MIDNIGHT ON BOGGY CREEK

Dear Teacher and Students:

One night, my husband and I were driving north on I-45 to Dallas, Texas, when the headlights of our car illuminated a sign: BOGGY CREEK. There was a mist rising from the creek, and we could hear the frogs, crickets, and nightbirds singing their ageless music! BOGGY CREEK seemed such an enchanted place that I wrote two compositions about it: MIDNIGHT ON BOGGY CREEK® and THE SONG OF THE FROG AND THE NIGHTBIRD®. Both of these compositions are solos in my LEVEL VI book. The ensemble version of these two compositions has been performed at many multi-keyboard concerts, state conventions, festivals, mall shows, contests, and piano classes all over the

I hope that you enjoy this musical visit to BOGGY CREEK!

Mayron Cole



The 15-acre lake in Fort Boggy State Park's day-use area proves popular with anglers and boaters. A hiking trail borders the lake for a quarter mile, and an area of the lake is reserved for swimmers.

Fort Boggy State Park

Fort Boggy State Park is one of Texas' newest state parks and, in a way, one of its oldest. On its 1,847 acres of hardwood and pine forests, lowland marshes, rolling hills and bottomland meadows in East Texas, you get a sense of the way the land looked several generations ago.

Opened to the public in fall of 2001, the park straddles Interstate 45 and abuts Texas 75 in Leon County almost midway between Dallas and Houston. Work has begun on 10 primitive, wooded campsites that are expected to be open this summer, which will make overnight camping available at Fort Boggy. After sitting fallow for more than 60 years, the land, which borders Boggy Creek, has reclaimed much of its pristine beauty that early settlers found in this region where the oak savannah borders the western fringe of the Piney Woods.

The park gets its name from a palisade fortress erected in 1840 on Boggy Creek. The land, which originally was inhabited by two American Indian tribes, the Keechi and Kickapoo, was donated in 1985 by Eileen Crain Sullivan to the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department.

State park planners say the families of John Byrns and Christopher C. Staley of Tennessee established the first settlement on Boggy Creek between the Navasota and Trinity rivers north of the Old San Antonio Road in early 1840. Pioneer families from Mississippi and elsewhere later joined them. Early pioneers built the log fort in late 1840 and lived within its protective walls after Indians killed Staley.

State prison inmates provided much of the manpower for clearing the land and building the park's few structures that are part of the initial phase of development, including a large group pavilion in the day-use area. The facility, which rents for $50 a day, proves a popular gathering spot for family reunions, scout and church groups.

Hikers and mountain bikers share a two-mile nature trail, a quarter-mile of which runs around the lake. The rest of the trail traverses hardwood forests and meadows frequented by a variety of bird life and other wildlife that includes white-tailed deer, raccoons, foxes and squirrels. Beaver ponds dot 250 acres within the park's floodplains.

Bird watchers will find plenty of interesting species to view in Fort Boggy State Park, including cardinals, bluebirds, woodpeckers and phoebes.

Fort Boggy State Park is blessed, too, with significant botanical diversity. Biologists have found approximately 700 plant species within park boundaries. Post oaks, pecans, dogwood, hickory, elm and sweetgum are trees commonly found inside the park.

Fort Boggy State Park is four miles south of Centerville on Texas 75. For more information, call the park at (903) 344-1116 or visit the Texas Parks & Wildlife Web site: www.tpwd.state.tx.us.

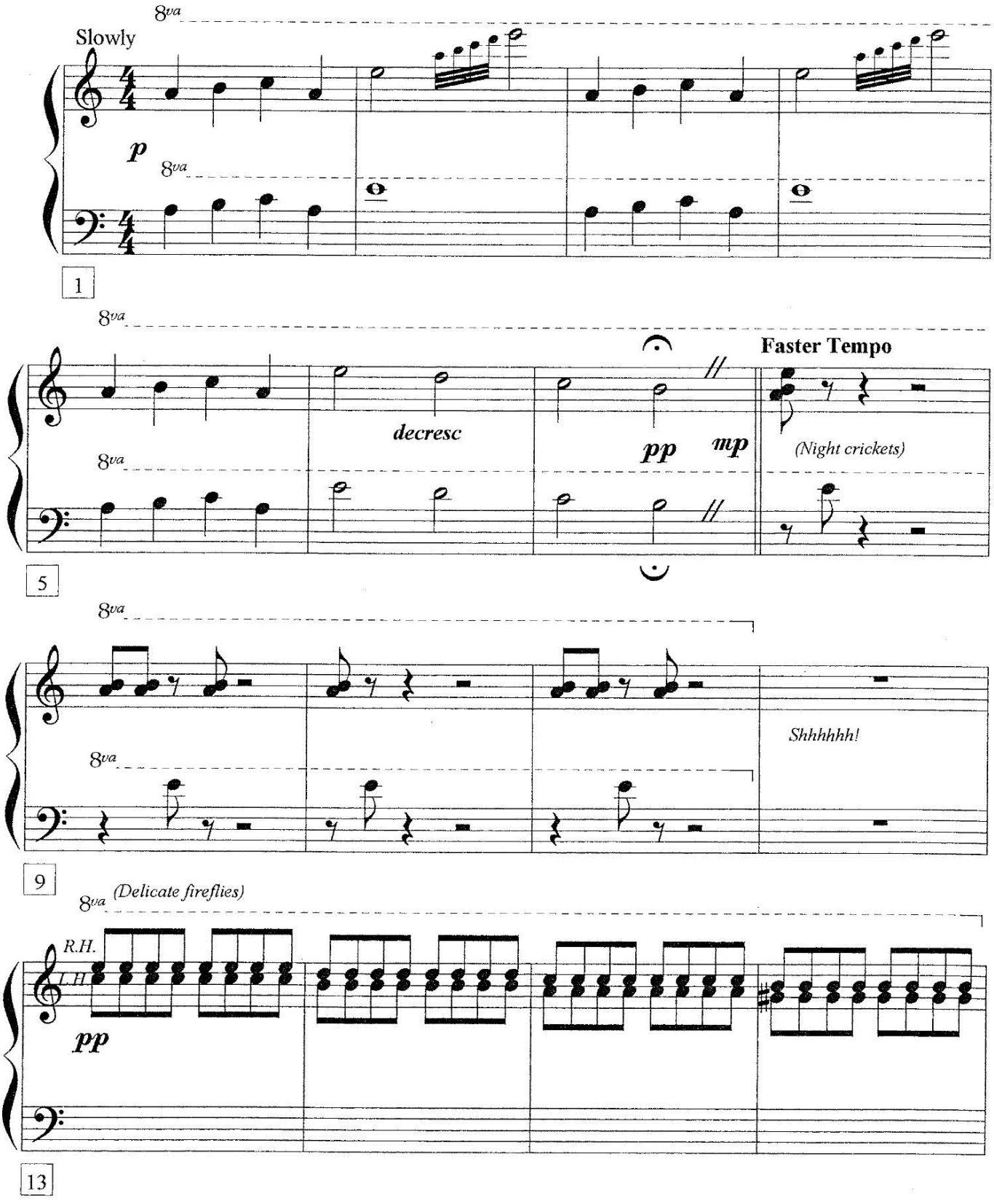
—Texas Parks & Wildlife

MIDNIGHT ON BOGGY CREEK

PIANO 1

Shhhhh! The creek is deceptively quiet!

c 1990 Mayron Ellis Cole



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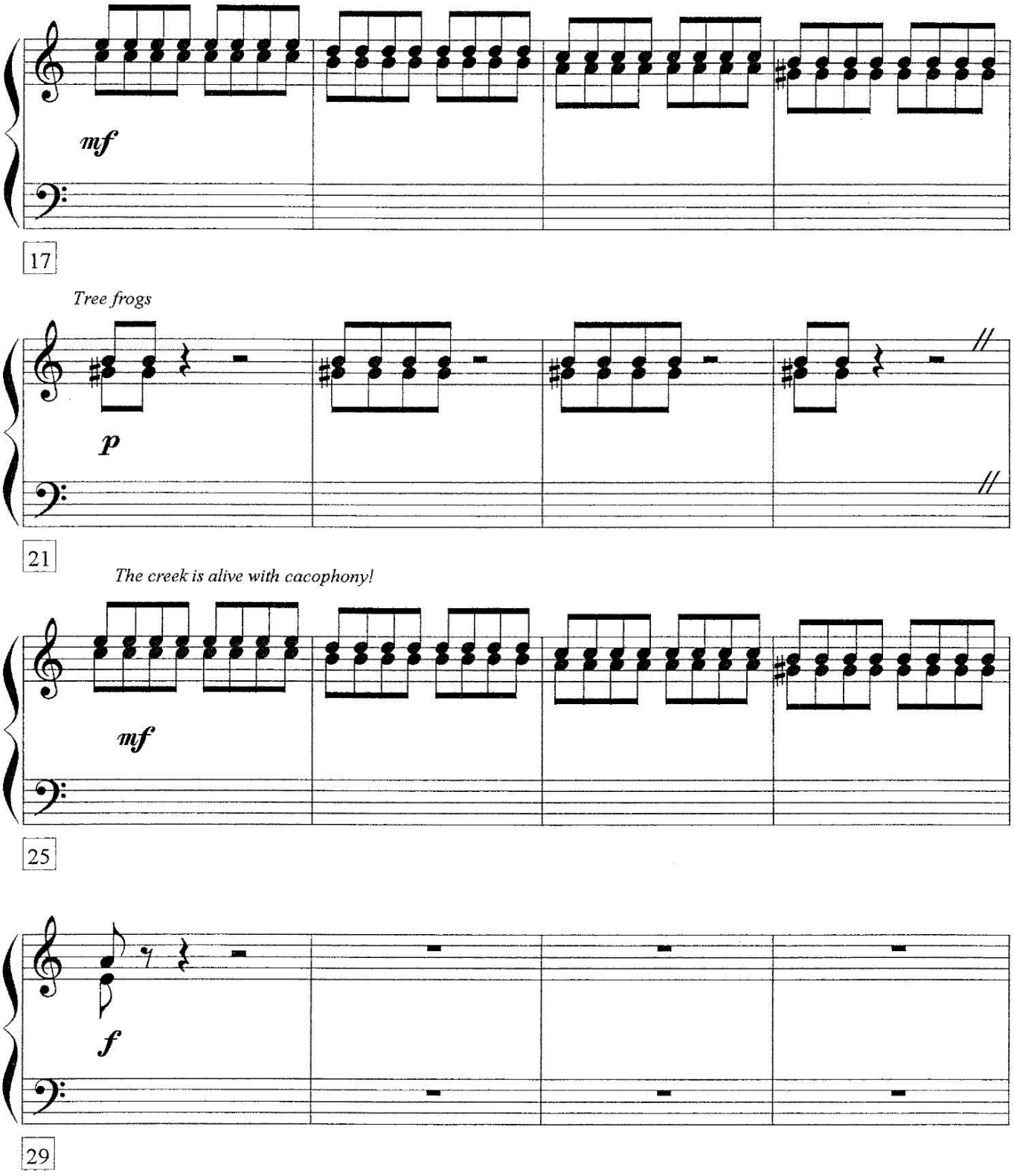

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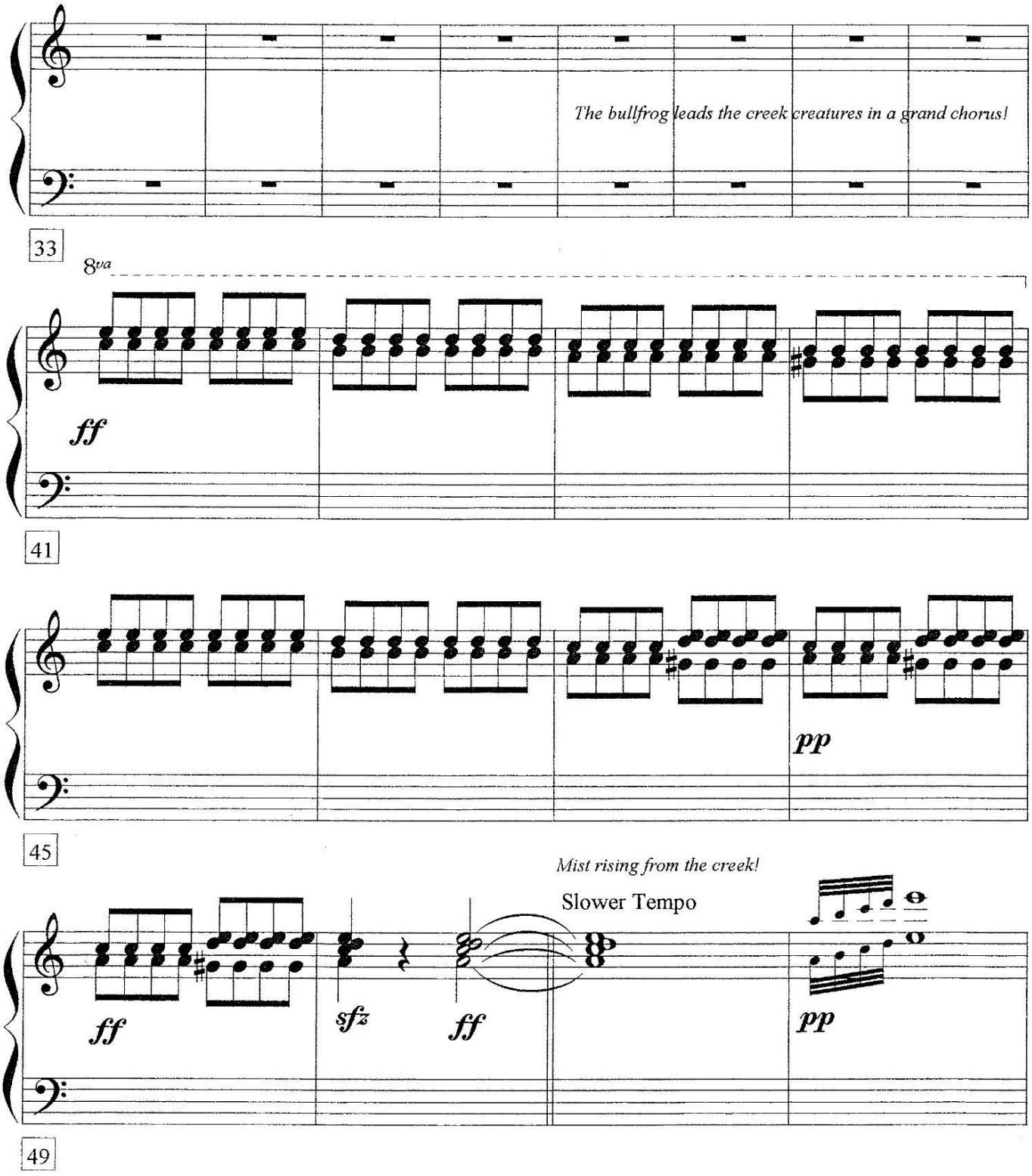

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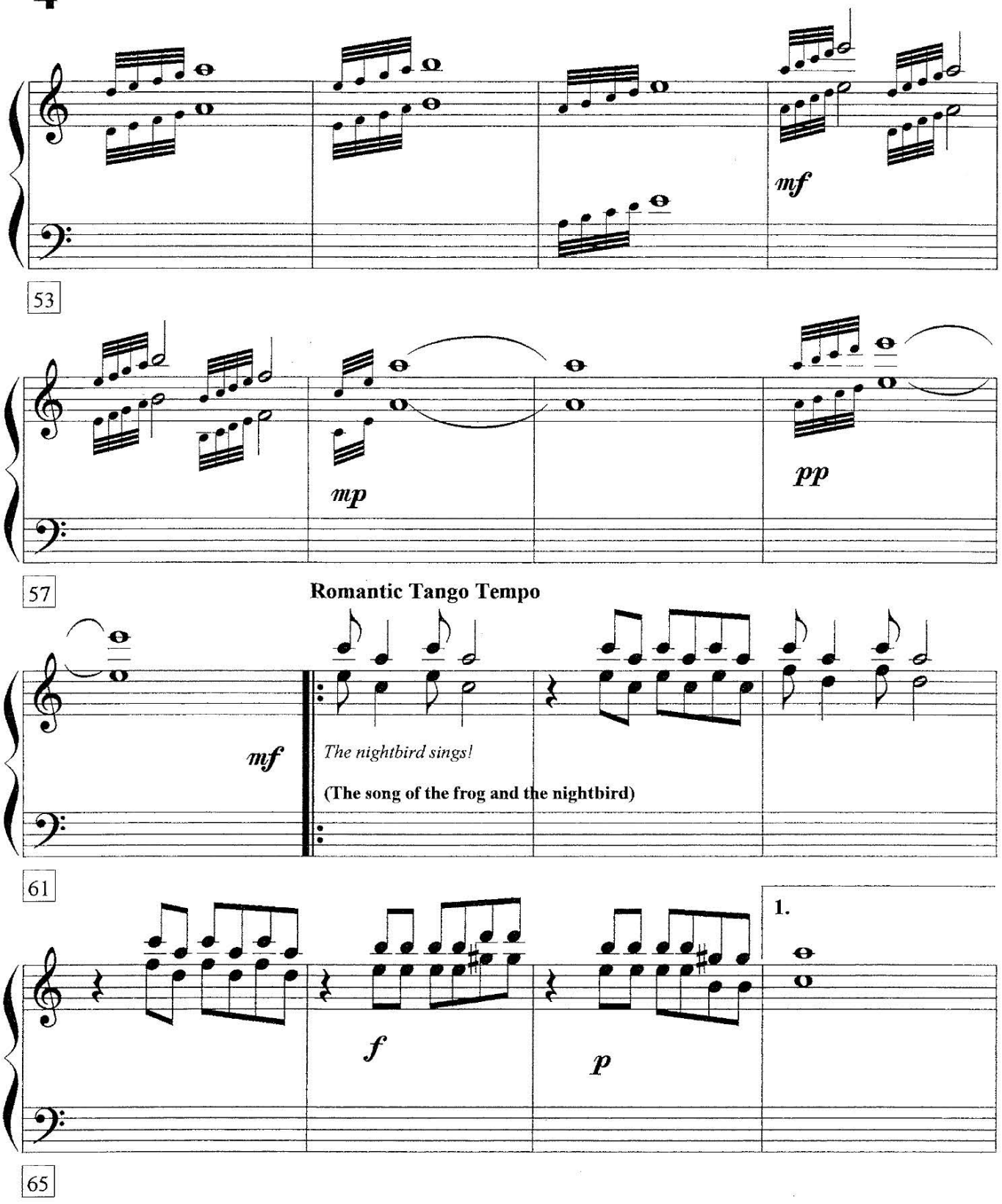

