishing into the dusk. Each gesture should feel like a pulse of light – here, then gone.

Fireflies

Elizabeth Bonds



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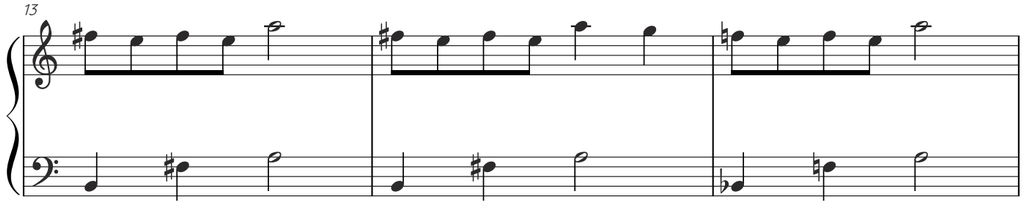

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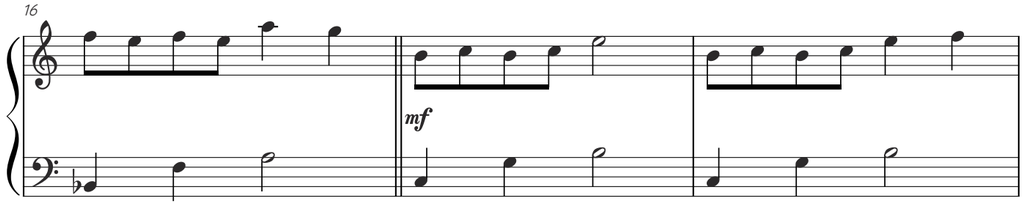

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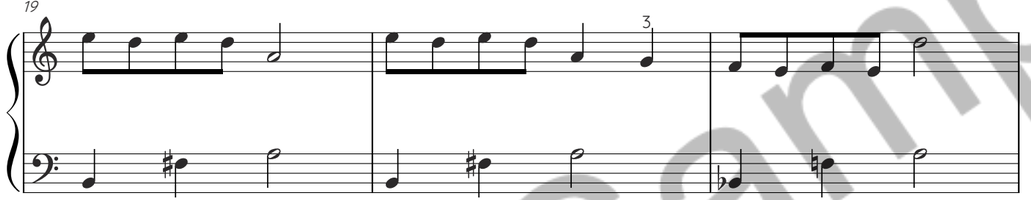

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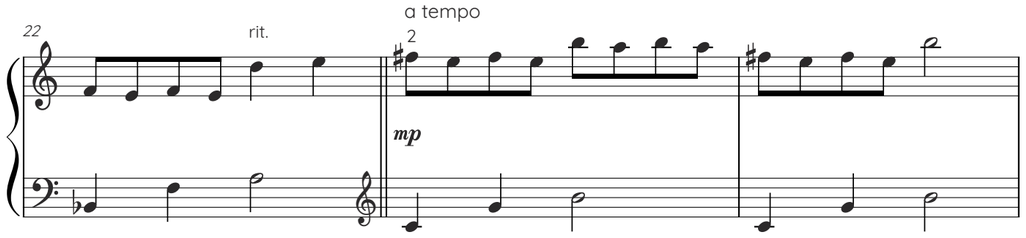

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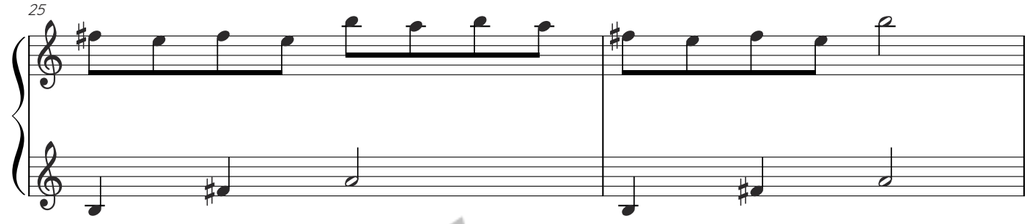

