

To Harrison Birtwistle
in gratitude for recommending my work for the Finzi New Music Prize at the Music Department of the University of Reading UK, in 2004.

The sky is thin as paper here

Melvin Bird: Reading April 2003.
Revised 2015.

$\text{♩} = 100$ **Calm, flowingly.**
Dead leaves falling as we drive out to the farmhouse in the buckboard ... loft of the old barn,...

Piano

p warm and very focused.

p Con ped.

8

mp

More distant.
 $\text{♩} = 48$

15

ppp quasi legato.

8va

More forward motion.
 $\text{♩} = 60$

23

pp

8va

30

p

pp

p

pp

p

pp

35

mp f mp mf p

40

mp f p

Slower tempo.

45

pp f ppp pp poco cresc. $\text{♩} = 48$

*Tenuto marked notes
should be given a little
more emphasis.*

52

*light and
slightly
distant*

$\text{♩} = 48$

57

f pp p mf

Somewhat troubled.

3

62 $\text{♩} = 40$

pp

Fuller tone, rather imposing
and with more forward motion.

69 $\text{♩} = 72$

f

p poco cresc.

*Ped. each chord.
tre corde.*

una corda - tre corde.

77

mf

f

85

f molto cresc.

fff

With a more sad expression but no rubato.

92 *Con tutta forza.* $\text{♩} = 48$

fff

Left hand well articulated

p

una corda

105

Musical score for 'The Rose Tree' (1870). The score is in 2/4 time and consists of two staves. The melody is written in the upper staff, and the accompaniment is in the lower staff. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The melody features a series of eighth notes and quarter notes, with a prominent five-measure rest in the first measure. The accompaniment consists of a simple bass line with quarter and eighth notes.

110

mp

p mp

p

[illegible]

120 *fff.*

pppp *distantly.*

123 $\text{♩} = 48$

pp

p

The left hand remaining regular and distant.

129

The right hand hard and sustained.

ff

pp

135

pppp very distant.

139

mf

mp

Red. -

140

ppp very distant.

pp

Suddenly faster.

♩ = 108

142 *accel. molto.* *sffz* *fff* *fff anguished and hammered.*

ppp

*

♩ = 48 Slower tempo. Frightening.

146 ♩ = 60

8va *fff anguished and hammered.*

pppp very distant. *fff* *Sempre tre corde.*

151 *Rapid.* *fff* *pppp very distant.*

8va

Con tutta forza.

156 *fff* *8va* *Sempre tre corde.*

163 *Rapid.* *ppp* *molto.* *feroce.* *fff* ♩ = 120

8va *lh. & rh.*

Suddenly more playful and joyful.