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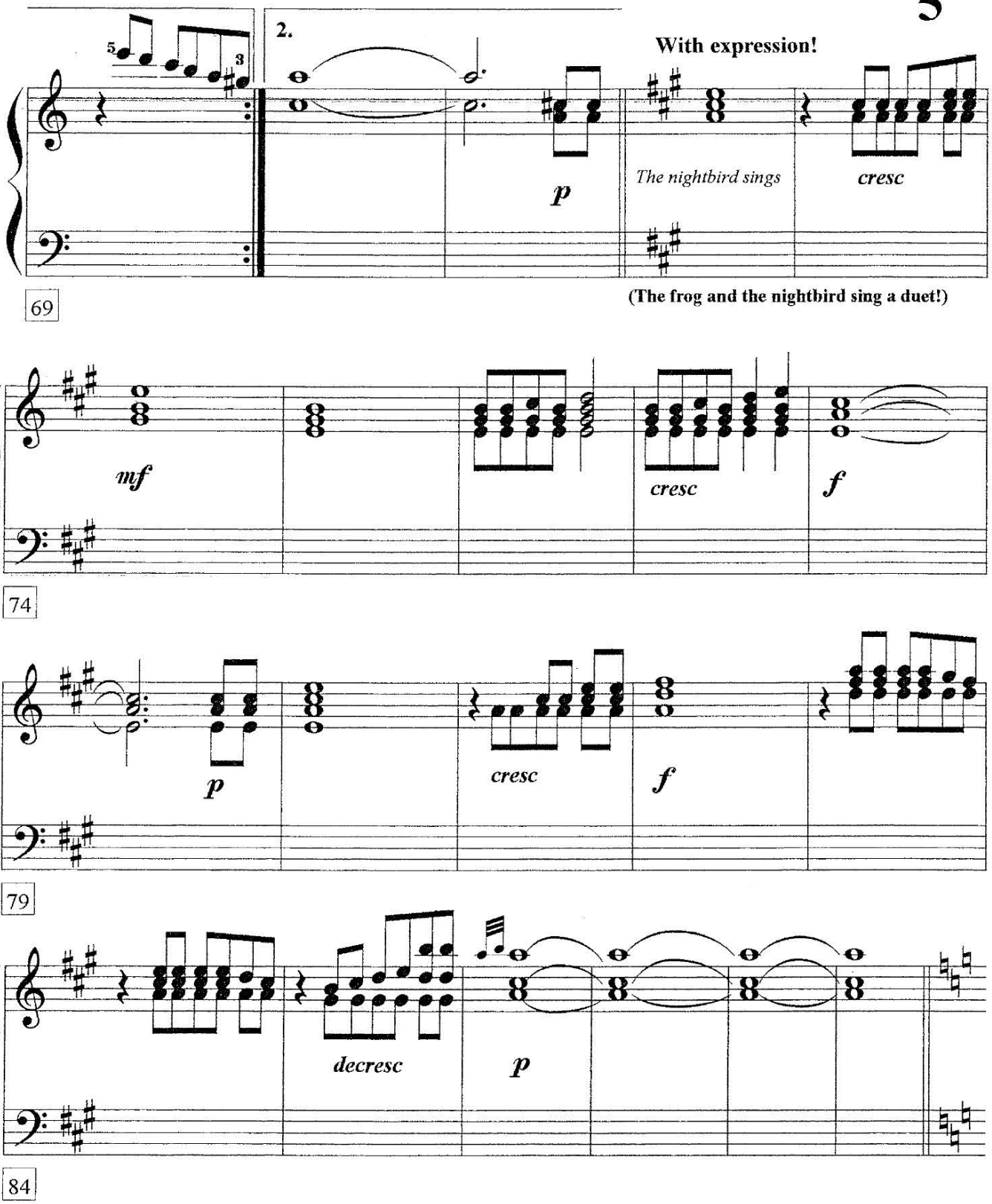

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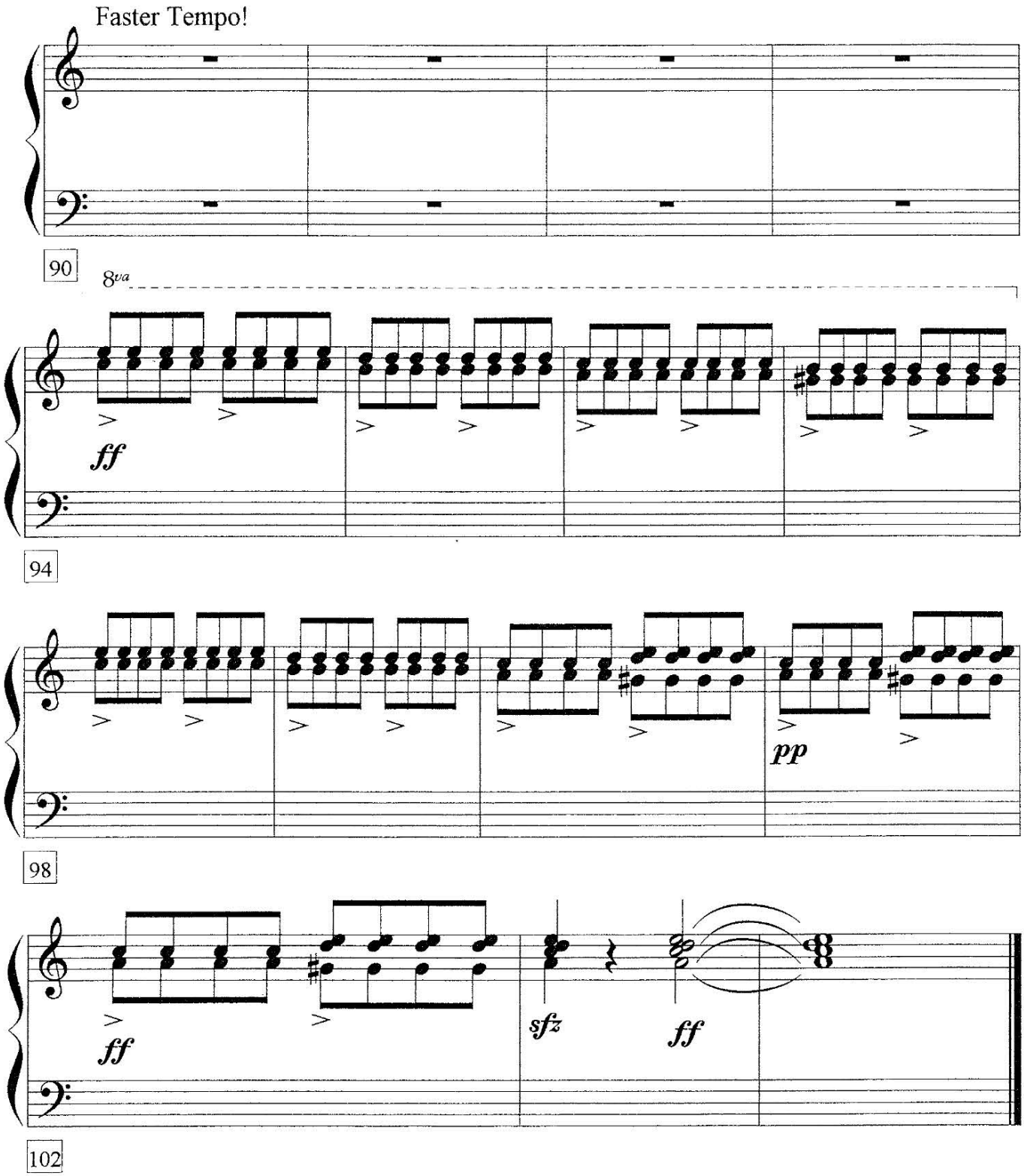

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MIDNIGHT ON BOGGY CREEK
PIANO 2

Shhhhhh! The creek is deceptively quiet!

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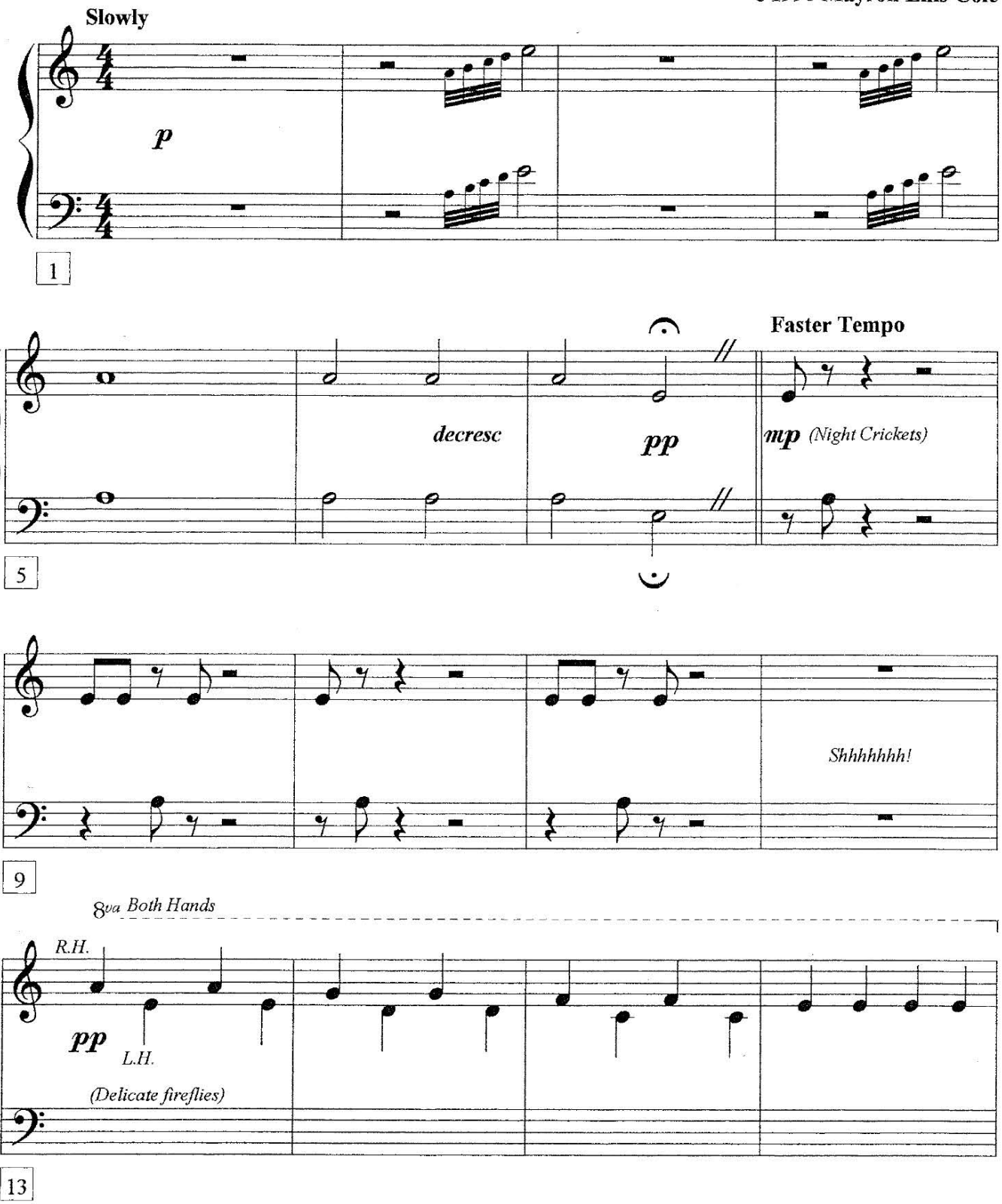

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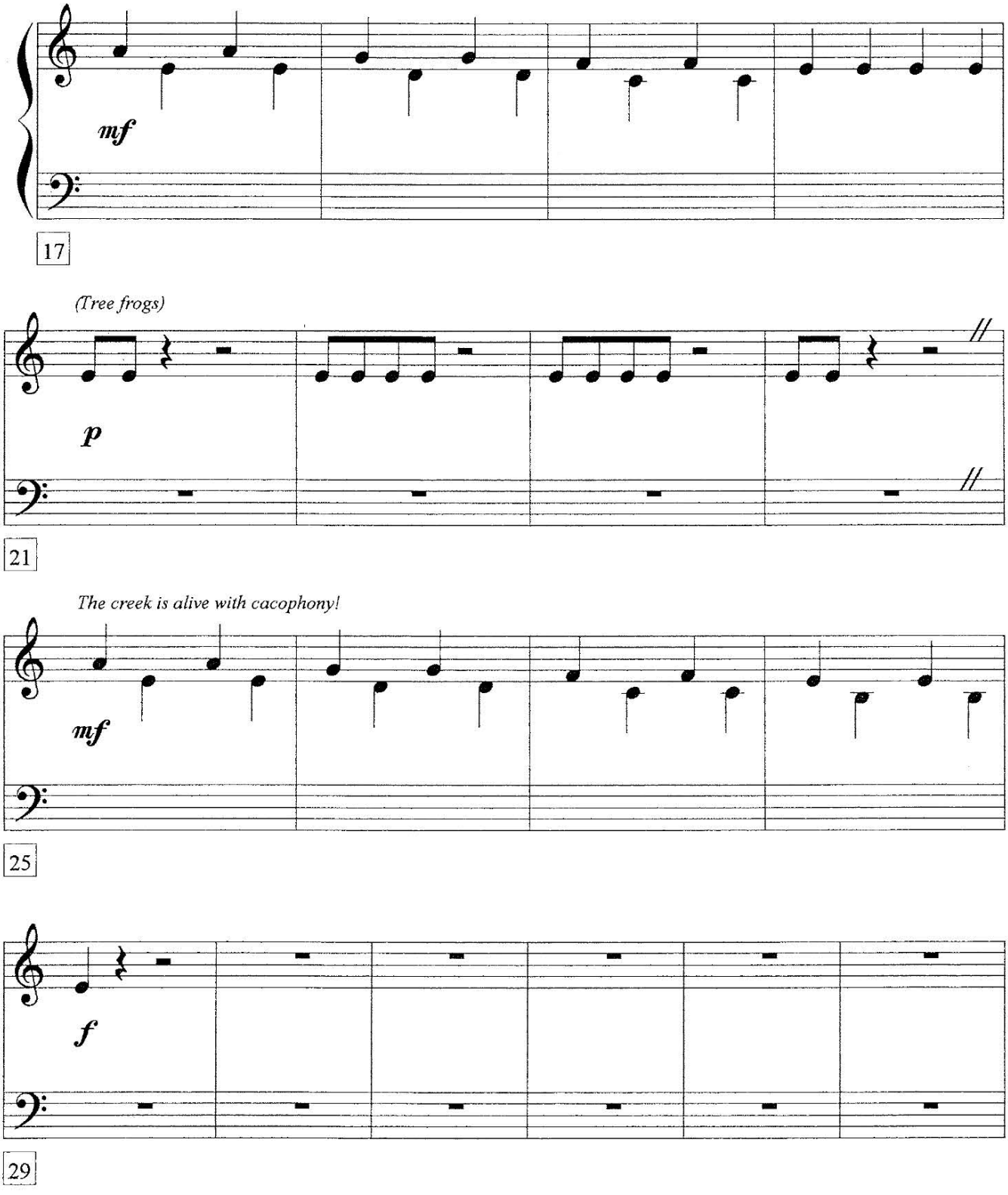