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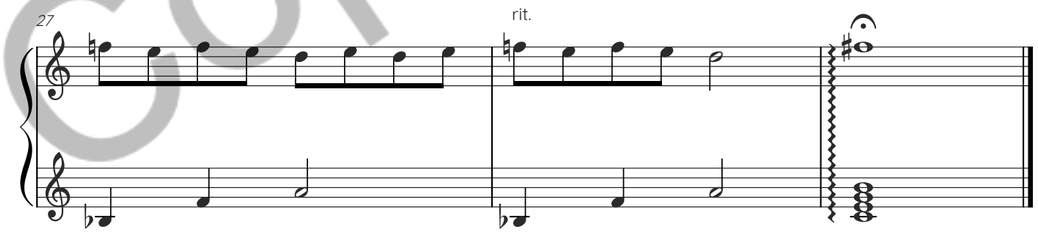
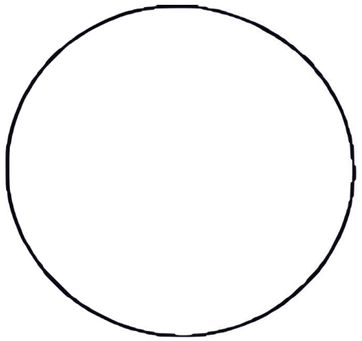


Sample Copy

Clear Moon



Still and luminous, like moonlight resting a calm sea..

Performance Notes

Clear Moon, loosely based on Debussy's "Clair de Lune", is a piece of stillness, atmosphere, and quiet resonance. It should be played with delicacy and inner calm, as though each phrase is suspended in space and time.

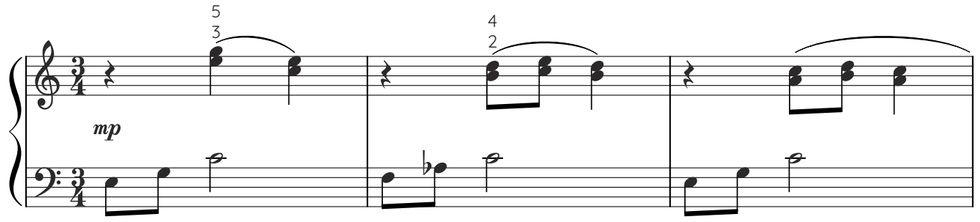
- **Tempo:**. Maintain a steady but fluid tempo, with ample space between phrases and time for the sound to settle before continuing. A quicker section appears near the end – approach the transition in and out of this passage with care and poise.
- **Tone & Touch:** Aim for a pure, rounded tone, especially in the upper register. The music should feel like it's unfolding under moonlight.
- **Pedalling:** The pedal should be used with care and subtlety. Let resonance bloom naturally, but keep textures clear.
- **Expression:** Keep lines connected and legato throughout. Phrase endings should taper gently, not cut off. Let rests feel intentional – not empty, but full of quiet presence. Dynamics should emerge and recede like ripples – nothing abrupt, everything gently shaped. Let the piece breathe. The emotional tone is one of reflection, openness, and hush.
- **Imagery:** Imagine a still night sky, a full moon casting silver light on water. Let this image guide your pacing, your sound, and your sense of space.

