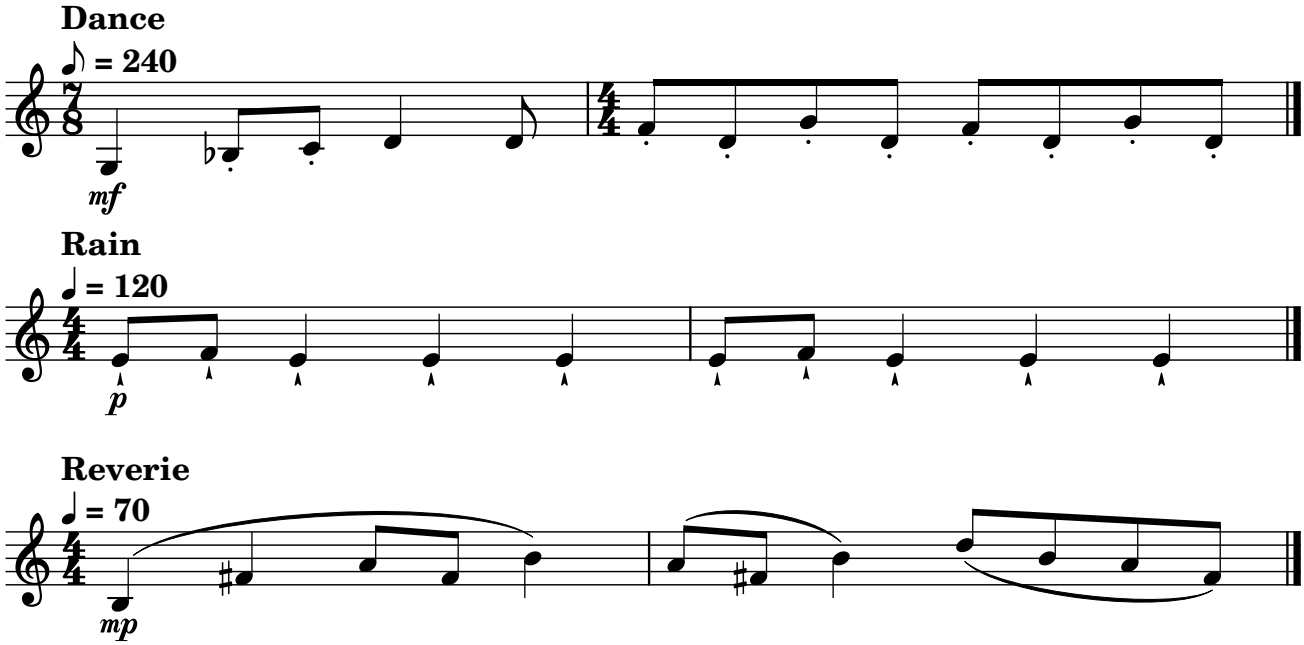
I started to work on the set of pieces after being given the task to write miniatures using the following starting motifs, for an Applied Musicianship assessment at Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance.



The melody titled Dance was in 7/8. I decided to play on the word “dance” and write about a toddler “dancing about”.

The melody for Rain sounded different to what I associated with rain, so I chose to write about the discontent of a child not being able to leave the house due to the rainy weather.

For the miniature with the melody named Reverie, I planned it to be about a child slightly older than the previous.

The pieces are cyclical in the sense that they depict a child’s growth: a naive infant, a disgruntled young child, and a slightly older child. The music is not autobiographical; I simply wrote the pieces for the sake of artistic expression.

I wrote two of the miniatures, Dance and Rain, on the night of the 20th of March 2023, burning the midnight oil. Unfortunately, I did not complete the third miniature at that time. During August 2024, I revisited the music and I deemed there was enough material of interest. I therefore decided to revise the Dance and Rain so that they were of performance quality. I also decided to compose the miniature for the melody titled Reverie in its entirety. I chose to call the third miniature Lento.