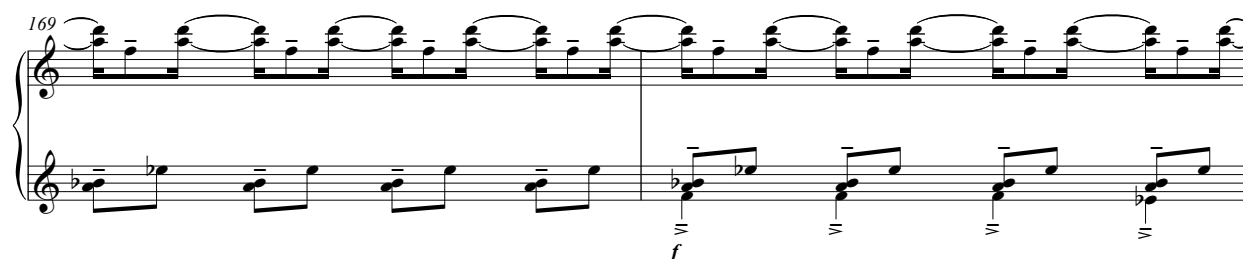
7

♩ = 120

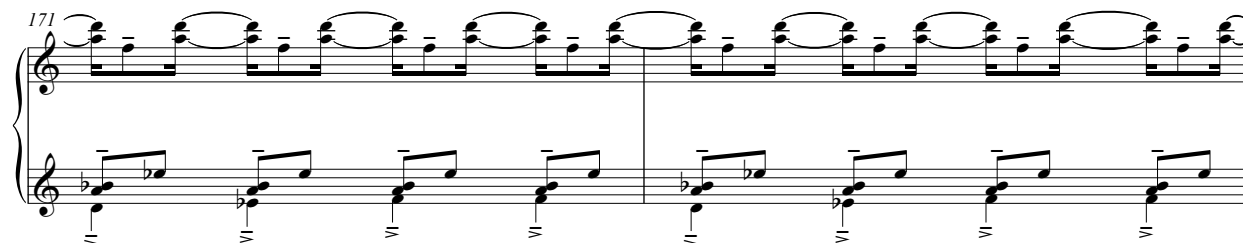
167 *pp*



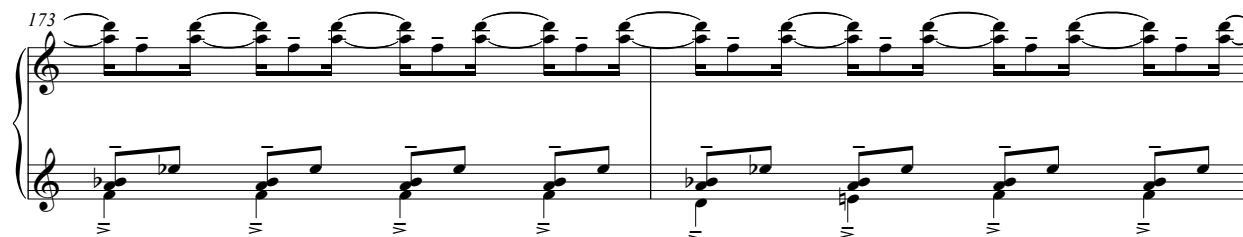
169



171

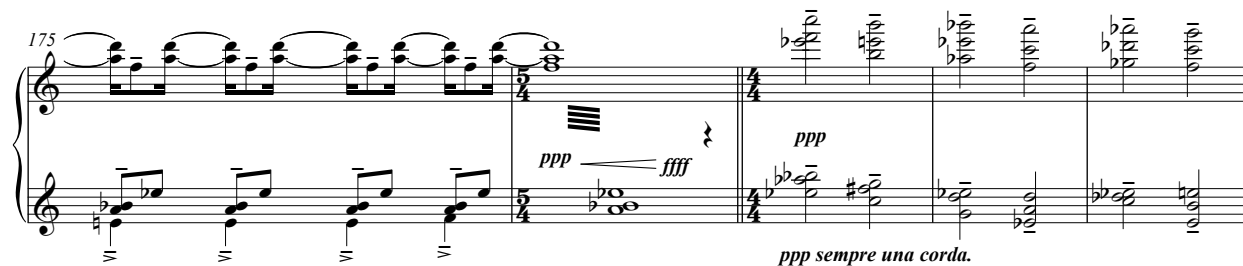


173



♩ = 40 Now slower and distant.

175



$\text{♩} = 60$ Sadly.

180

p cantabile.

$\text{♩} = 40$ $\text{♩} = 60$

186

ppp *p cantabile.*

192

Moving forward.

196

mf

$\text{♩} = 60$ ($\text{♩} = 30$)

Quasi meccanico (r. l.)

Poco rubato.

200

pppp *ppp* *pp*

202

pp *p* *mf*

204

mp *ppp*

209

$\text{♩} = 48$

f *p*

211

$\text{♩} = 72$

ff molto meccanico.

213

$\text{♩} = 90$ Very deliberate.

mf *f* *molto*

Quite manic.

216 *Very accented.*

Becoming more
and more Ecstatic! Rising
up to the blue.

217

220

223

227

Suddenly slower and very distant.

229 $\text{♩} = 40$

fff *ppp* *pppp*

u.c. Ped.

234 *Really fading away.* $\text{♩} = 90$

$\text{♩} = 90$ Suddenly more movement. $\text{♩} = 96-100$ Breaking into the blue! Becoming more and more ecstatic.

238 *ffff con tutta forza.* *molto* *fff* *ppp* *molto* *fff*

Sempre tre corde.

240 *f* *fff* *ppp* *molto* *fff* *f*

243 *fff* *pp* *fff* *ppp* *molto* *fff*

246

pppp

fff ppp

248

fff ppp

fff p

250

Like spinning!

pp

251

fff mf

252

pp

253

Measure 253: Treble clef, key of D major, 4/4 time. The right hand plays a continuous eighth-note pattern starting on D5. The left hand plays a continuous eighth-note pattern starting on D4. Dynamics: *fff* (left hand), *mf* (right hand). Measure 254: Treble clef, key of D major, 4/4 time. The right hand continues the eighth-note pattern. The left hand continues the eighth-note pattern. Dynamics: *fff* (left hand), *mf* (right hand).