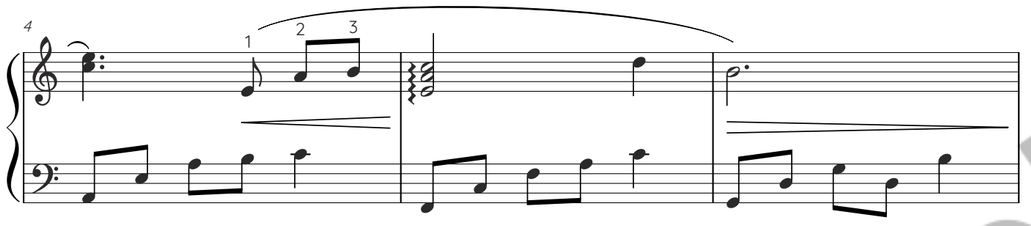
Sample Copy

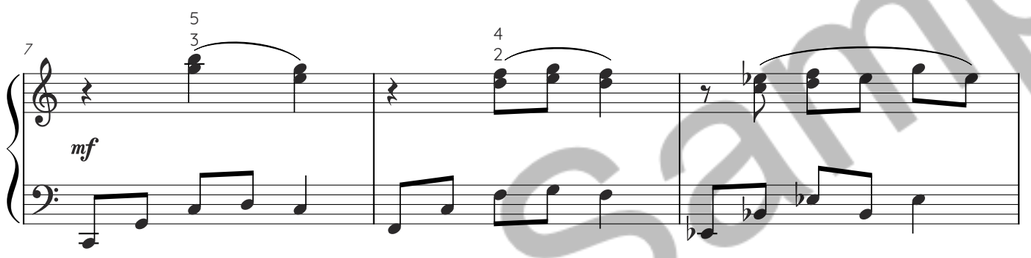
Clear Moon

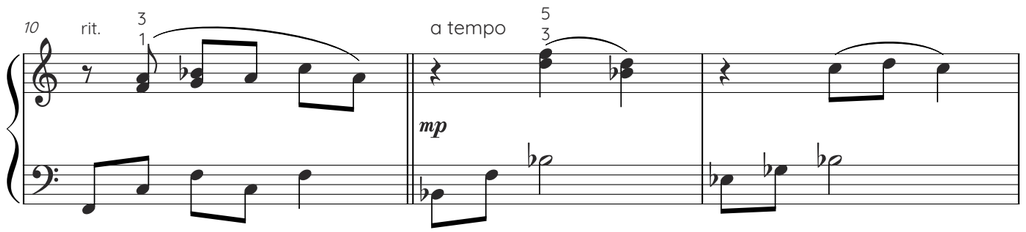
Elizabeth Bonds

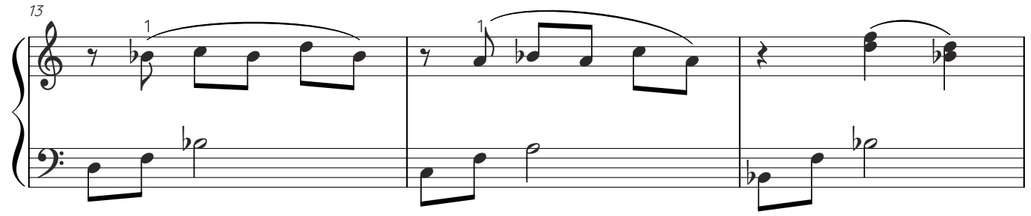
Gently luminous ♩= 88

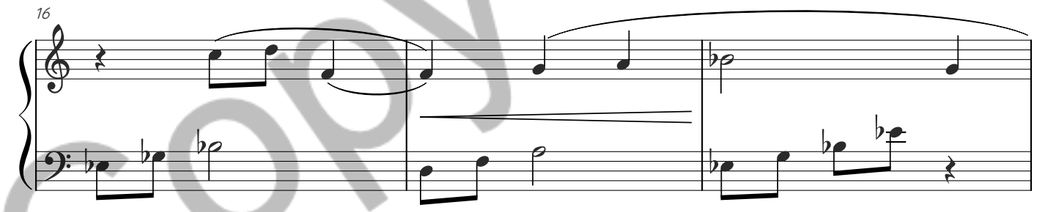


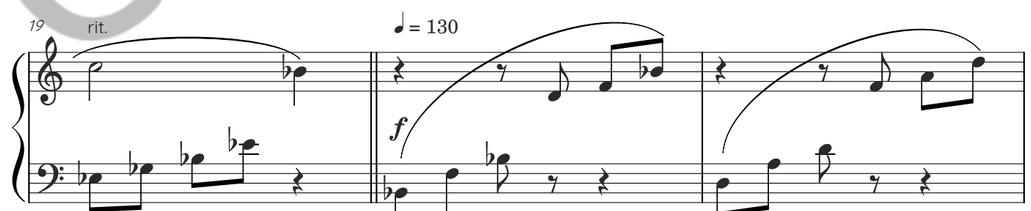


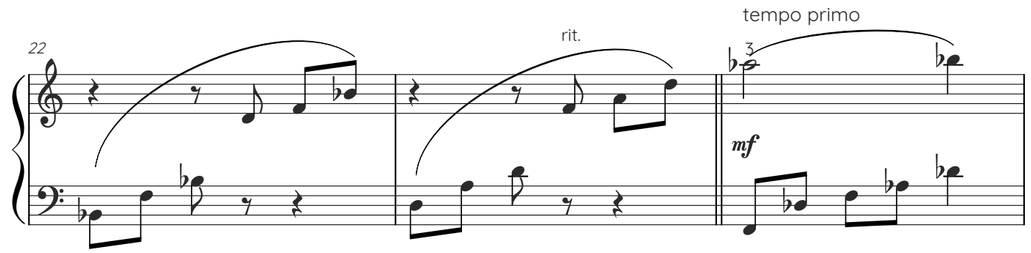