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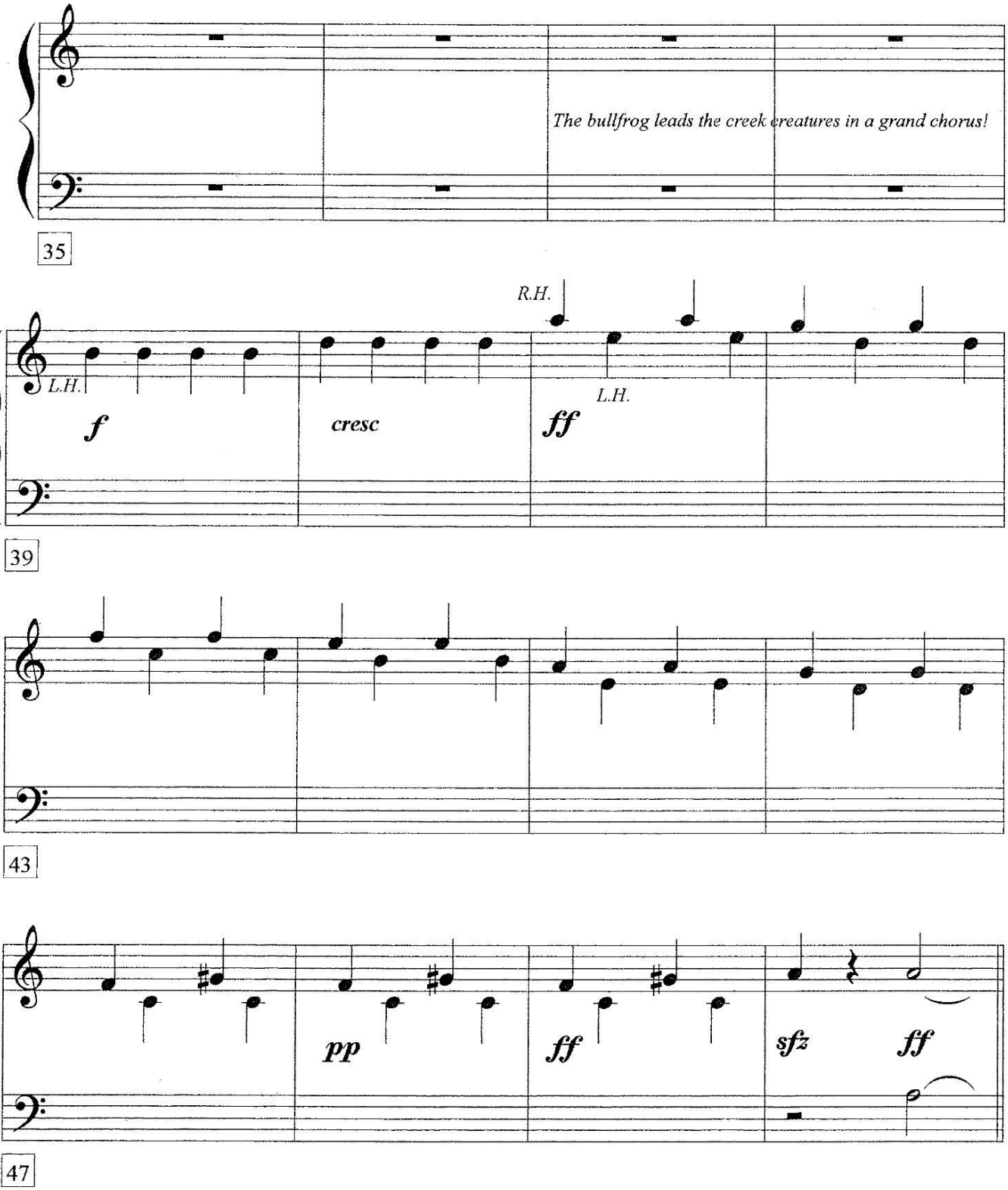

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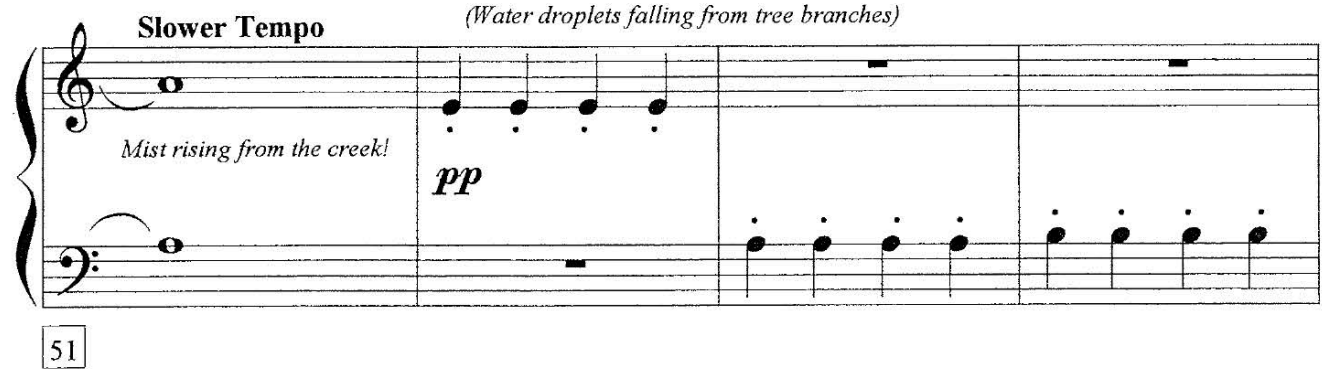

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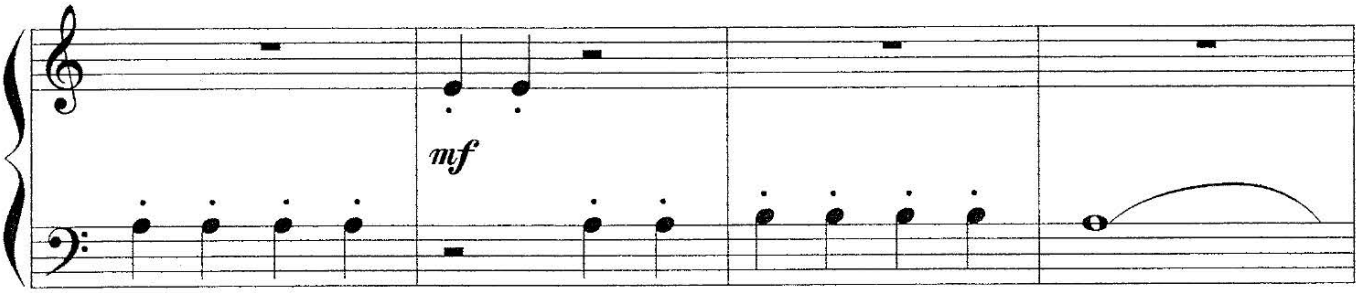

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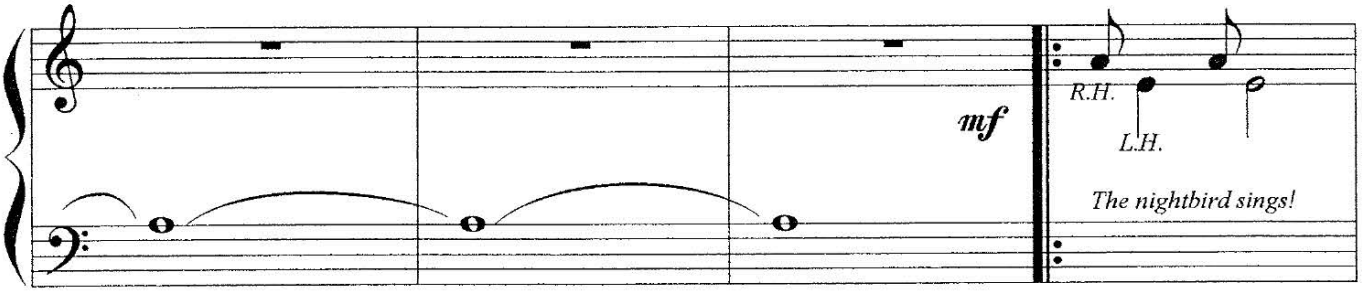
Romantic Tango Tempo



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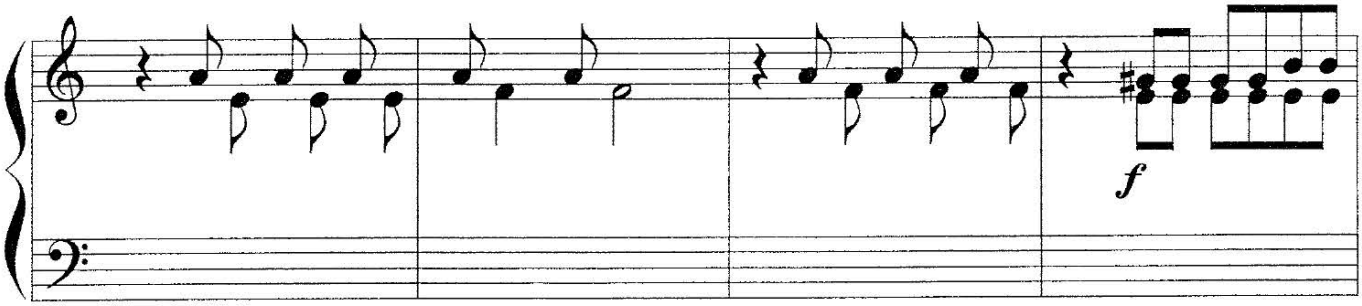

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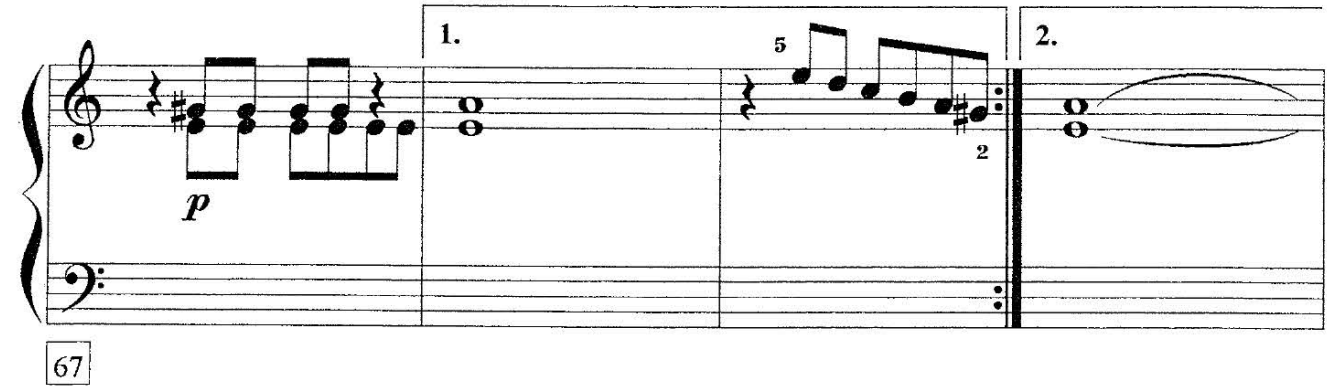

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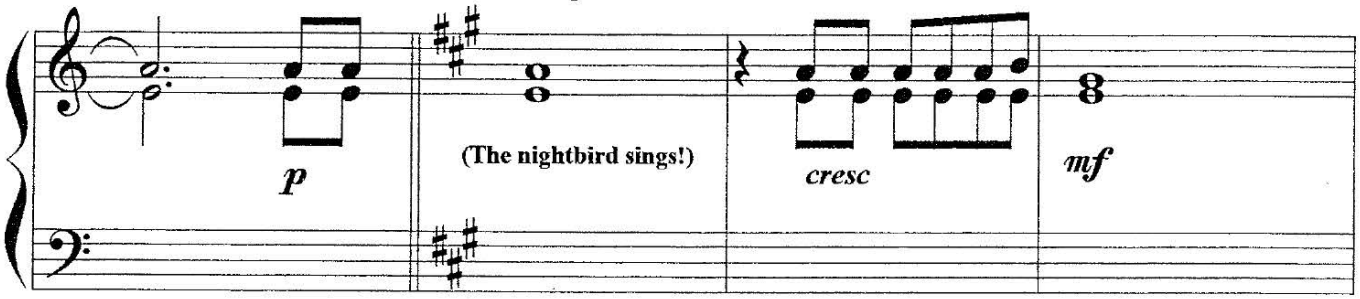
With expression!



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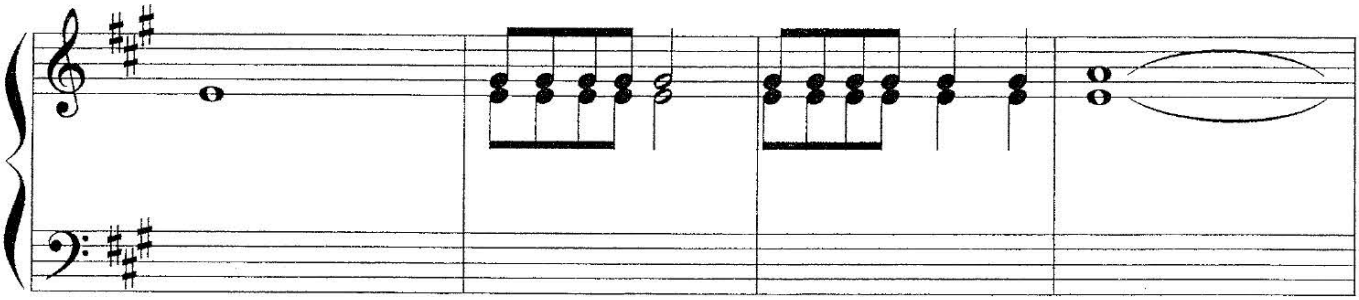
(The frog and the nightbird sing a duet!)



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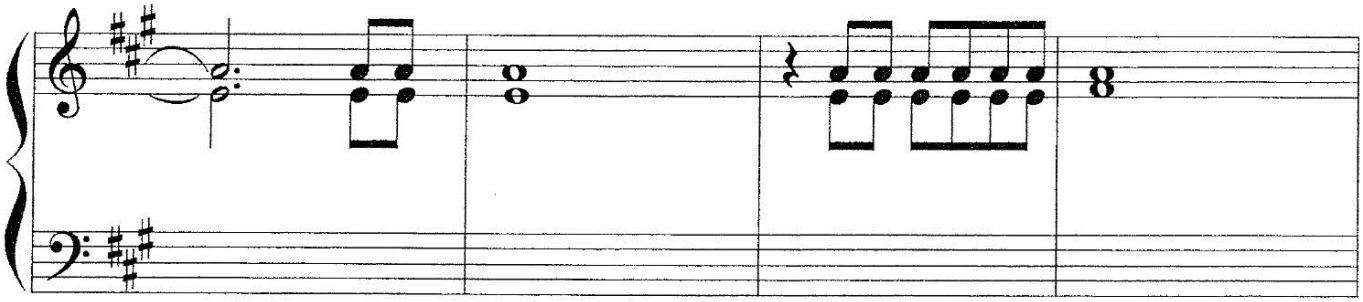

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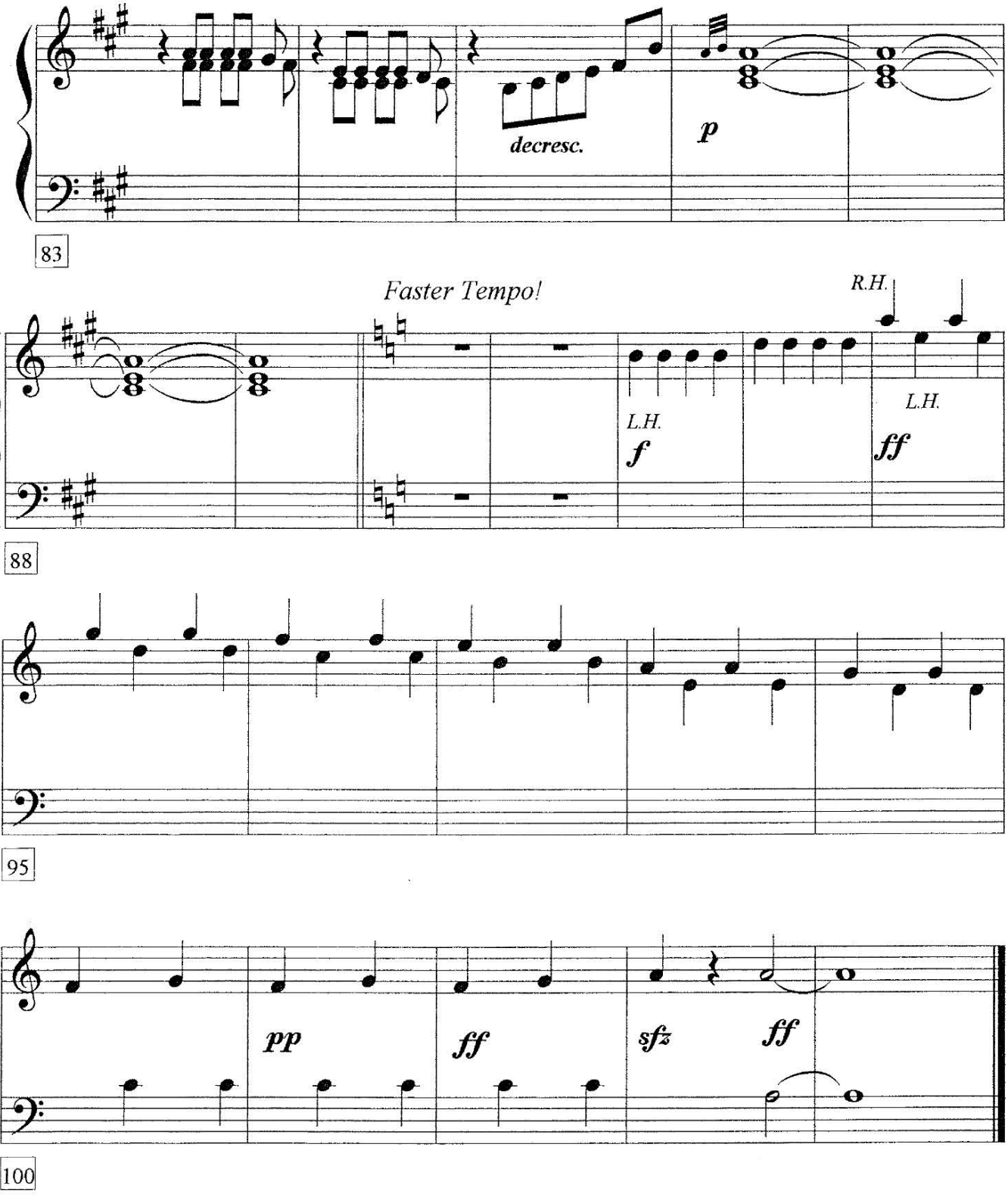