254

Measure 254: Treble clef, key of D major, 4/4 time. The right hand plays a continuous eighth-note pattern starting on D5. The left hand plays a continuous eighth-note pattern starting on D4. Dynamics: *fff* (left hand), *pp* (right hand). Measure 255: Treble clef, key of D major, 4/4 time. The right hand continues the eighth-note pattern. The left hand continues the eighth-note pattern. Dynamics: *fff* (left hand), *pp* (right hand).

256

Measure 256: Treble clef, key of D major, 4/4 time. The right hand plays a continuous eighth-note pattern starting on D5. The left hand plays a continuous eighth-note pattern starting on D4. Dynamics: *fff* (left hand), *pp* (right hand). Measure 257: Treble clef, key of D major, 4/4 time. The right hand continues the eighth-note pattern. The left hand continues the eighth-note pattern. Dynamics: *fff* (left hand), *pp* (right hand).

258

Measure 258: Treble clef, key of D major, 4/4 time. The right hand plays a continuous eighth-note pattern starting on D5. The left hand plays a continuous eighth-note pattern starting on D4. Dynamics: *pp* (left hand), *pp* (right hand). Measure 259: Treble clef, key of D major, 4/4 time. The right hand continues the eighth-note pattern. The left hand continues the eighth-note pattern. Dynamics: *pp* (left hand), *pp* (right hand).

259

fff

fff

fff

5/4

5/4

5/4

260

pp

pp

261

f

f

f

262

pp

pp

263

musical score for measures 263-265. The system consists of three staves. The top staff is in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a common time signature. It contains a series of eighth-note chords, each marked with a downward-pointing 'v' and a fermata. The middle staff is in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps and a common time signature. It contains a series of eighth-note chords, each marked with a downward-pointing 'v' and a fermata. The bottom staff is in bass clef with a key signature of two sharps and a common time signature. It contains a series of eighth-note chords, each marked with a downward-pointing 'v' and a fermata. The measure numbers 263, 264, and 265 are indicated at the beginning of each staff.

264

musical score for measures 264-266. The system consists of three staves. The top staff is in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a common time signature. It contains a series of eighth-note chords, each marked with a downward-pointing 'v' and a fermata. The middle staff is in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps and a common time signature. It contains a series of eighth-note chords, each marked with a downward-pointing 'v' and a fermata. The bottom staff is in bass clef with a key signature of two sharps and a common time signature. It contains a series of eighth-note chords, each marked with a downward-pointing 'v' and a fermata. The measure numbers 264, 265, and 266 are indicated at the beginning of each staff.

265

musical score for measures 265-267. The system consists of three staves. The top staff is in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a common time signature. It contains a series of eighth-note chords, each marked with a downward-pointing 'v' and a fermata. The middle staff is in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps and a common time signature. It contains a series of eighth-note chords, each marked with a downward-pointing 'v' and a fermata. The bottom staff is in bass clef with a key signature of two sharps and a common time signature. It contains a series of eighth-note chords, each marked with a downward-pointing 'v' and a fermata. The measure numbers 265, 266, and 267 are indicated at the beginning of each staff.

266

fff

fff

fff

The musical score for 'The Rose Tree' is presented in three systems. The first system, measures 267-271, features a treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a common time signature. The melody is composed of eighth notes, with a final measure containing a quarter rest. The bass clef part consists of a single note, G2, which is sustained throughout the system. The second system, measures 272-276, continues the melody in the treble clef, with the bass clef part remaining on G2. The third system, measures 277-281, shows the melody in the treble clef and the bass clef part moving to a new note, F#2, which is sustained. The score is written in a standard musical notation style, with a key signature of two sharps and a common time signature.

The image shows a musical score for the song "The Rose Tree". It consists of three staves: a vocal line at the top, a piano accompaniment in the middle, and a bass line at the bottom. The key signature is one sharp (F#), and the time signature is 3/4. The score begins with a treble clef and a key signature change to one sharp. The vocal line features a melody with a high note (G5) and a low note (C4). The piano accompaniment includes a series of chords and a bass line with a triplet of eighth notes. The bass line starts with a triplet of eighth notes and a half note, followed by a long note. The score ends with a double bar line and a key signature change to one sharp.