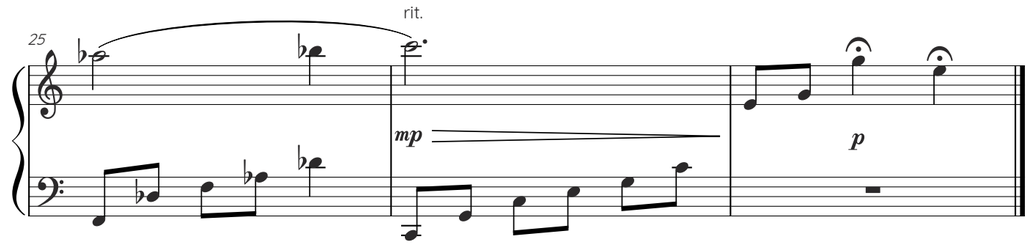






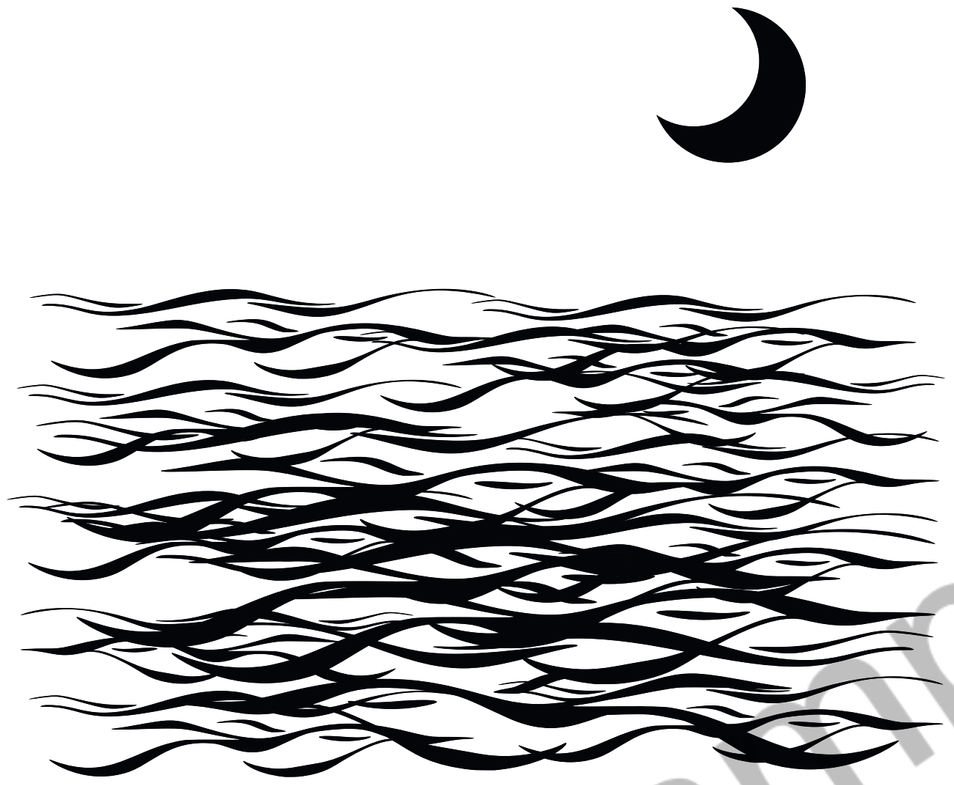






Sample Copy

Dark Waters



Deep and searching, this piece moves through shadow and calm.

Performance Notes

Dark Waters should be performed with restraint, focus, and sensitivity to detail. The emotional tone is brooding and immersive, like a dark sea at night where much remains unseen.