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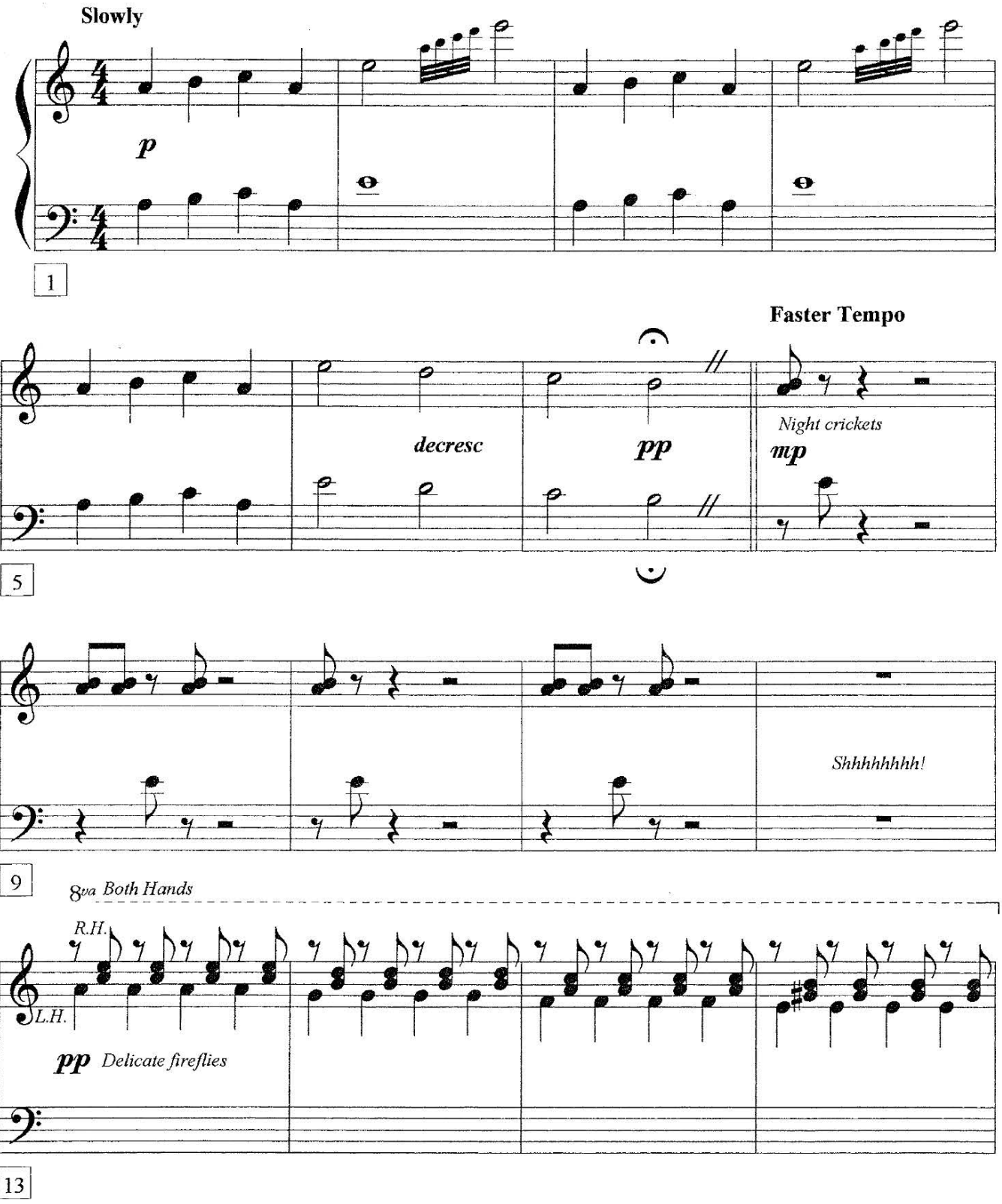
MIDNIGHT ON BOGGY CREEK
PIANO 3

Shhhhhh! The creek is deceptively quiet!

c 1990 Mayron Ellis Cole



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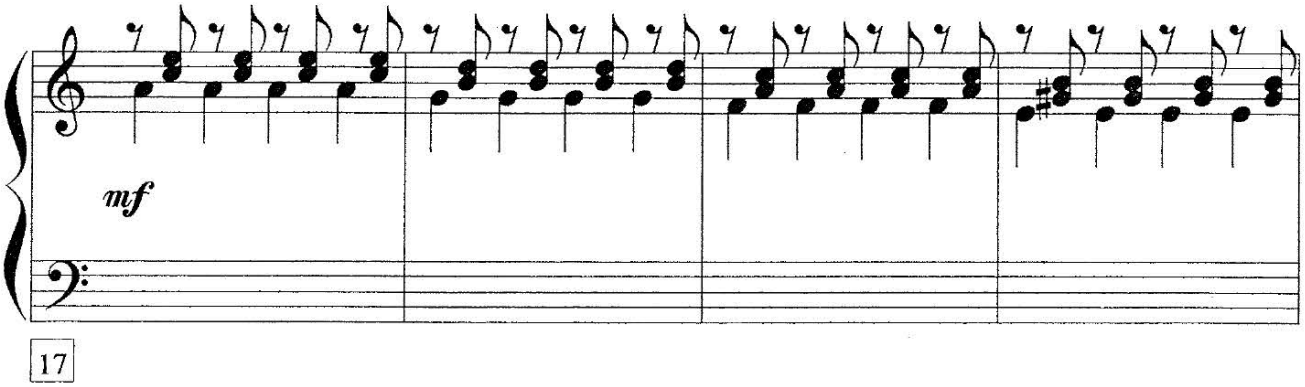

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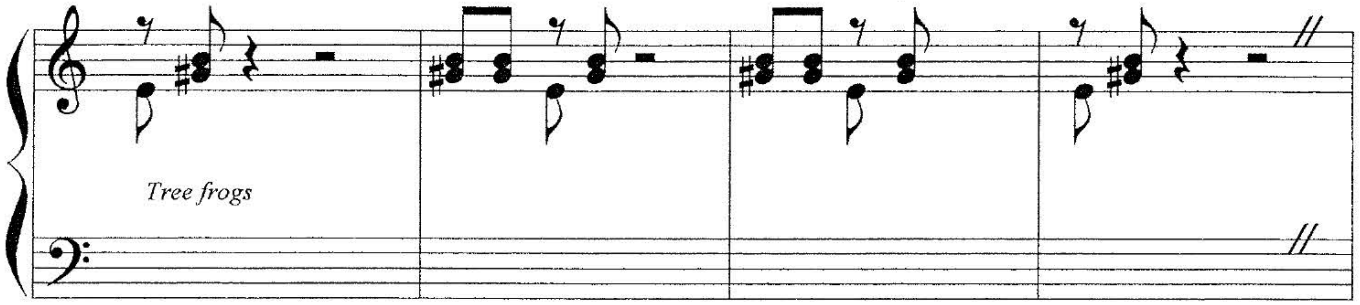

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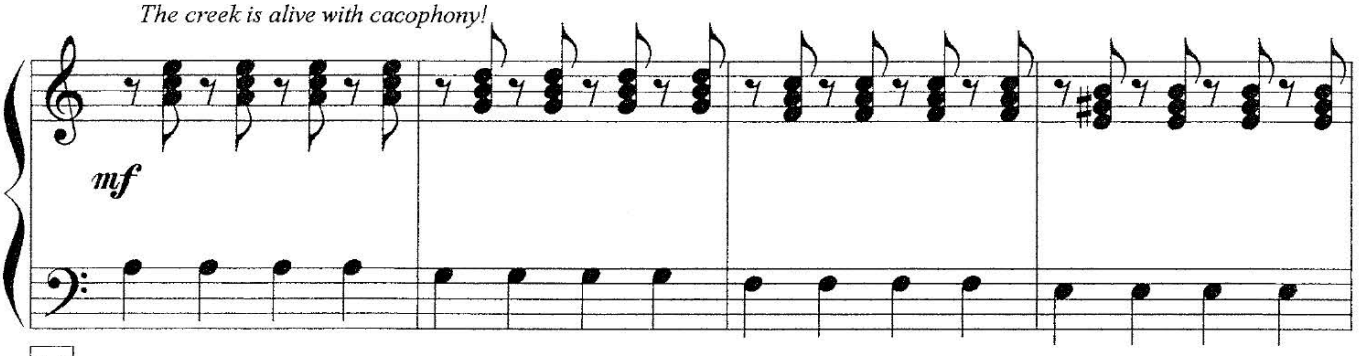
The creek is alive with cacophony!



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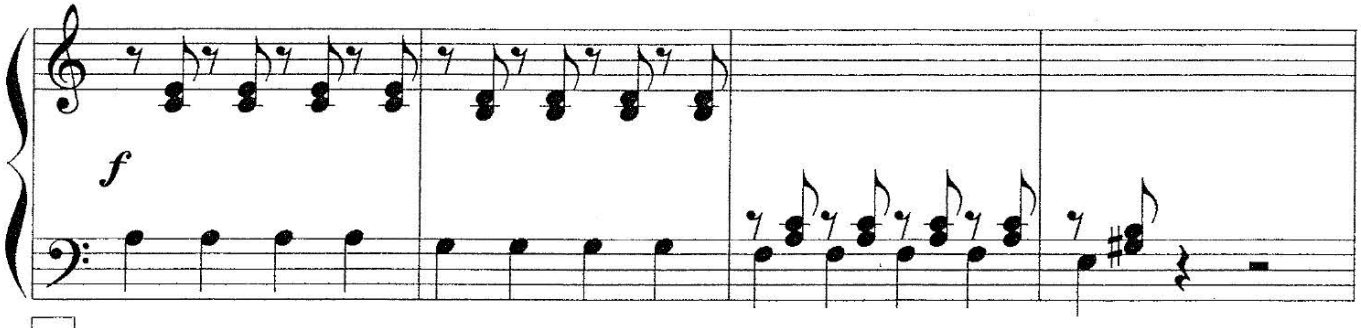

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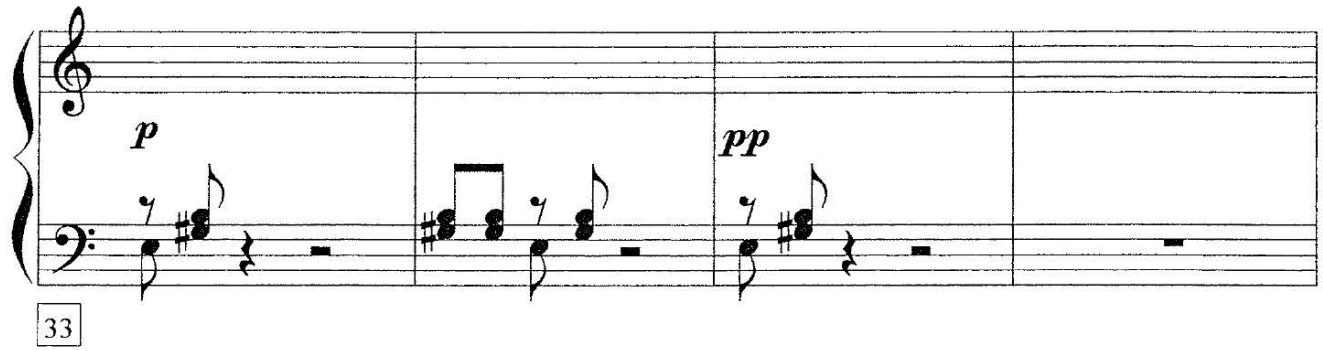
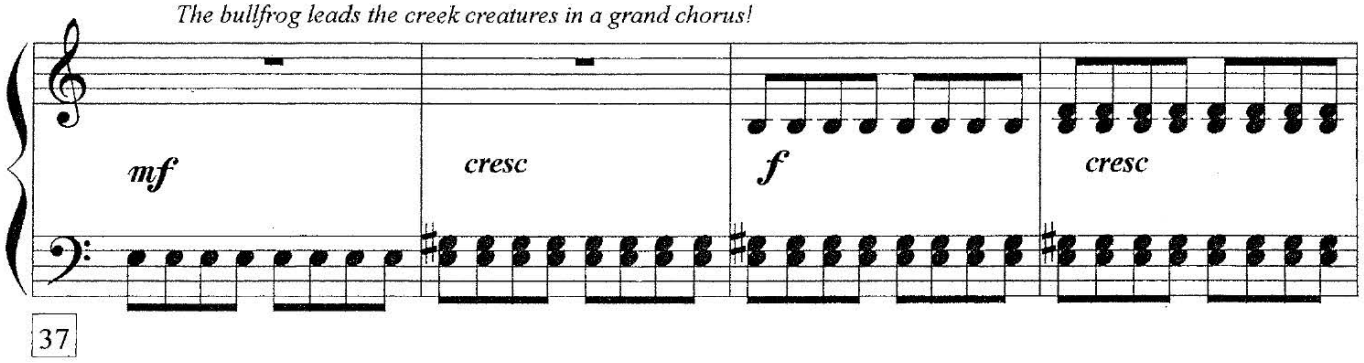
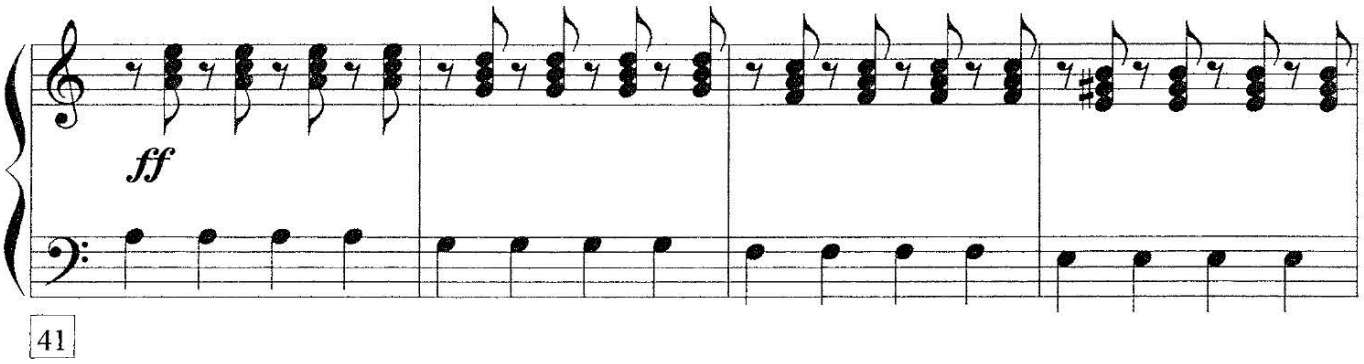
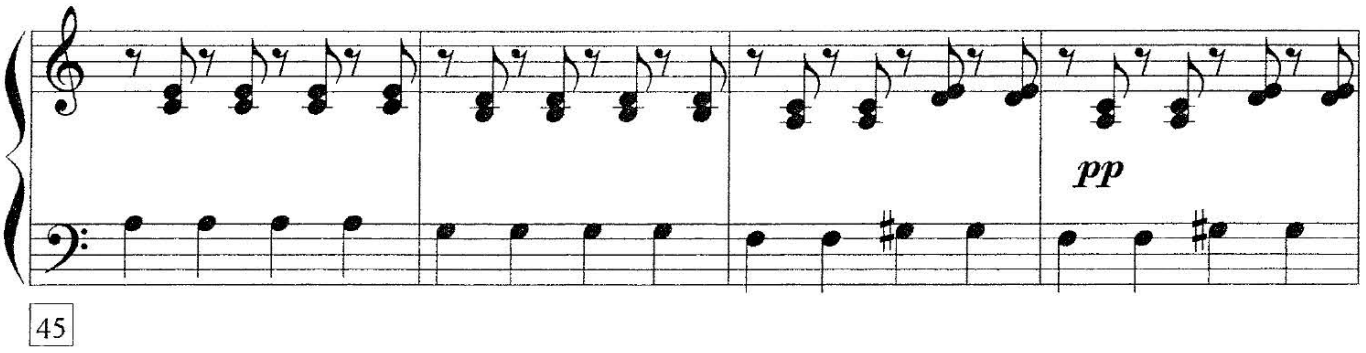


The bullfrog leads the creek creatures in a grand chorus!