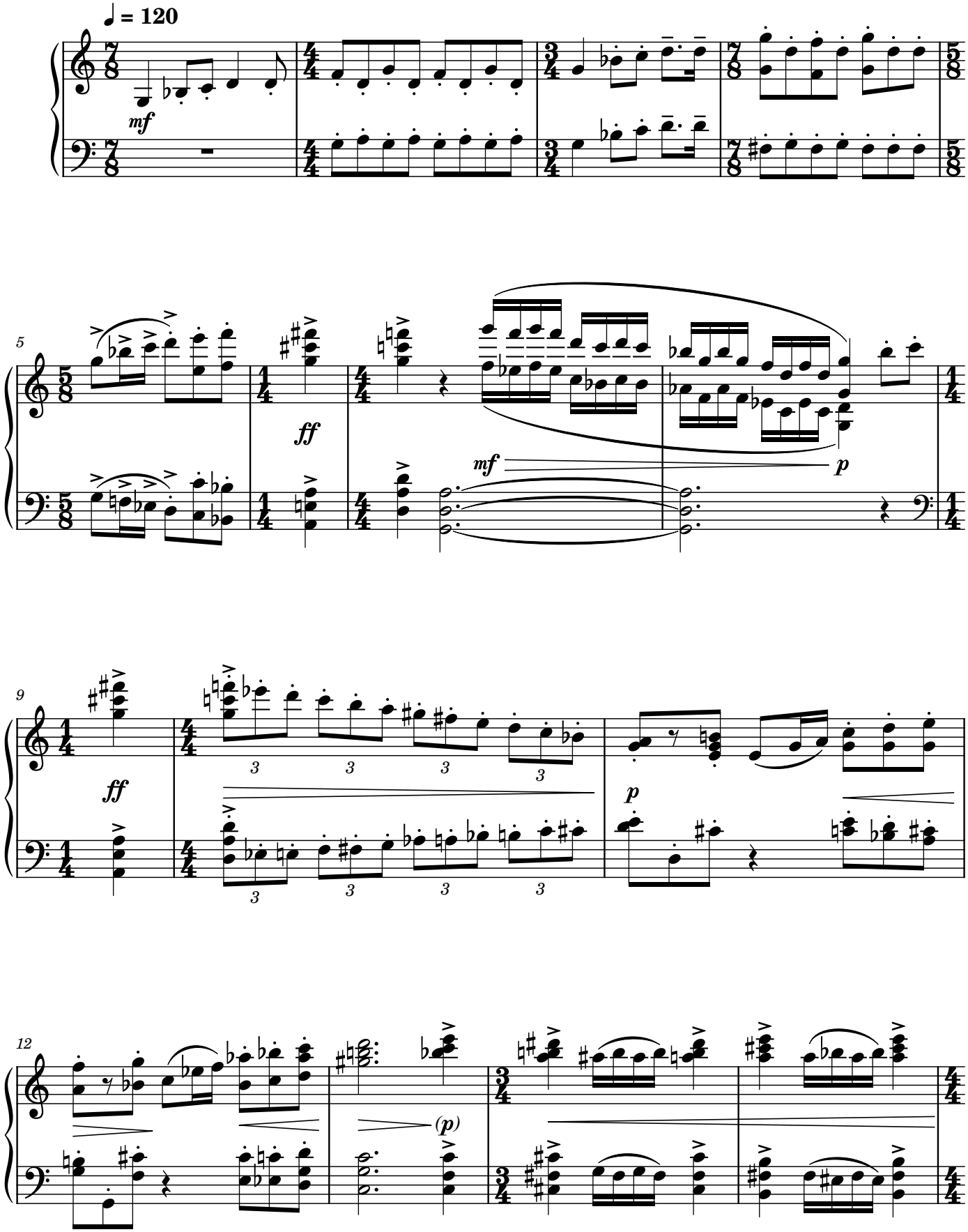
James Conan Tonkin
London, August 2024

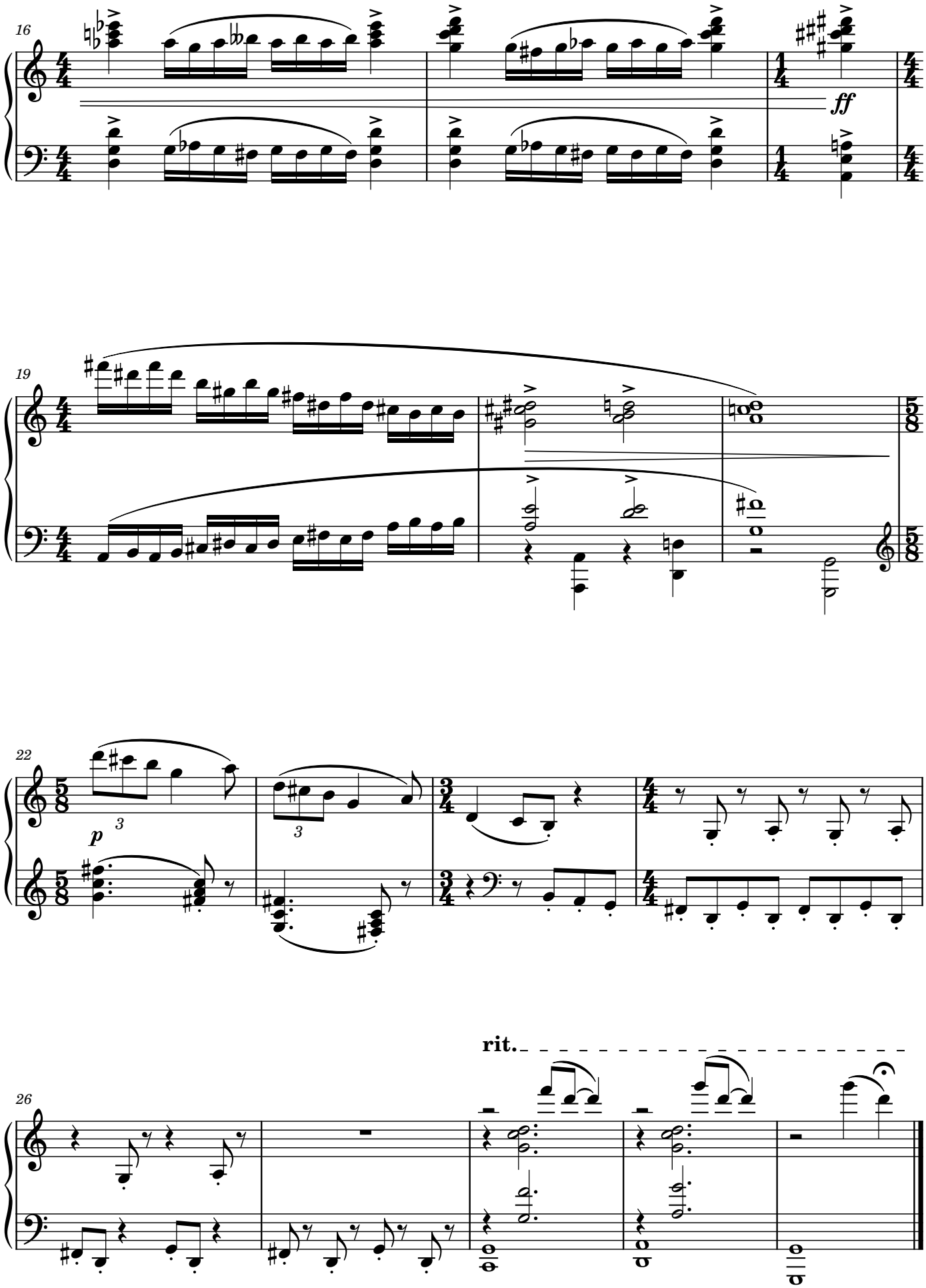