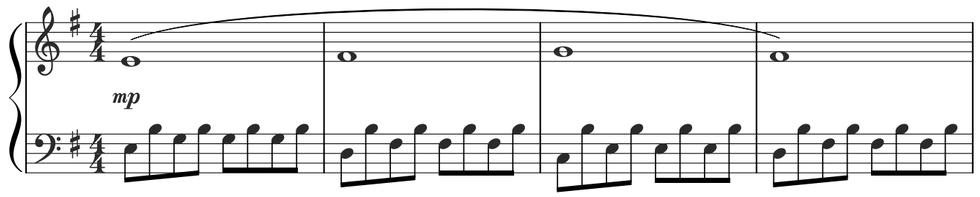
- **Tempo:** Maintain a slow and deliberate pace. The rhythm should feel like a slow tide or heartbeat – never rushed, but constantly in motion.
- **Tone & Touch:** Keep a muted, velvety tone – especially in the lower register. Dynamic changes should be subtle but intentional. Swells and decays should feel like breathing or rippling water.
- **Pedalling:** Use generous pedal to create depth, but manage resonance carefully to avoid clouding the harmony.
- **Expression:** Play broken chord figures legato with a weighted touch. For melodic gestures, use a vocal, cantabile approach. Imagine the melody trying to rise through the water's surface. Maintain emotional containment. This piece is more about underlying tension than overt drama. The performer should lean into the restraint and suggestion, allowing the weight of pauses and space to resonate emotionally.
- **Imagery:** Adrift on a shadowy sea under a moonless sky, the water reflects an unseen shore's outline. You float gently, swayed by rhythmic currents. Each note breaks the surface, creating ripples in the stillness. The air holds mystery, every sound a whisper of secrets below. The music should evoke quiet introspection, inviting you to explore the depths of your own thoughts.