269

Measures 269-270. The score is in 8/4 time with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). The music is marked *fff* (fortissimo). The right hand features a series of chords, each with a downward bowing or breath mark (v). The left hand has a triplet of eighth notes in measure 269, followed by a long, sustained chord in measure 270.

270

Measures 270-271. The score is in 8/4 time with a key signature of two sharps. The music is marked *fff*. The right hand continues with chords and downward marks. The left hand has a series of chords in measure 270, followed by a long, sustained chord in measure 271.

271

Measures 271-272. The score is in 6/4 time with a key signature of two sharps. The music is marked *fff*. The right hand continues with chords and downward marks. The left hand has a series of chords in measure 271, followed by a long, sustained chord in measure 272.

$\text{♩} = 40$

272

ffff

ffff *ppp*

Suddenly very distant.

ppp

Sempre una corda.

275

$\text{♩} = 72$

pp

mf

p

277

ppp

ff *ppp*

279

Measures 279-280. Measure 279: Treble clef, 2/2 time, *mf* dynamic. Chords: D4-F#4-A4 (quarter), E4-G4-B4 (quarter), C5 (half). Measure 280: Treble clef, 2/2 time. Chords: Bb4-D5-F#5 (quarter), C5 (half). Bass clef, 2/2 time. Chords: D3-F#3-A3 (quarter), E3-G3-B3 (quarter), C4 (half). Measure 281: Treble clef, 2/2 time. Chords: Bb4-D5-F#5 (quarter), C5 (half). Bass clef, 2/2 time. Chords: D3-F#3-A3 (quarter), E3-G3-B3 (quarter), C4 (half). Measure 282: Treble clef, 2/2 time. Chords: D4-F#4-A4 (quarter), E4-G4-B4 (quarter), C5 (half). Bass clef, 2/2 time. Chords: D3-F#3-A3 (quarter), E3-G3-B3 (quarter), C4 (half).

280

Measures 280-281. Measure 280: Treble clef, 2/2 time. Chords: Bb4-D5-F#5 (quarter), C5 (half). Bass clef, 2/2 time. Chords: D3-F#3-A3 (quarter), E3-G3-B3 (quarter), C4 (half). Measure 281: Treble clef, 2/2 time. Chords: Bb4-D5-F#5 (quarter), C5 (half). Bass clef, 2/2 time. Chords: D3-F#3-A3 (quarter), E3-G3-B3 (quarter), C4 (half).

281

Measures 281-282. Measure 281: Treble clef, 2/2 time. Chords: Bb4-D5-F#5 (quarter), C5 (half). Bass clef, 2/2 time. Chords: D3-F#3-A3 (quarter), E3-G3-B3 (quarter), C4 (half). Measure 282: Treble clef, 2/2 time. Chords: D4-F#4-A4 (quarter), E4-G4-B4 (quarter), C5 (half). Bass clef, 2/2 time. Chords: D3-F#3-A3 (quarter), E3-G3-B3 (quarter), C4 (half).

282

Measures 282-283. Measure 282: Treble clef, 2/2 time. Chords: D4-F#4-A4 (quarter), E4-G4-B4 (quarter), C5 (half). Bass clef, 2/2 time. Chords: D3-F#3-A3 (quarter), E3-G3-B3 (quarter), C4 (half). Measure 283: Treble clef, 2/2 time. Chords: D4-F#4-A4 (quarter), E4-G4-B4 (quarter), C5 (half). Bass clef, 2/2 time. Chords: D3-F#3-A3 (quarter), E3-G3-B3 (quarter), C4 (half).

20 Suddenly more joyful.

283

l.h.

ff

f

284

285

fff

3

286

ff

287

Suddenly more dark and sinister.

288 $\text{♩} = 40$

290

He is sitting there with me, cloud shadows moving across his face,
ghostly smell of flowers and damp earth ... florist shop by the vacant lot ...
dim dead boy.... The sky is thin as paper here.

$\text{♩} = 60$ **Slower than before, more distant.**

293

301

p

308

$\text{♩} = 72$

315

p tenuto ma espressivo.

324

$\text{♩} = 60$

Calm motion to the end.

331

ppp

335

338

341

345

347