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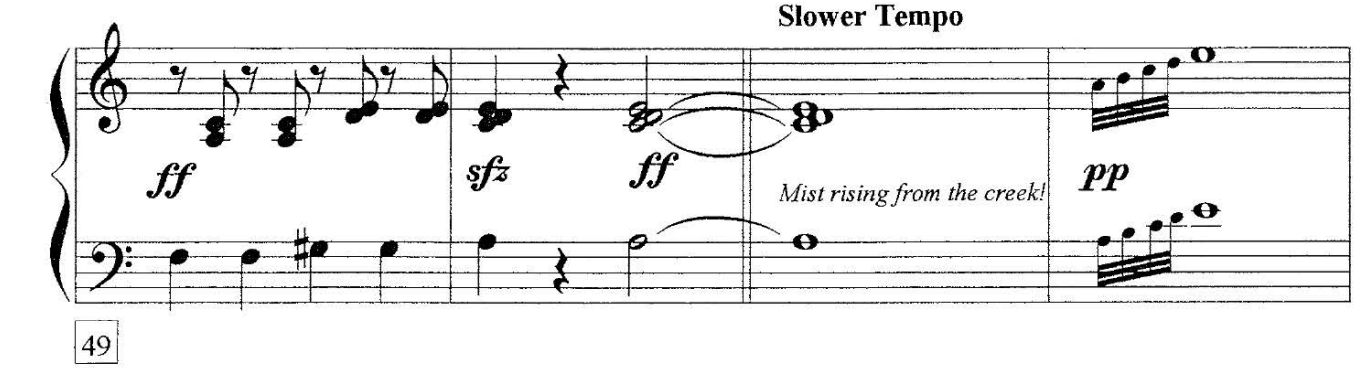
Slower Tempo



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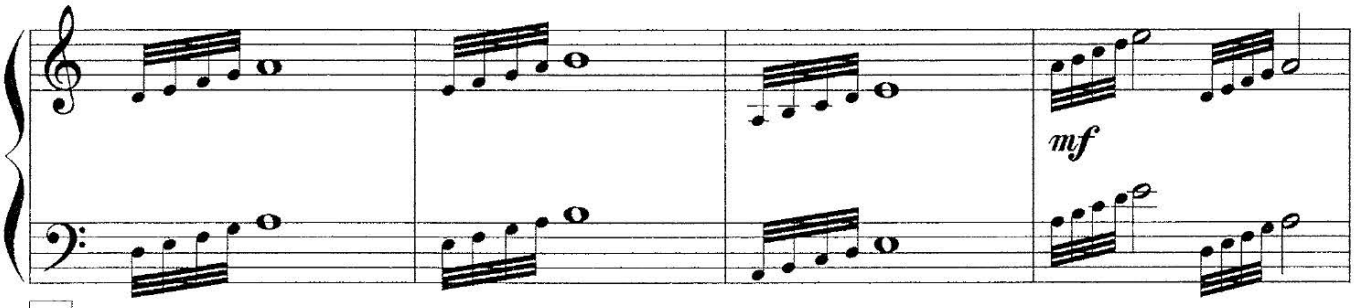

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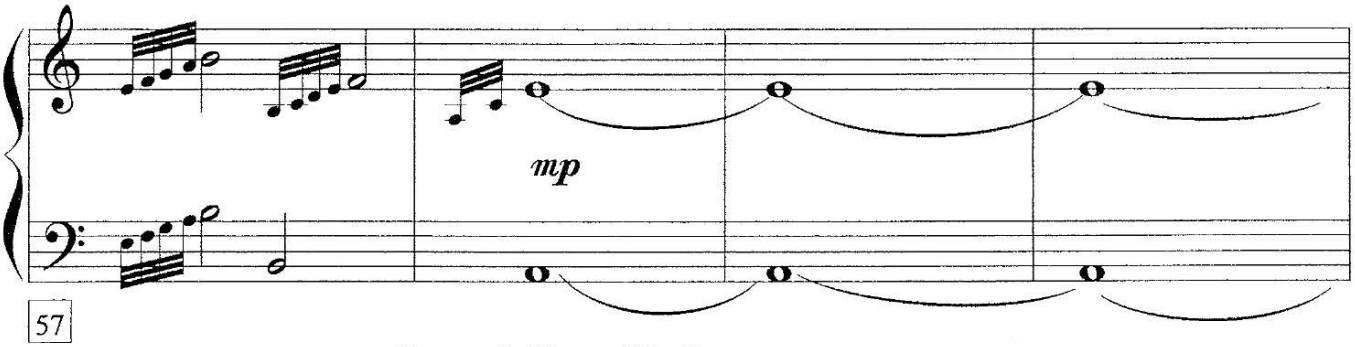

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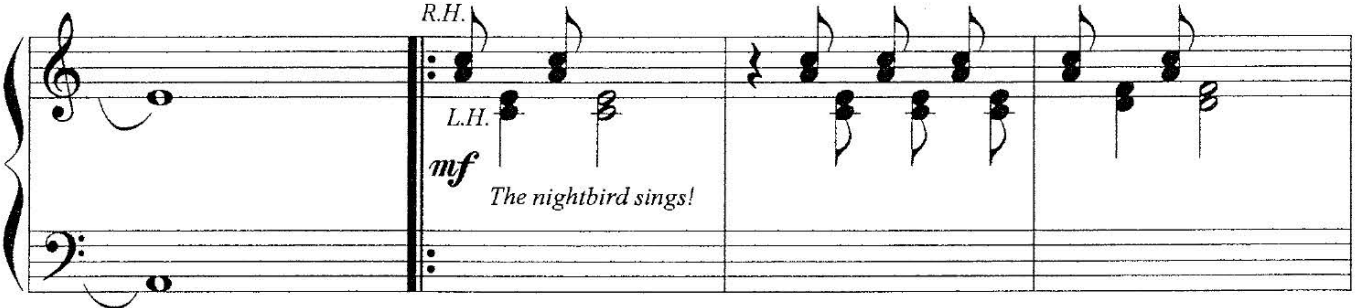
Romantic Tango Rhythm



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(The song of the frog and the nightbird)

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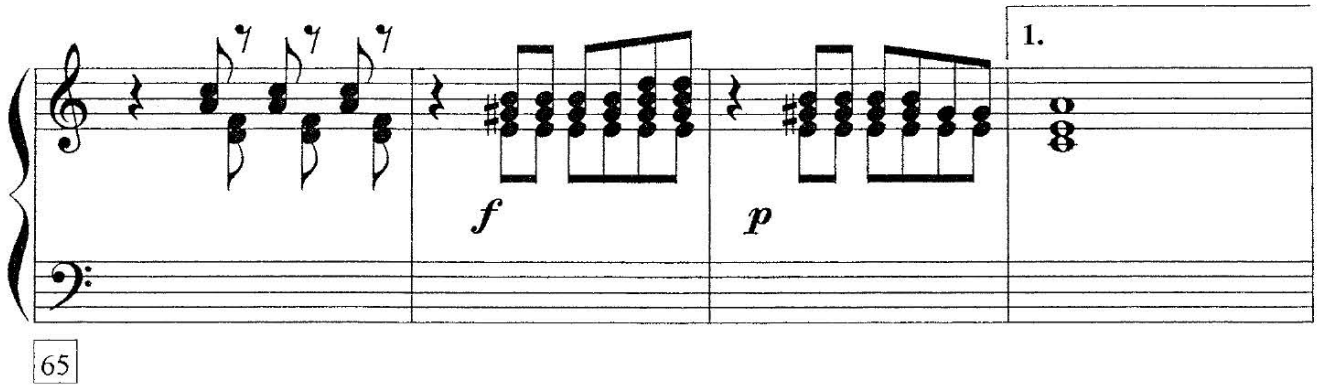

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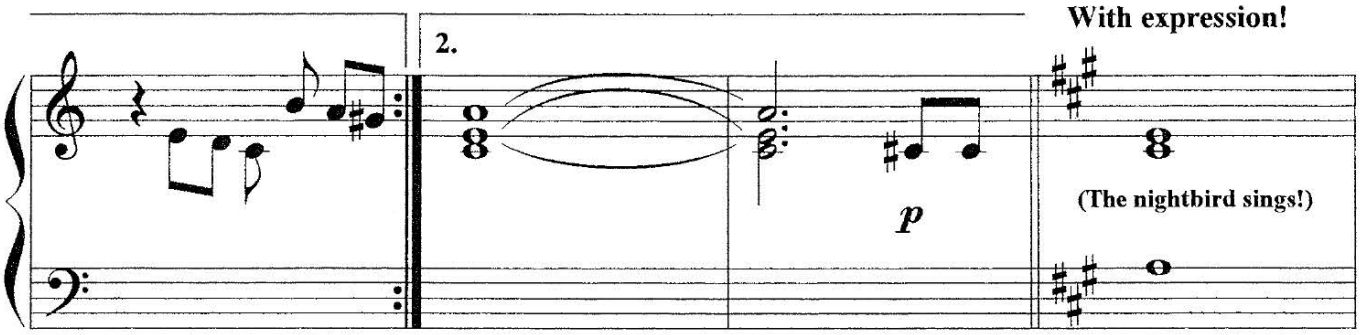

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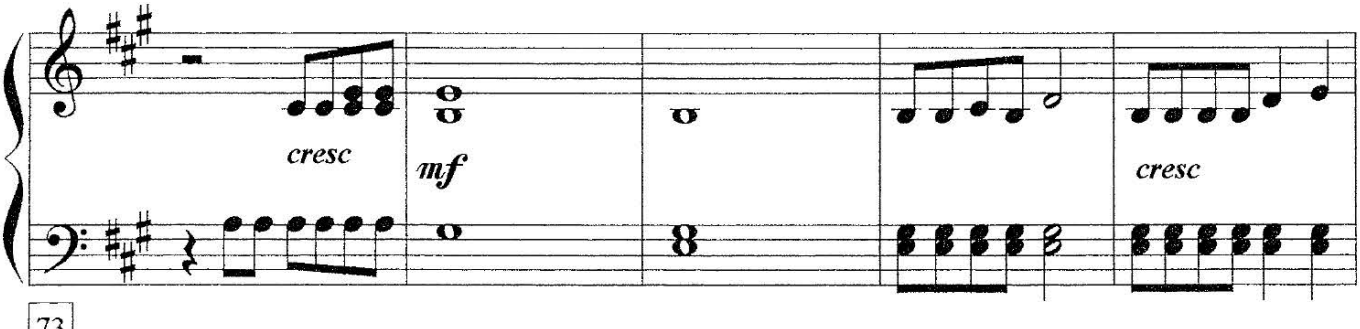
(The frog and the nightbird sing a duet!)



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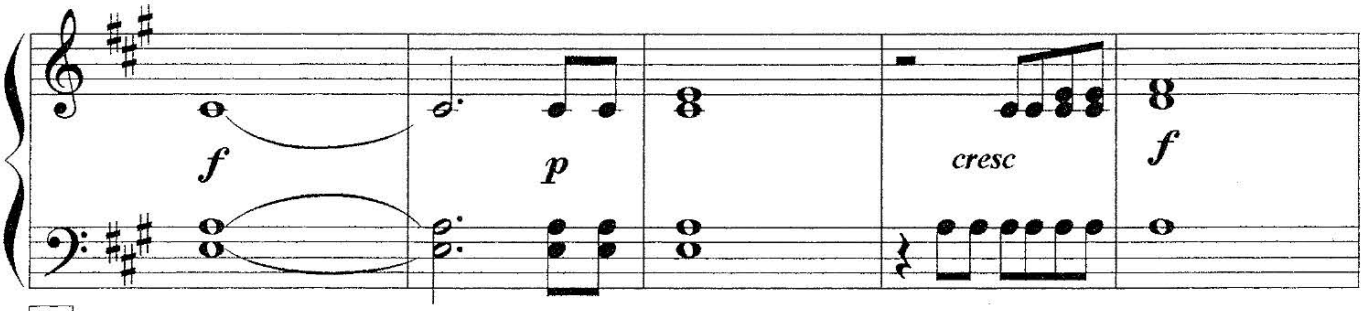

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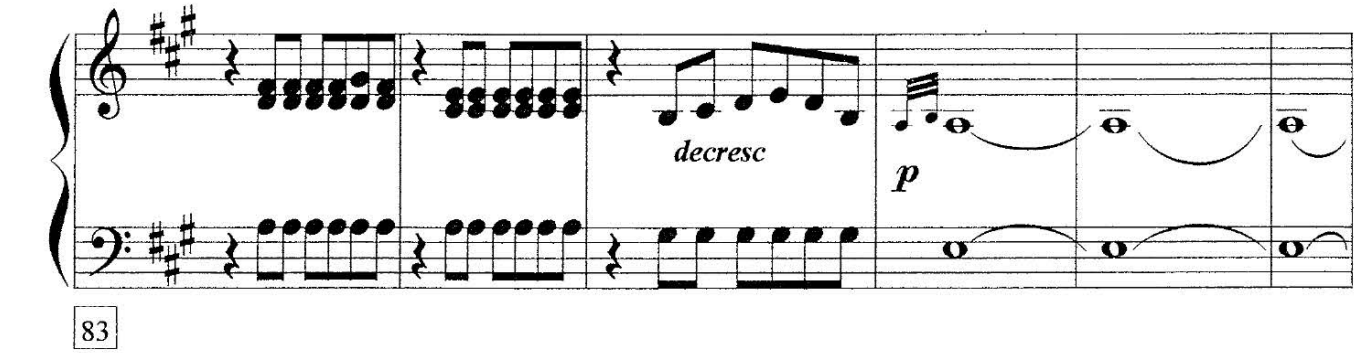

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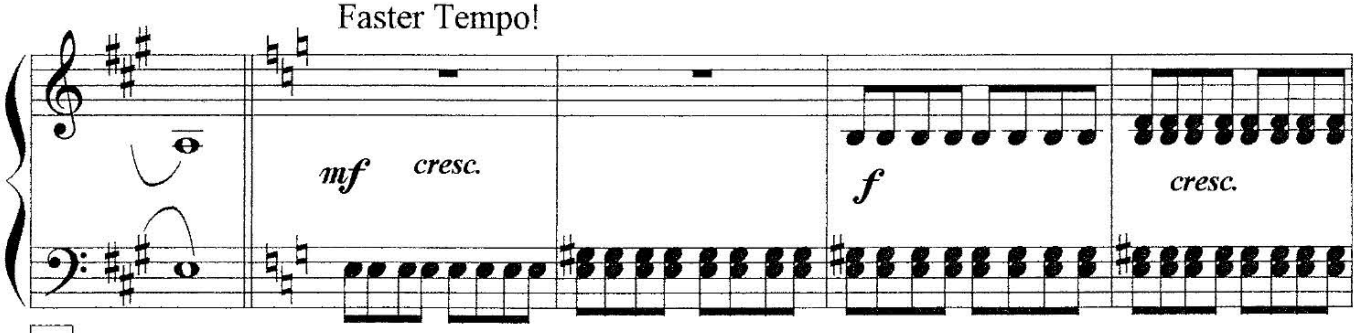
Faster Tempo!



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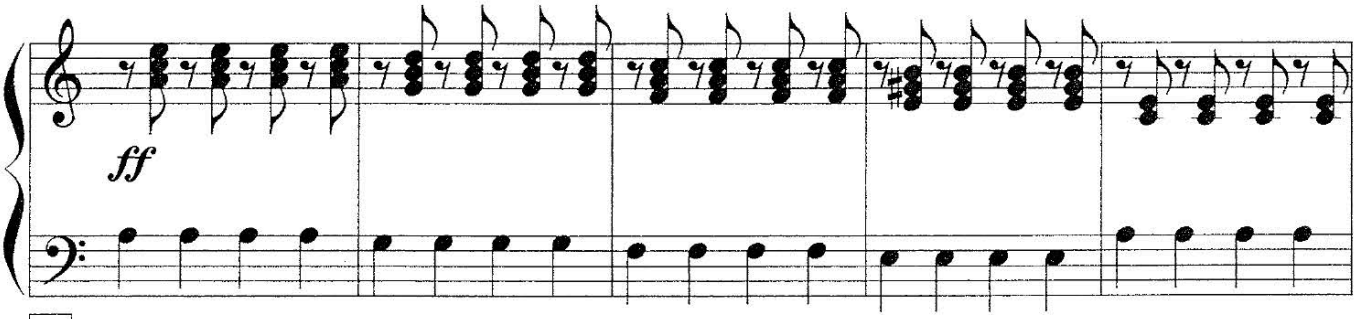

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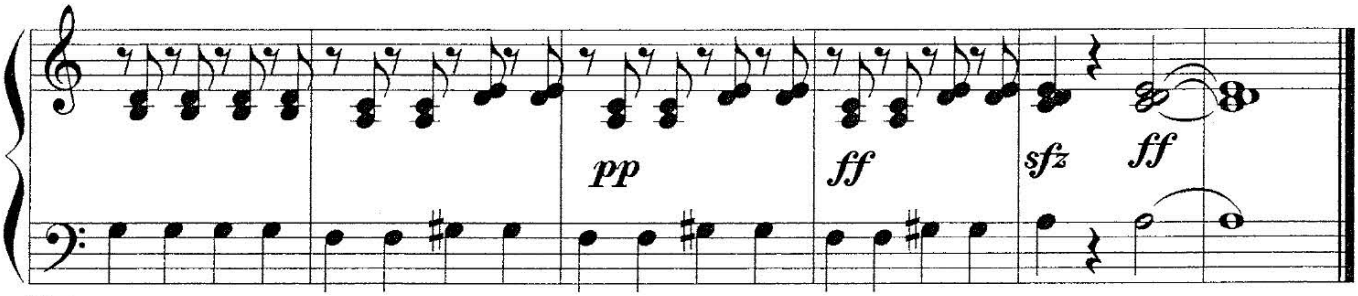

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MIDNIGHT ON BOGGY CREEK
PIANO 4

Shhhhhh! The creek is deceptively quiet!