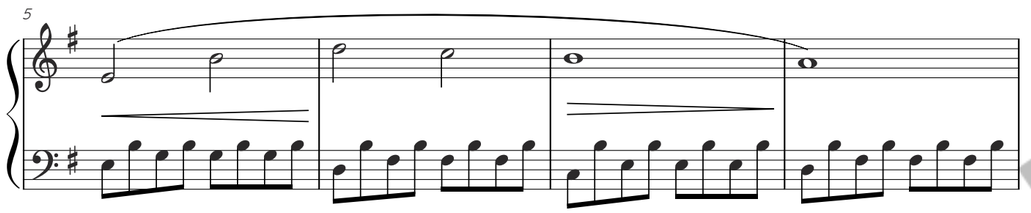
Sample Copy

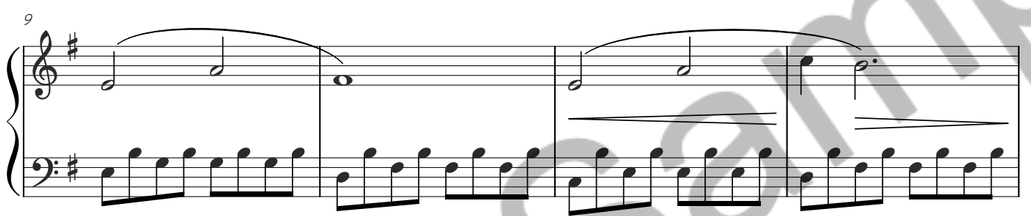
Dark Waters

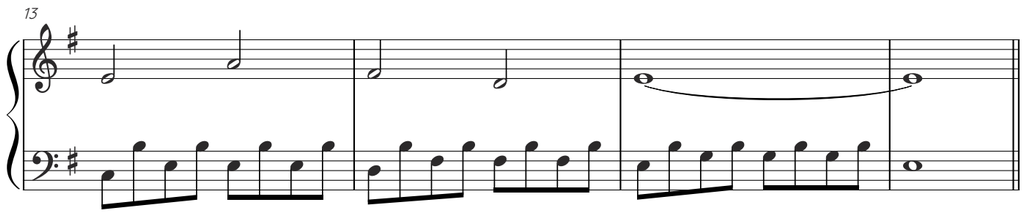
Elizabeth Bonds

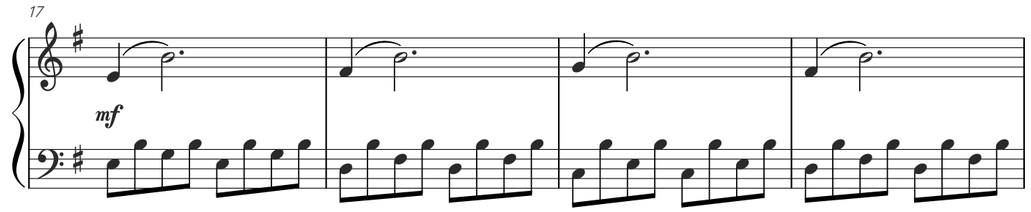
With dark mystery ♩=100

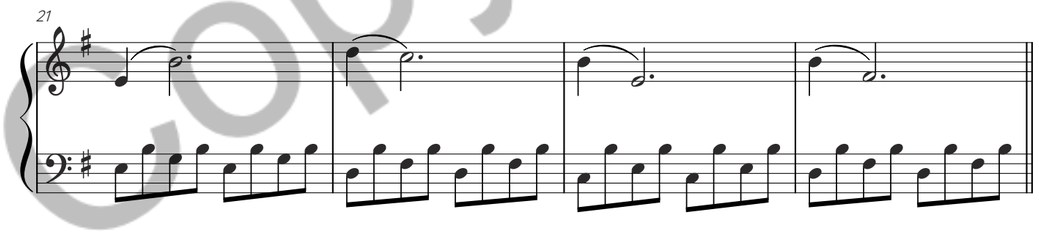


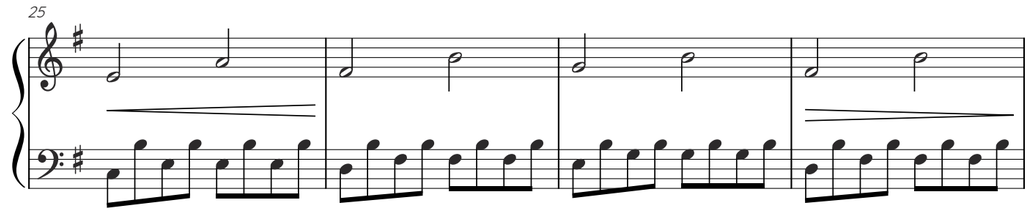


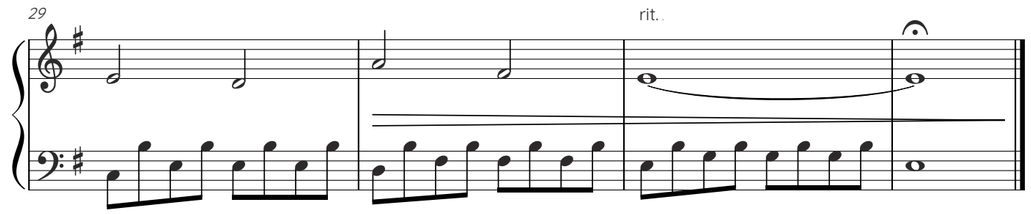






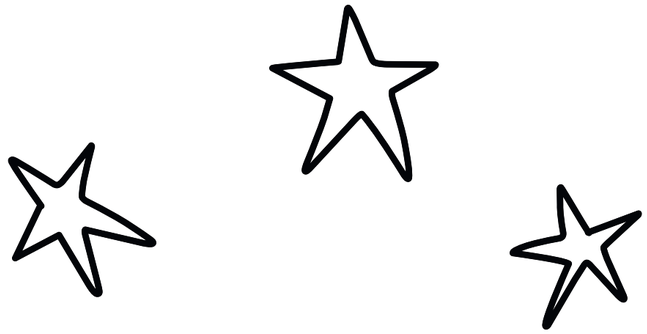






Sample Copy

Starlight



A final hush of quiet radiance, where every note glimmers and fades..