Three Miniatures

for Piano

I Dance

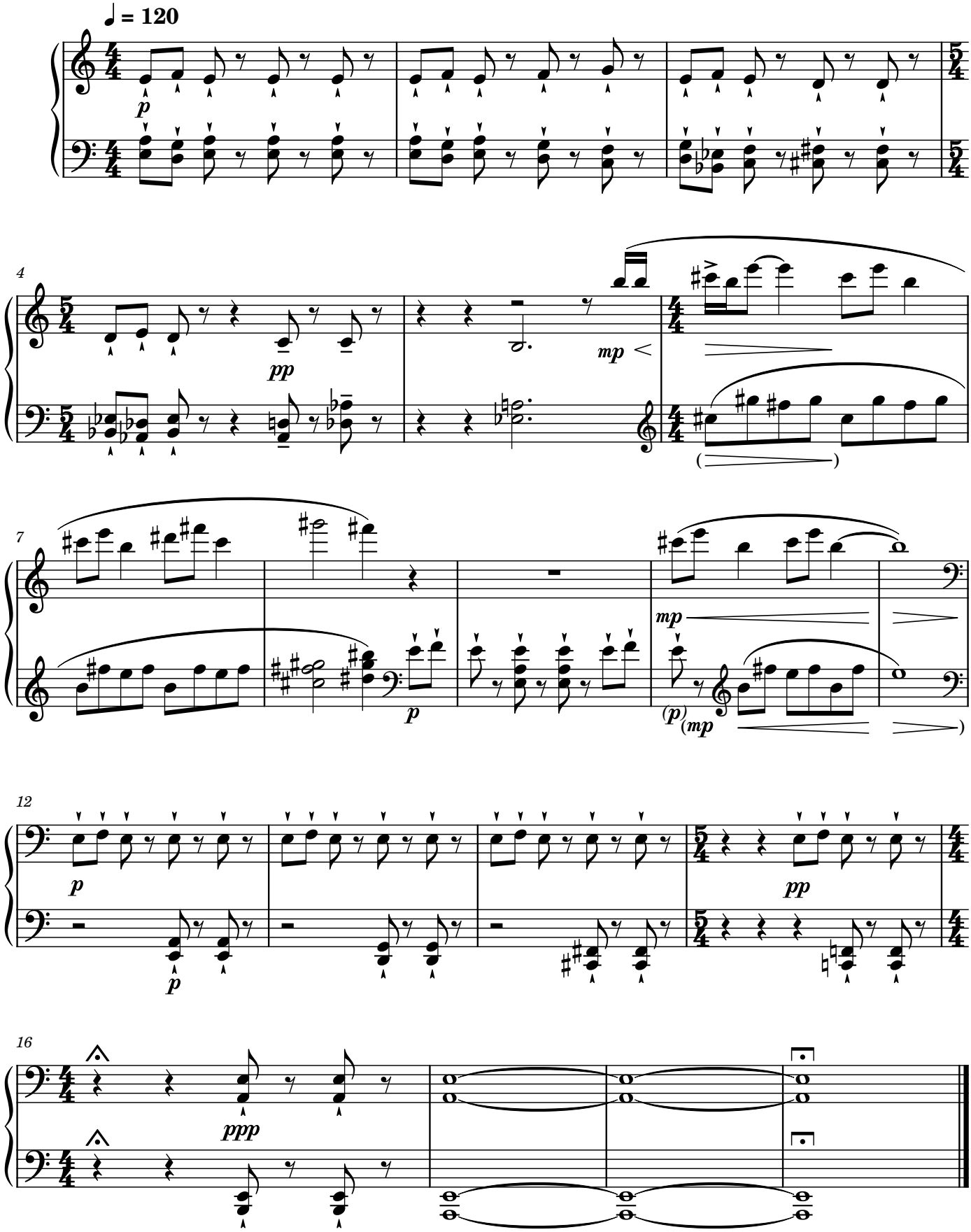