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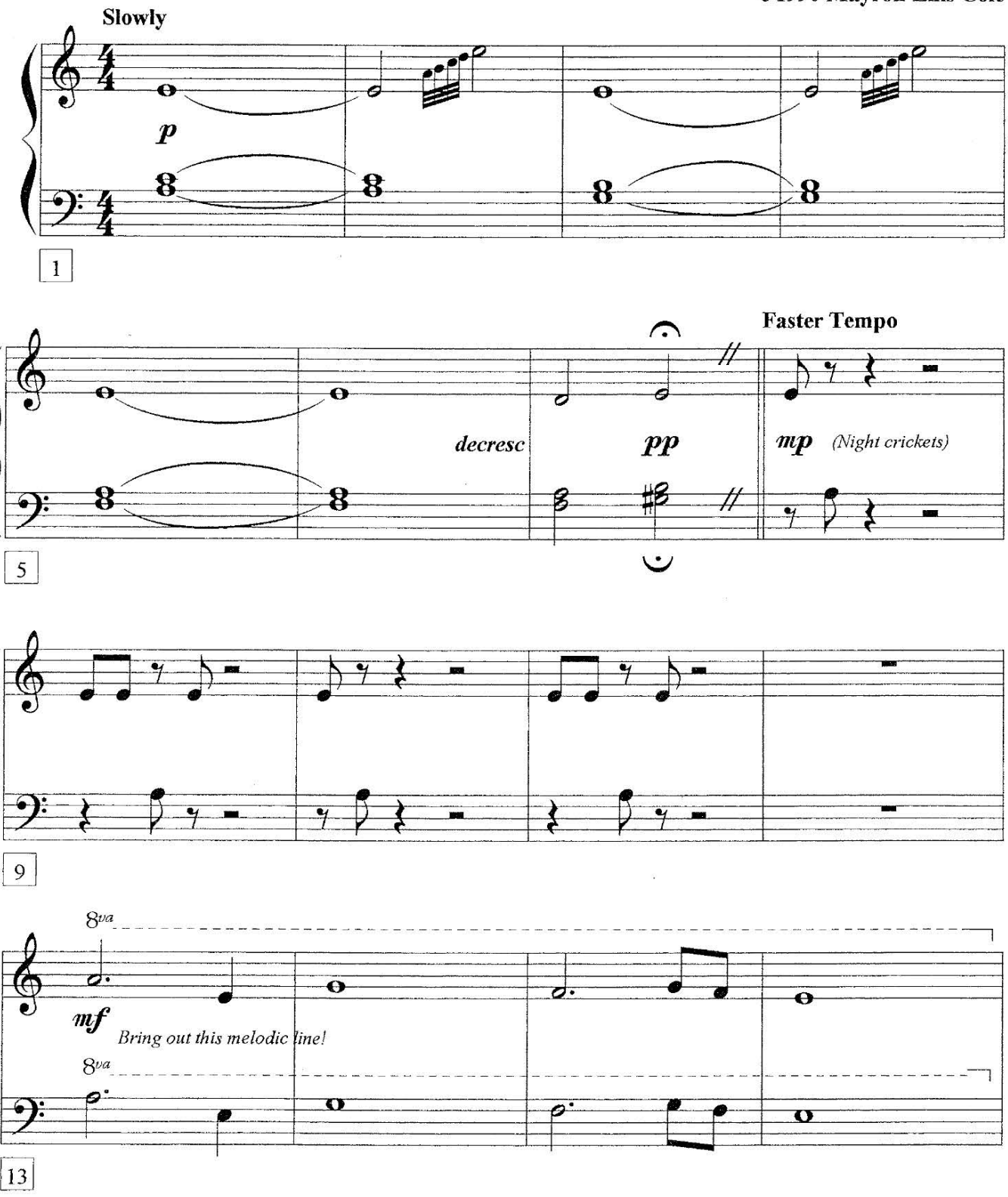

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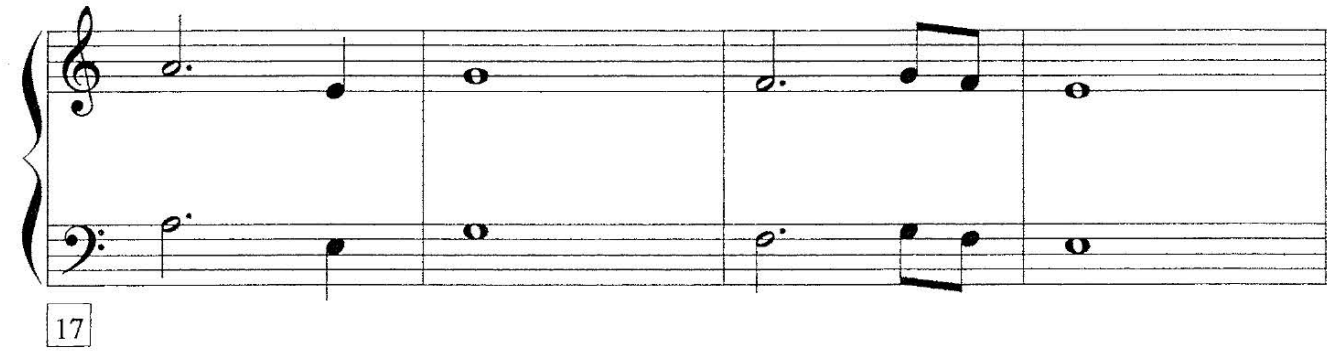

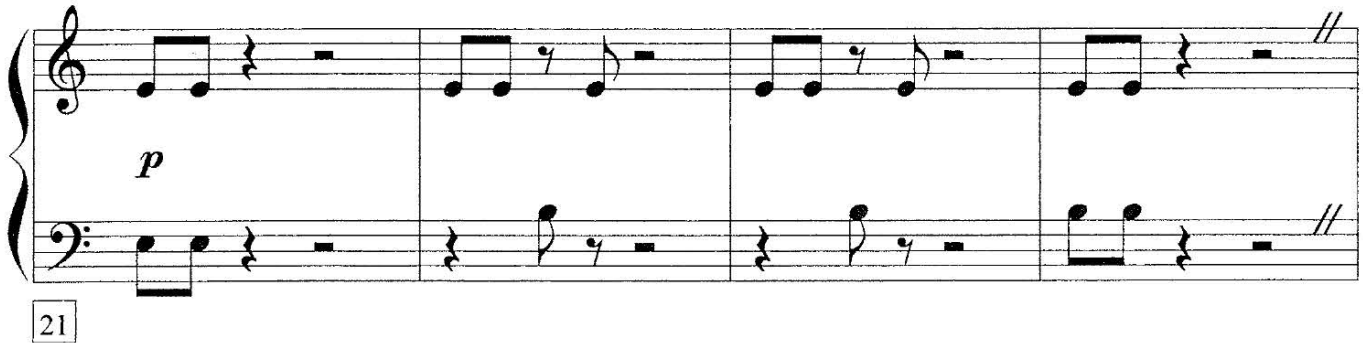

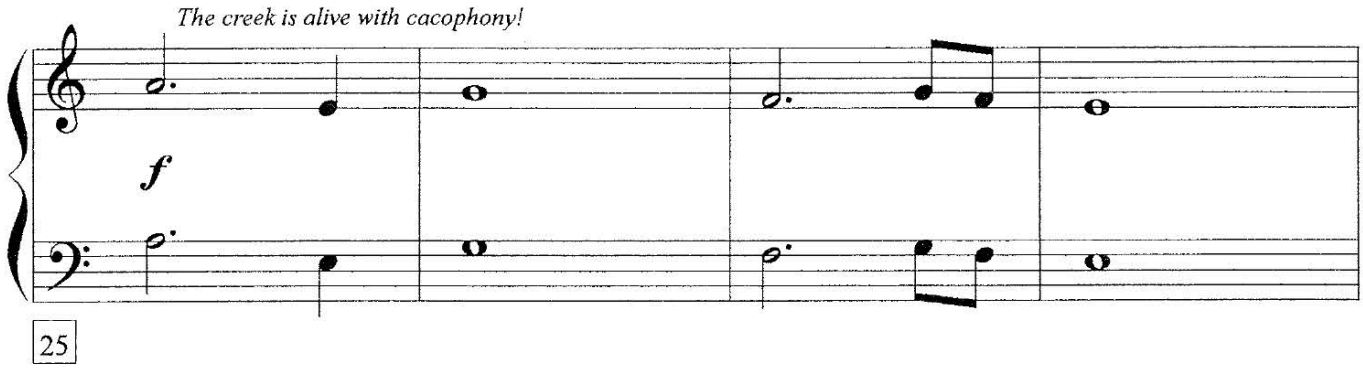

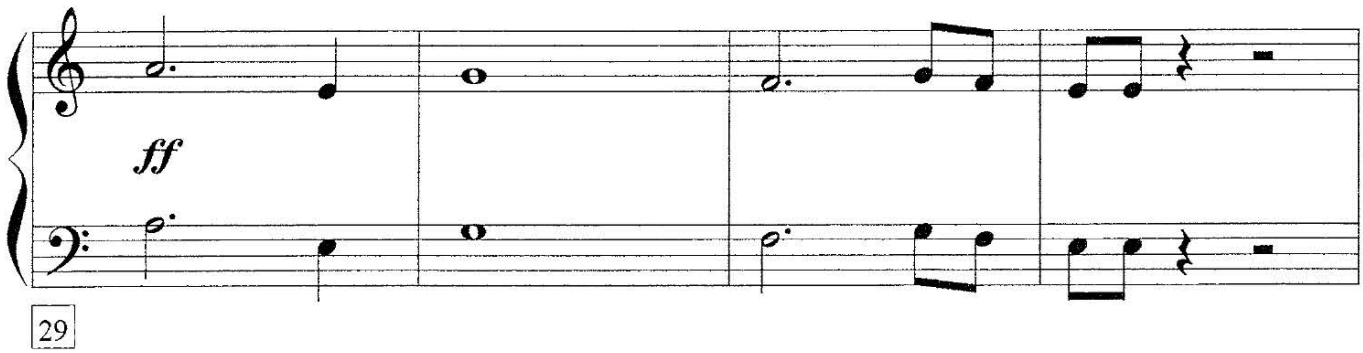

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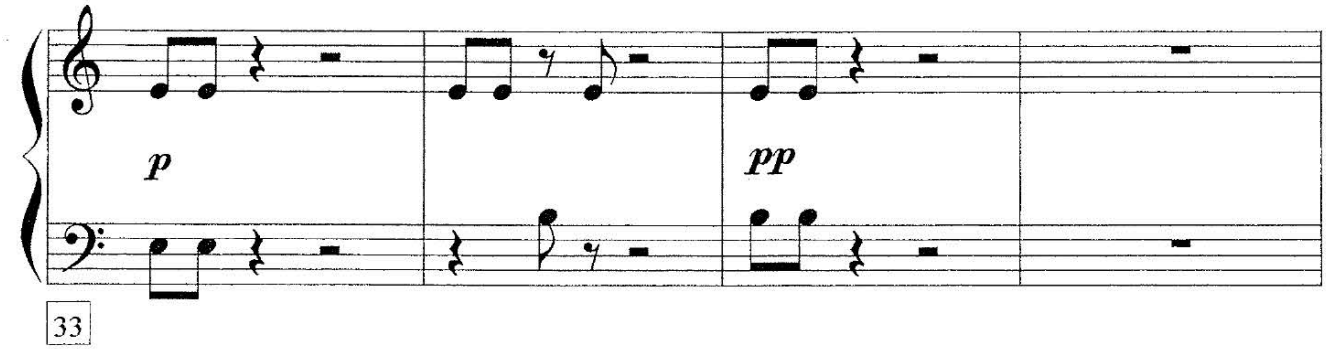
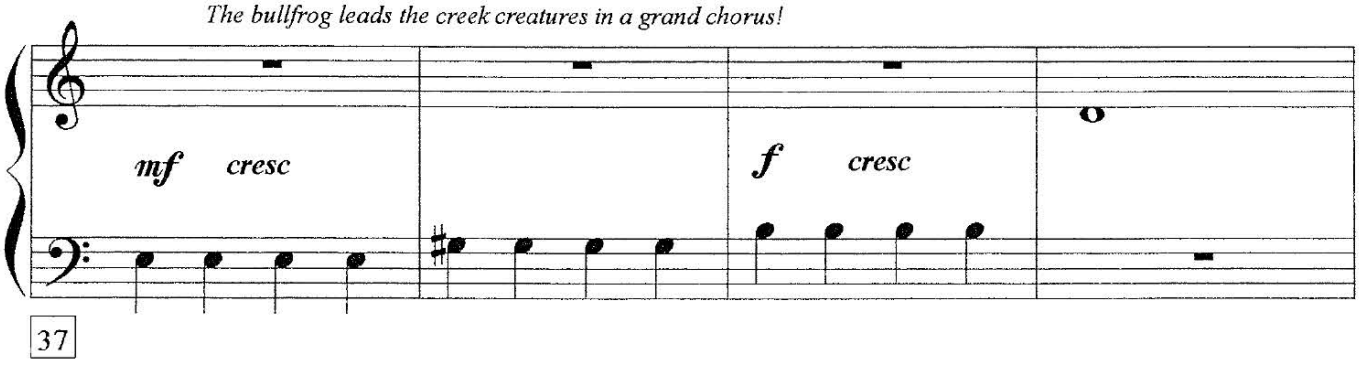
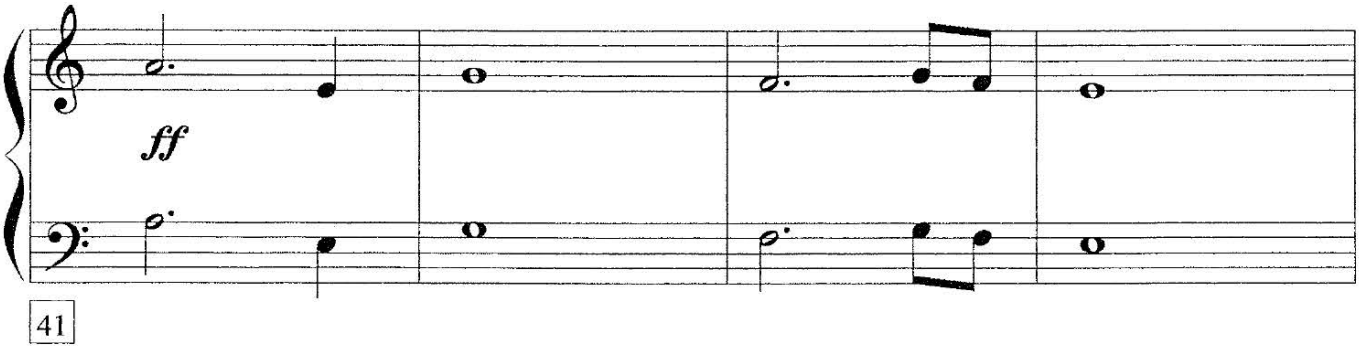
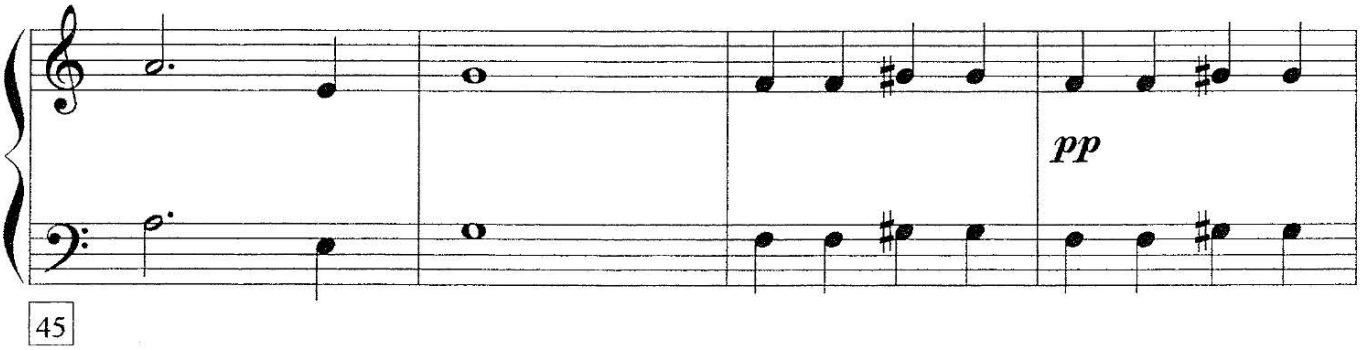


The bullfrog leads the creek creatures in a grand chorus!