Performance Notes

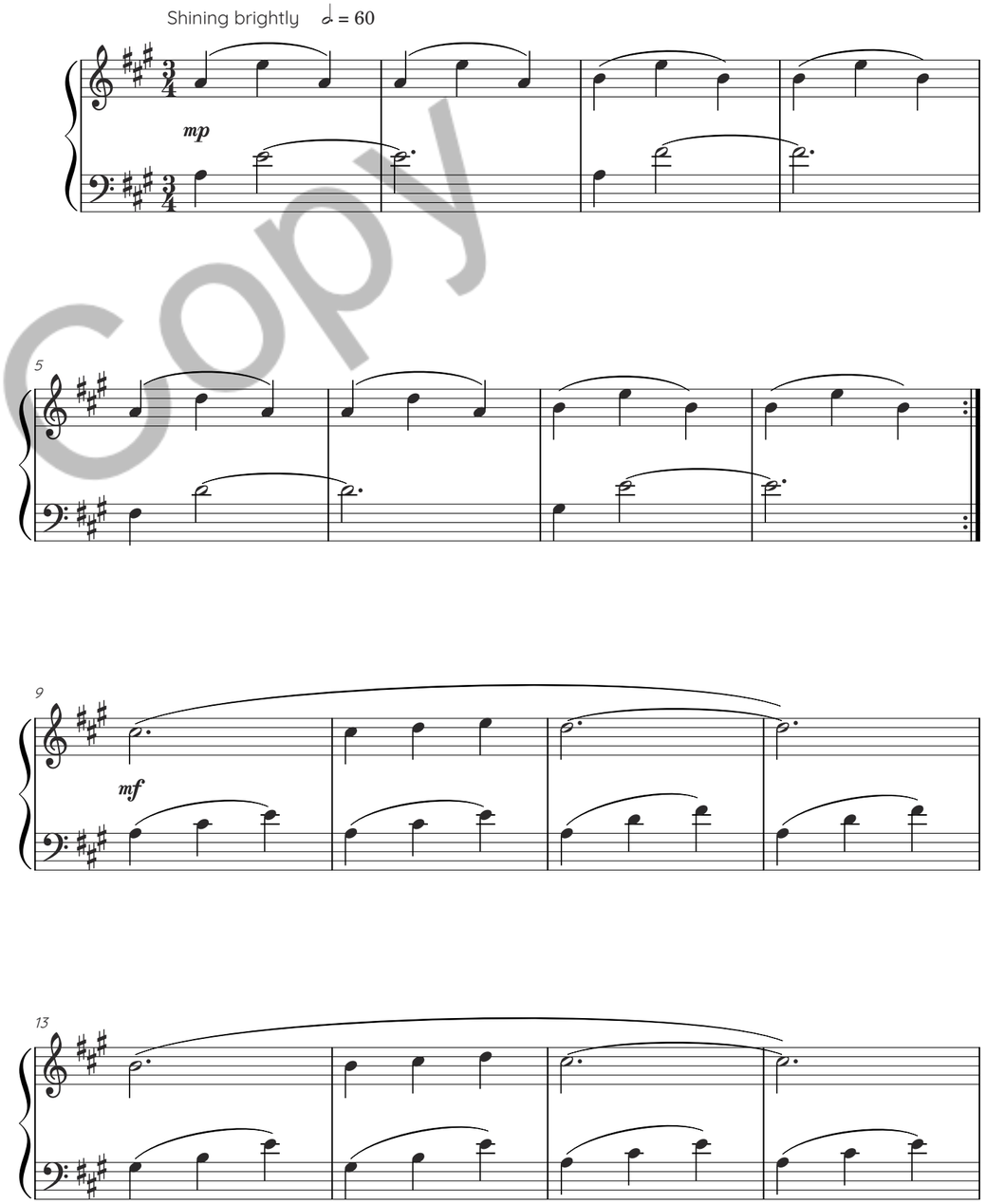
Starlight embodies stillness, clarity, and quiet wonder. Play it with a sense of transparency and softness, as if each sound is suspended in the air. Focus on presence rather than momentum, like a night sky slowly unfolding in sound.

- **Tempo:** Keep the pacing calm and spacious, allowing the silences to resonate as much as the notes themselves.
- **Tone & Touch:** Use a gentle, glowing tone, particularly in the upper register. Approach the keys carefully and weightlessly - each note should feel placed and luminous.
- **Pedalling:** Use the pedal to support resonance, but always maintain clarity.
- **Expression:** Shape dynamics with grace and subtlety, allowing changes to unfold naturally without sudden contrasts. Aim for simplicity over drama; the emotional world is quiet, reflective, and expansive.
- **Imagery:** Imagine looking up into a star-filled sky: still, infinite, and glowing. Let the sound shimmer, like distant light flickering gently through stillness.

Sample Copy

Star Light

Elizabeth Bonds



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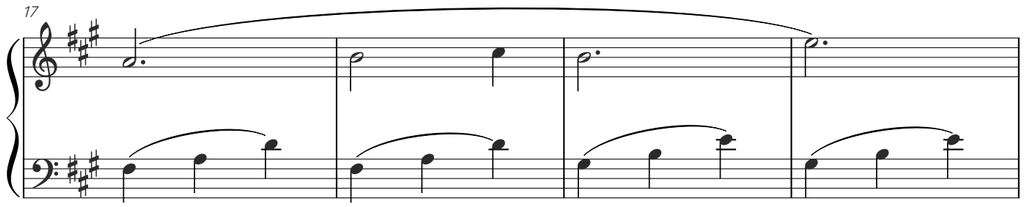