James Conan Tonkin
*2003





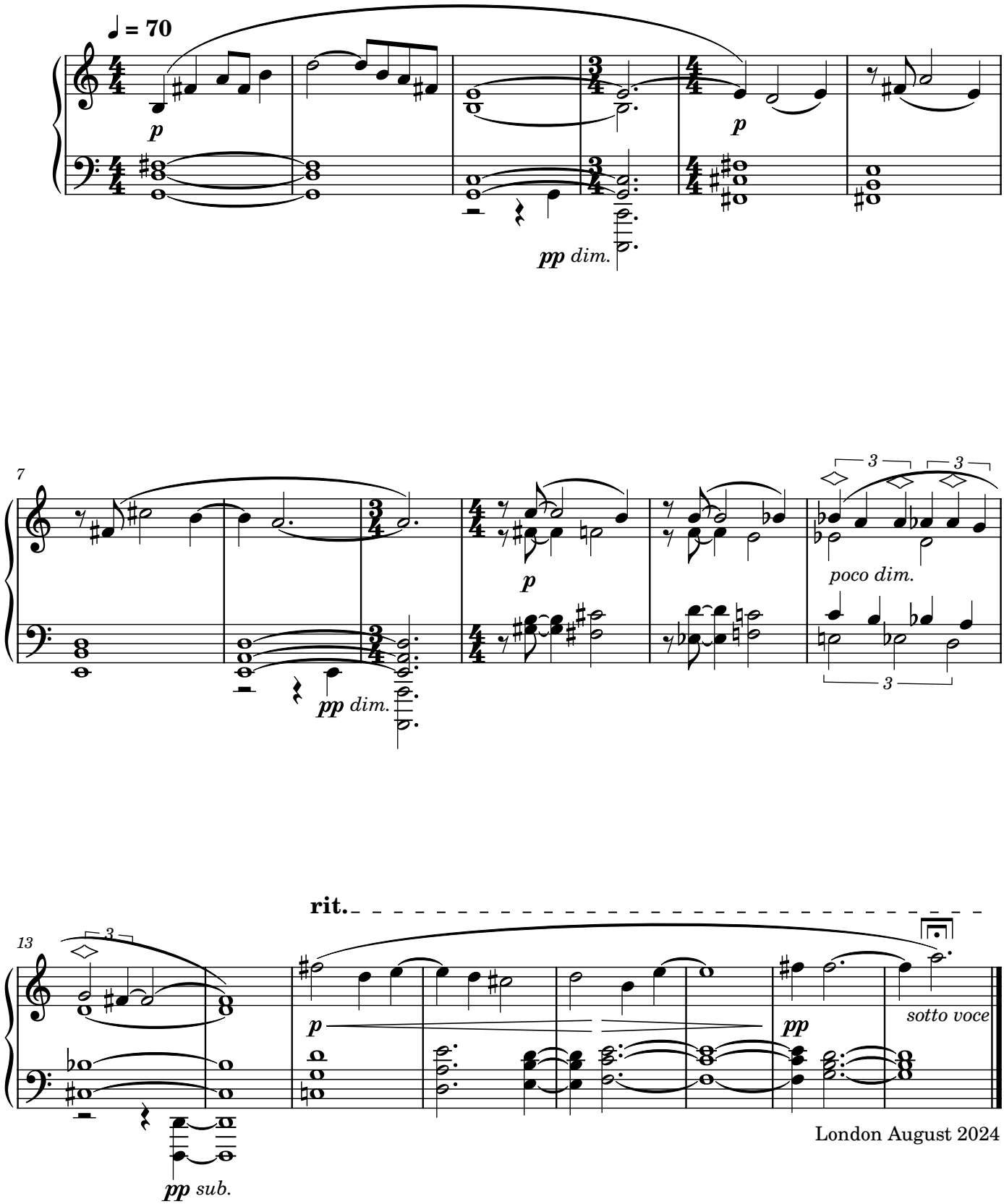
London, 21st March 2023
Revised London August 2024

II Rain



London, 21st March 2023
Revised London August 2024

III Lento



London August 2024