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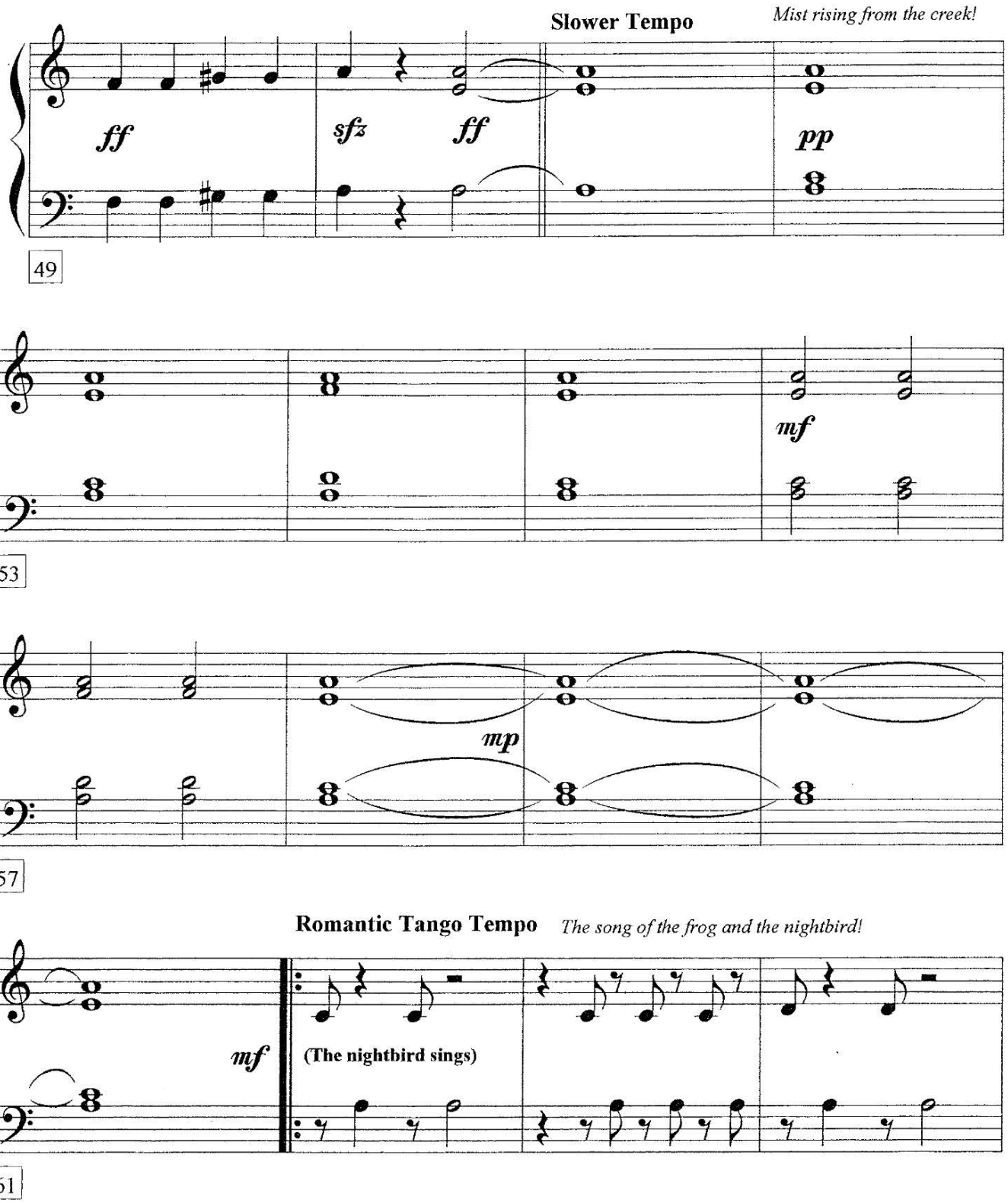

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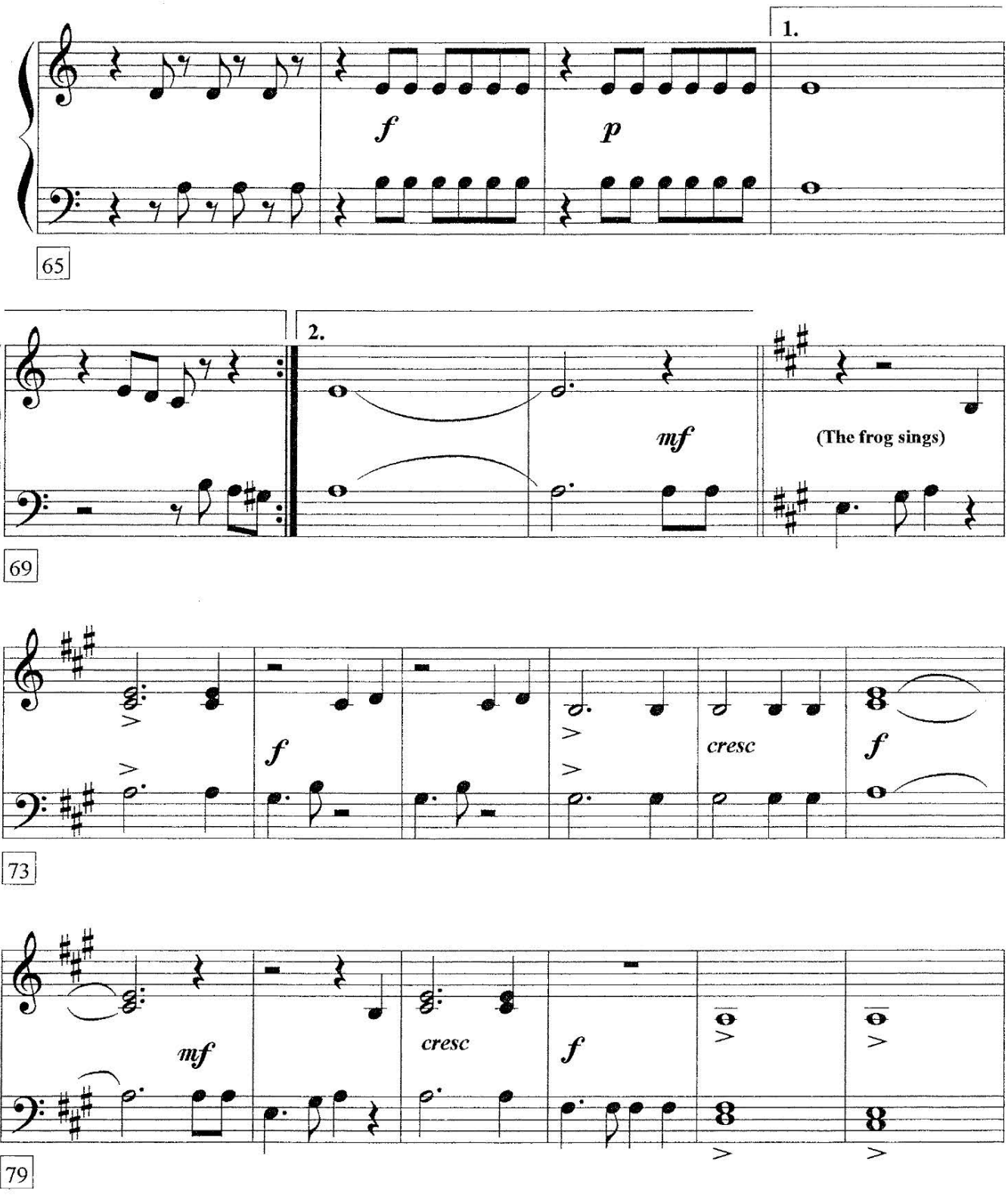

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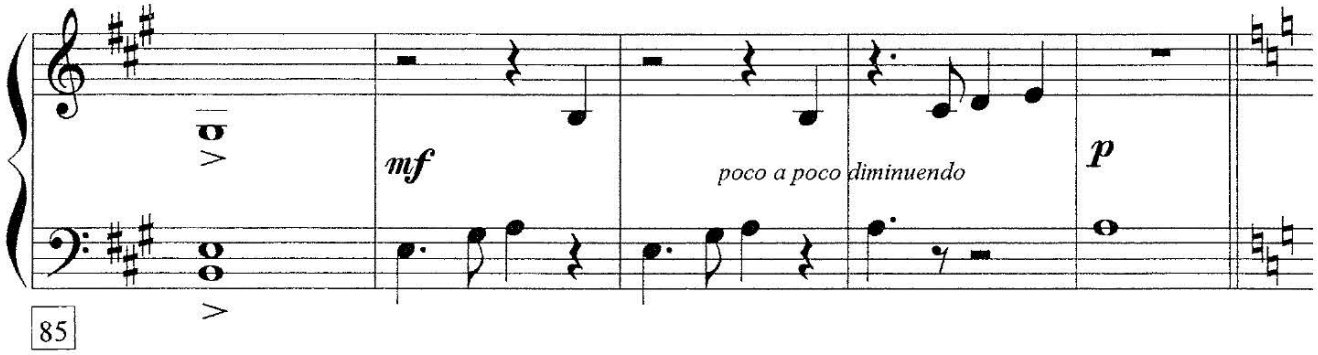

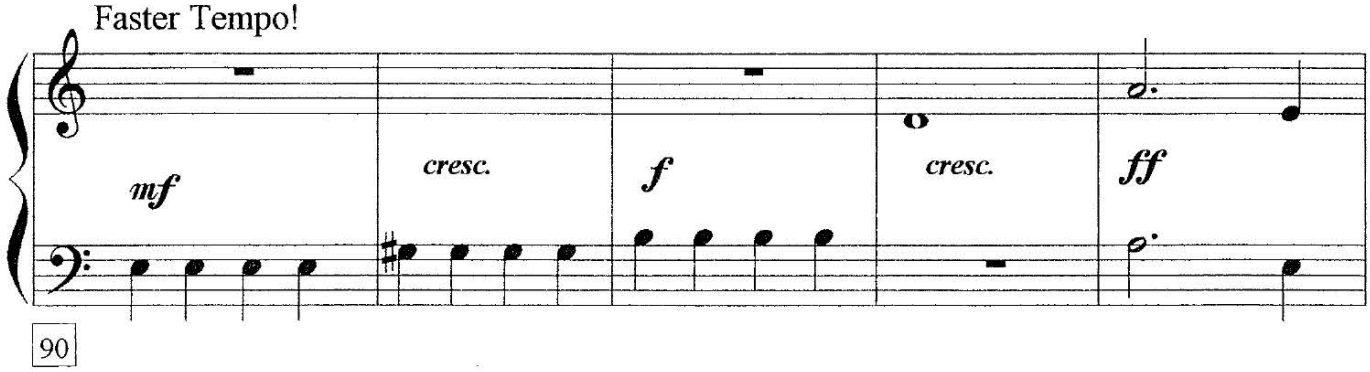

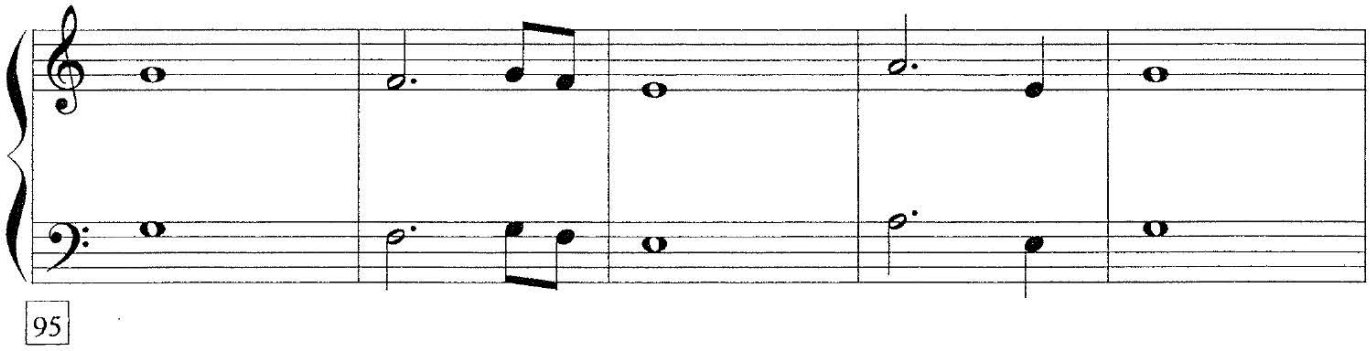

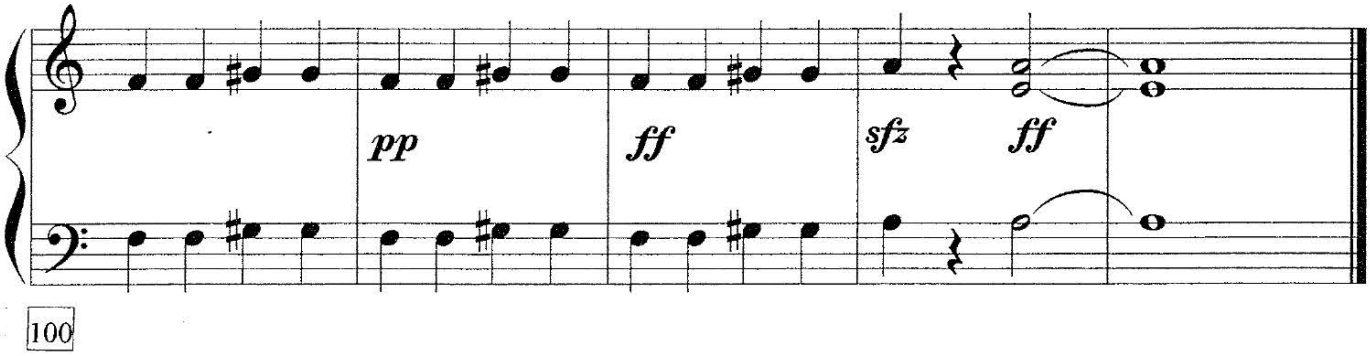

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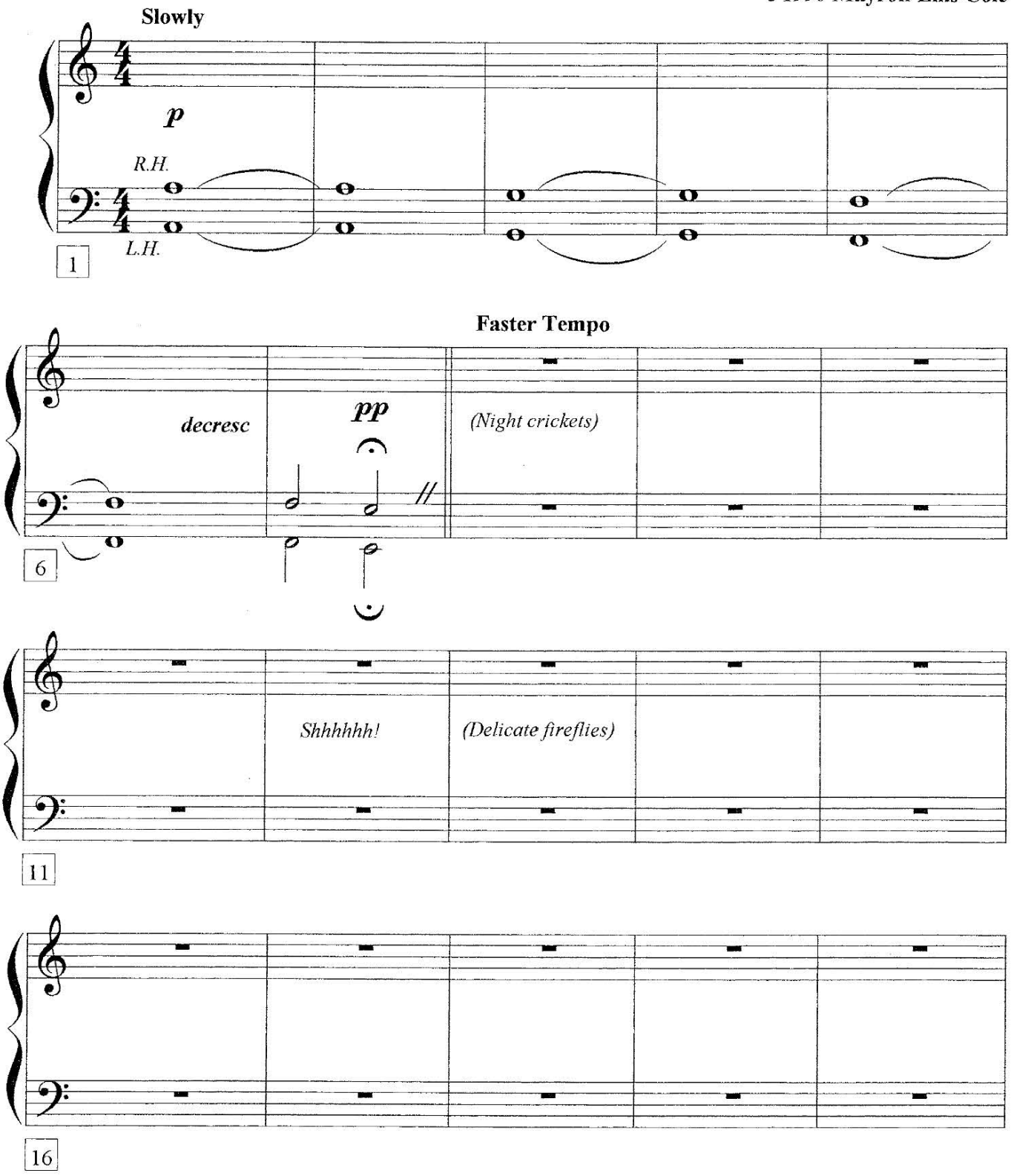
MIDNIGHT ON BOGGY CREEK
PIANO 5

Shhhhh! The creek is deceptively quiet!

c 1990 Mayron Ellis Cole



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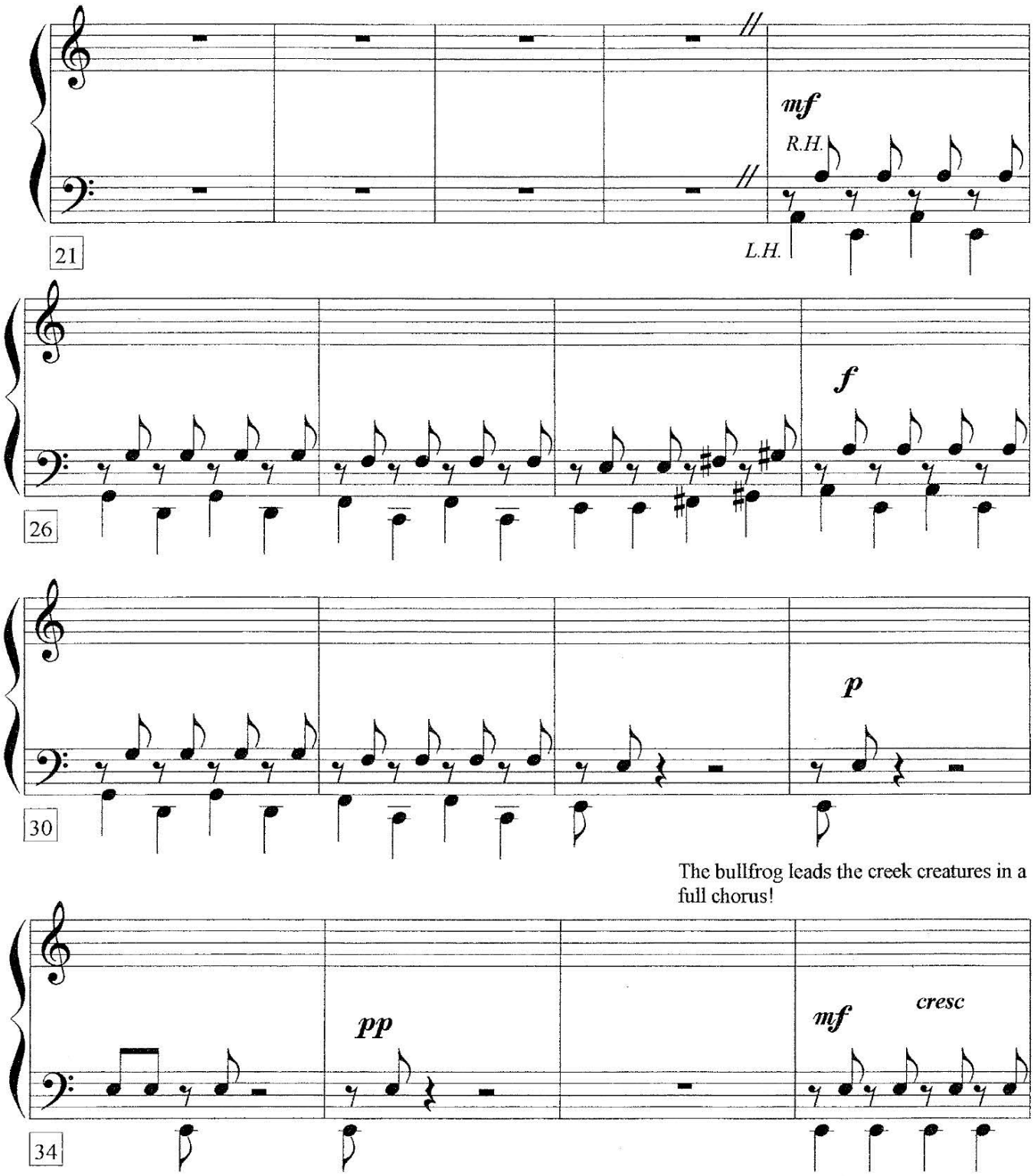
c The Mayron Cole Piano Method

The creek is alive with cacophony!