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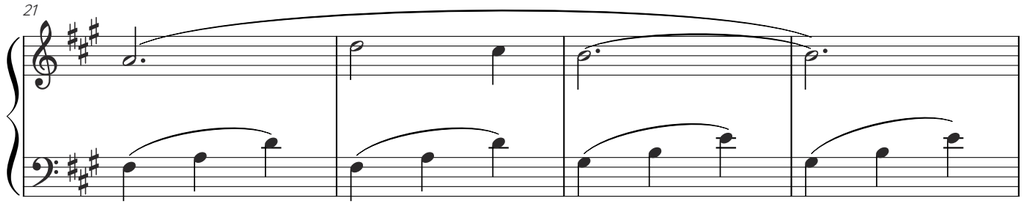

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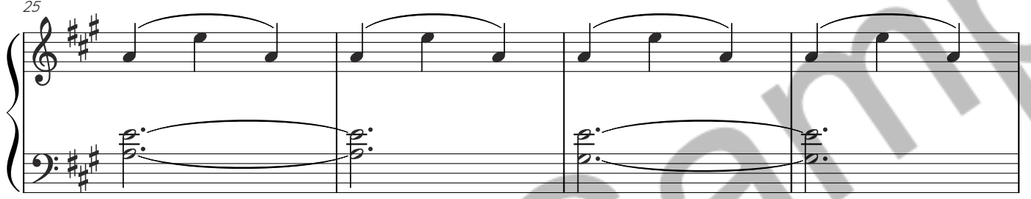

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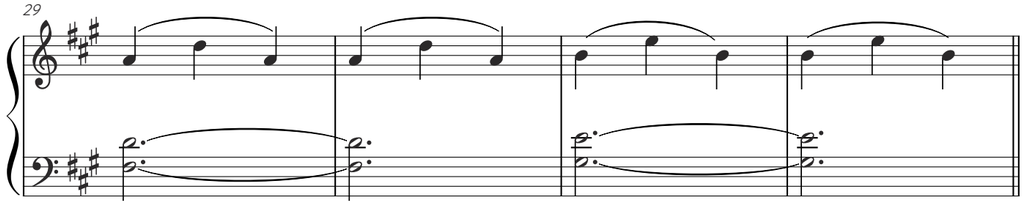

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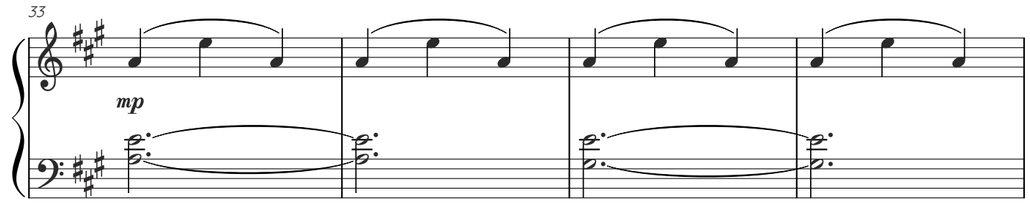

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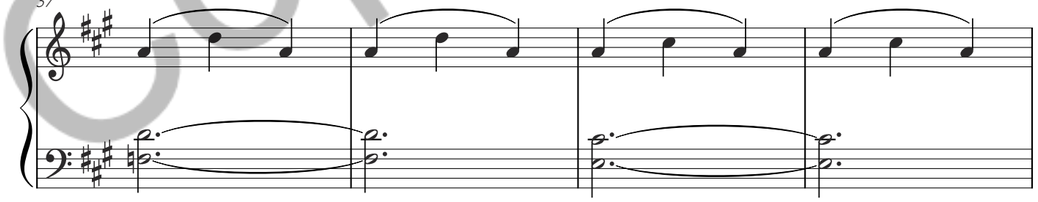

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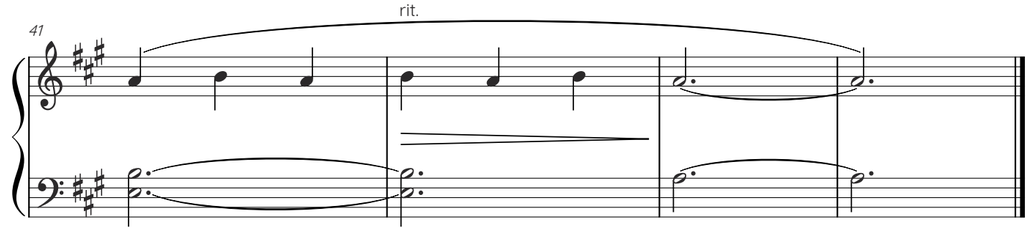

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