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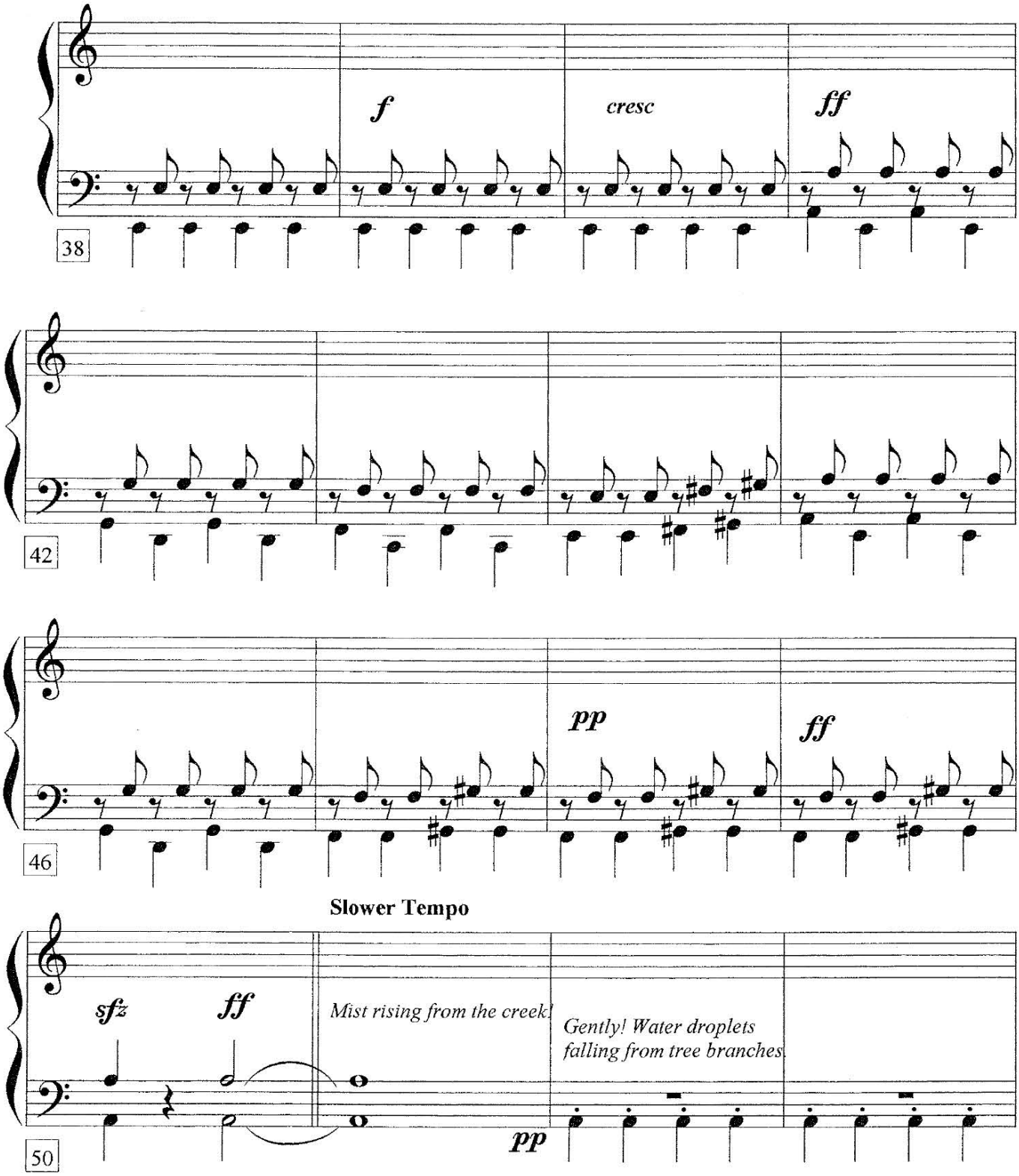

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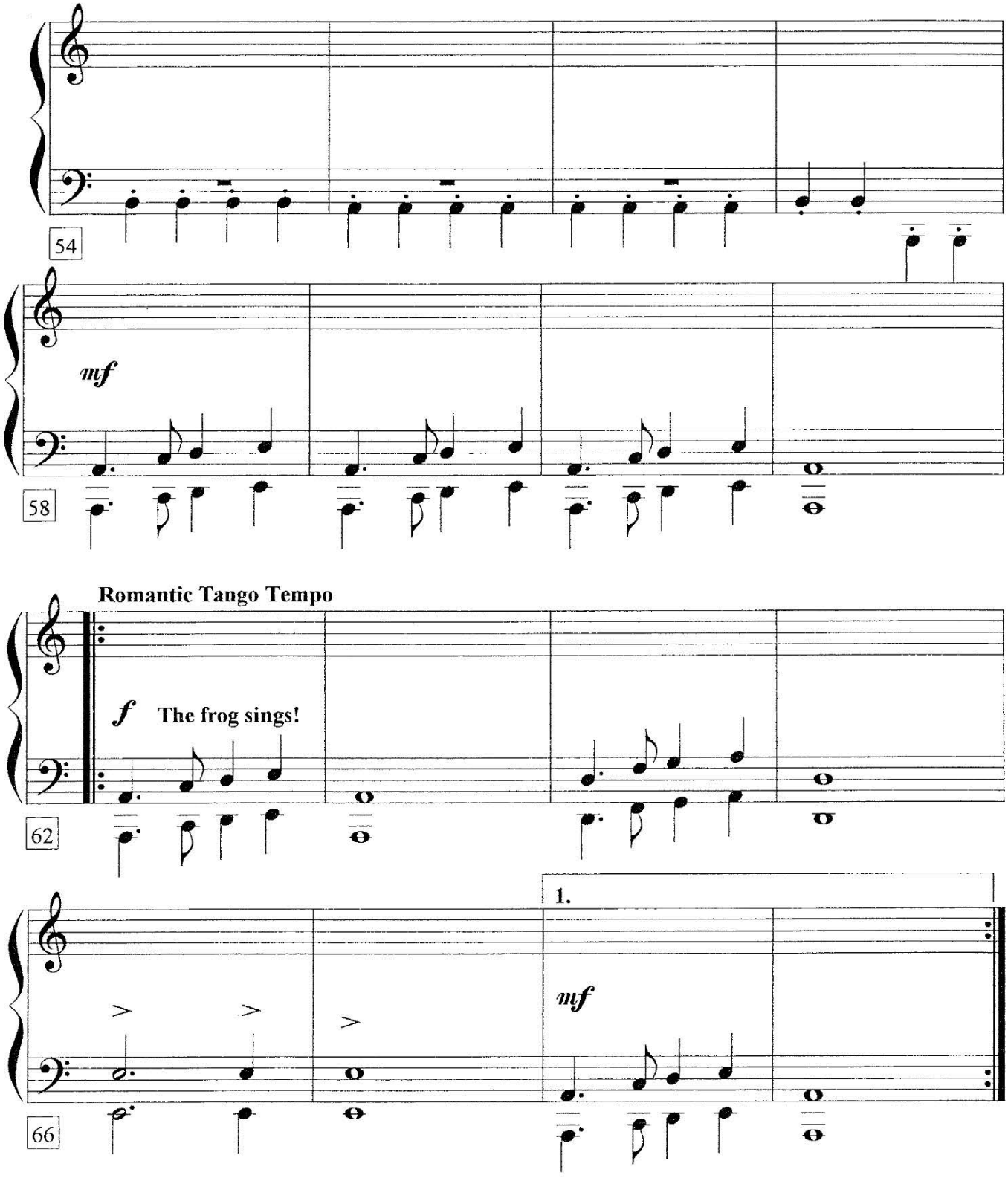

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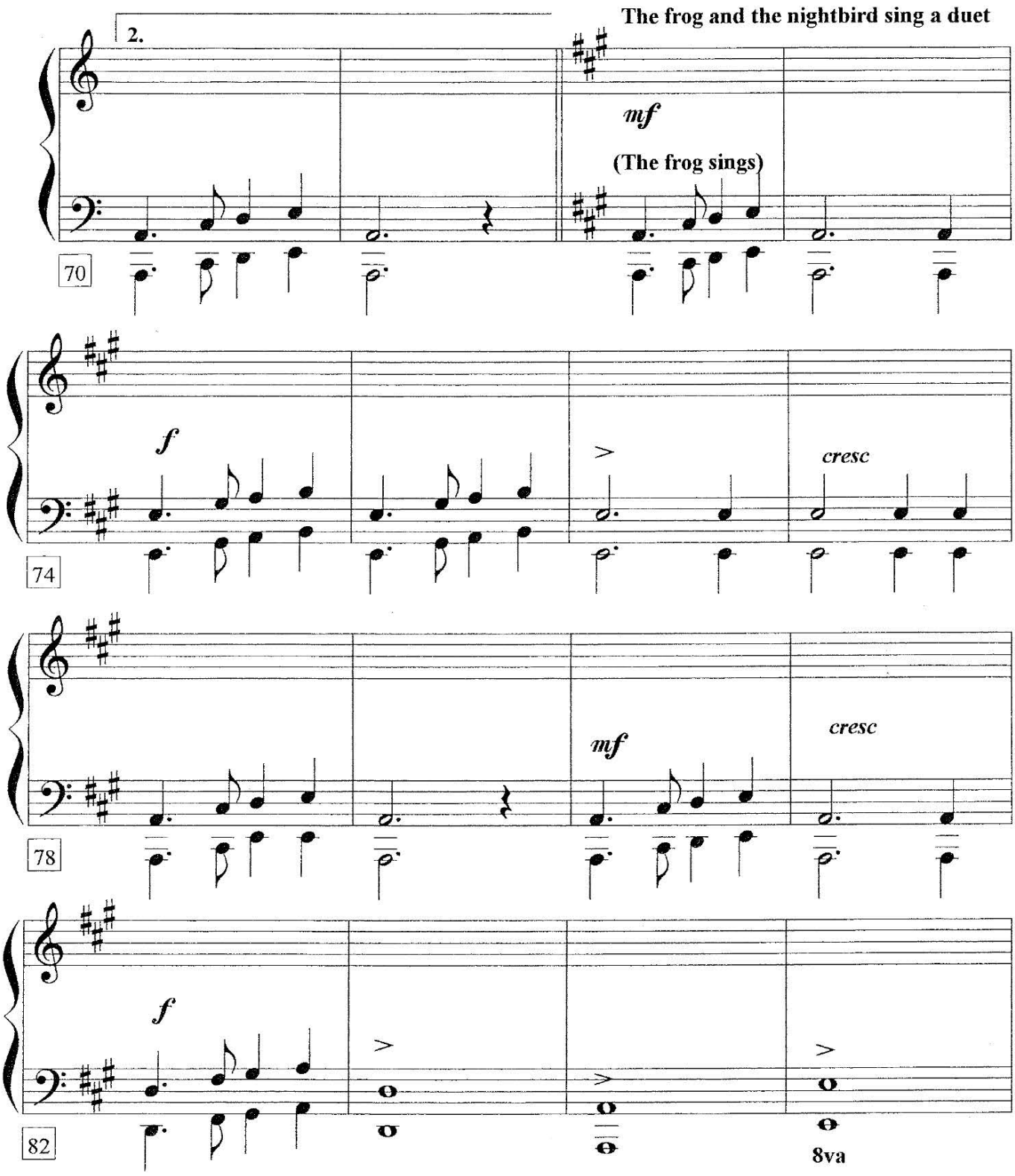

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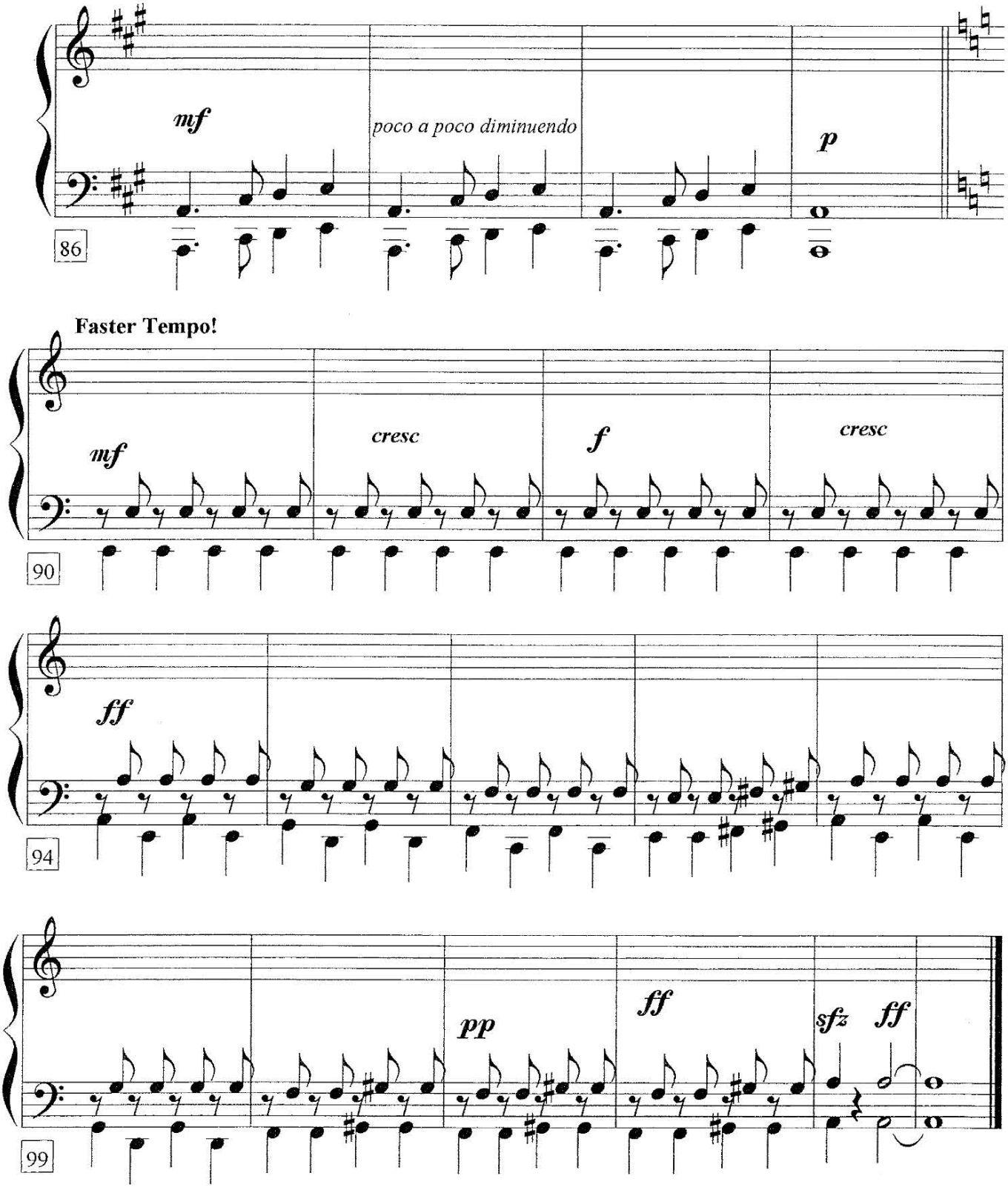

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