Studies in Song

New *Standards* for Piano

Ned Gerhart

Second edition
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This second edition includes three pieces not present in the 2006 edition.

CG SERVICES CATALOGING-IN-PUBLICATION DATA
Gerhart, Ned, 1959-
Studies in song : new standards for piano / Ned Gerhart. Second edition. Seattle, WA : Ned Gerhart Publications, ©2017.
1 score (179 pages) ; 28 cm
Includes index.
ISMN 979-0-90120105-7
1. Piano music. 2. Piano music--Teaching pieces. 3. Popular instrumental music. I. Title: New standards for piano.
M25.G46 S7 2017

Preface

This book is the result of a hobby I stumbled on in 1990. The nice thing about creating something as a hobbyist is that you don't have to please anyone's taste besides your own. When one's own satisfaction with the result is all that matters, artistic development becomes like the evolution of life in the Galapagos Islands. Without exposure to the homogenizing effect which regular criticism or concerns for merchantability might produce, an artist who is an independent hobbyist, remote from cares beyond his own happiness, is arguably more inclined to develop an individual, eccentric style, at least if he continues to stay with it long enough. I have been doing my piano music thing alone in obscurity for sixteen years. Now that you have come upon my island, I hope you will be able to enjoy whatever special uniqueness I have managed to evolve.

I have used very few instructions or dynamic markings in the music. You are an artist too, and I know you have good taste. The indication *swing-style 8th notes* means that eighth notes should not be played with the usual 50/50 division per beat, they should be played more like 60/40 per beat. And go ahead and use the pedal as much as you want.

N.G.
July, 2006

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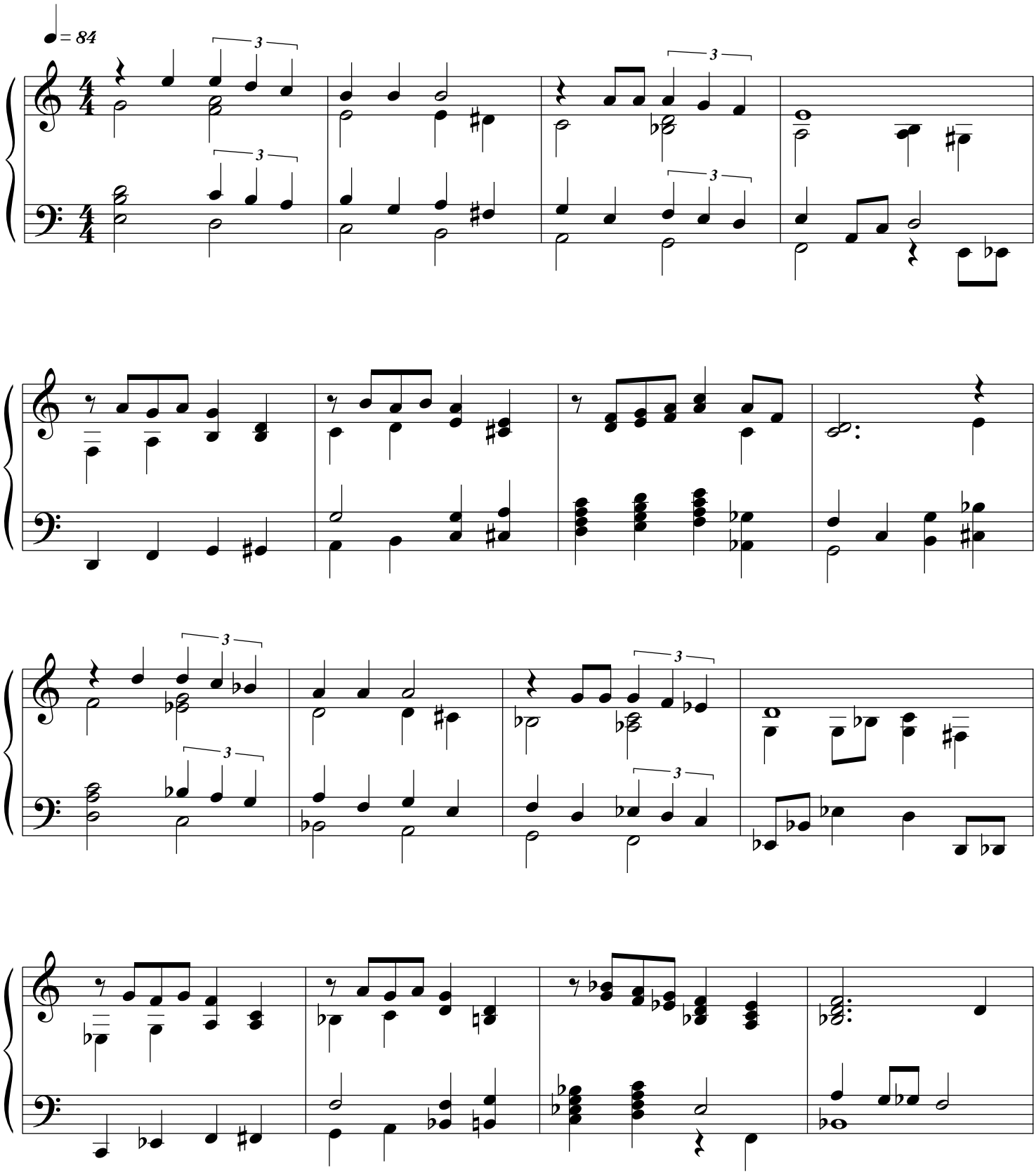
Candles in the Moonlight

This is one of my best melodies! It features an ordinary "AABA" form, but I am rather pleased with the way the first two sections are actually in different keys. Of course you will see that right off, but the shift is so subtle that I believe listeners hardly notice anything unusual happening.



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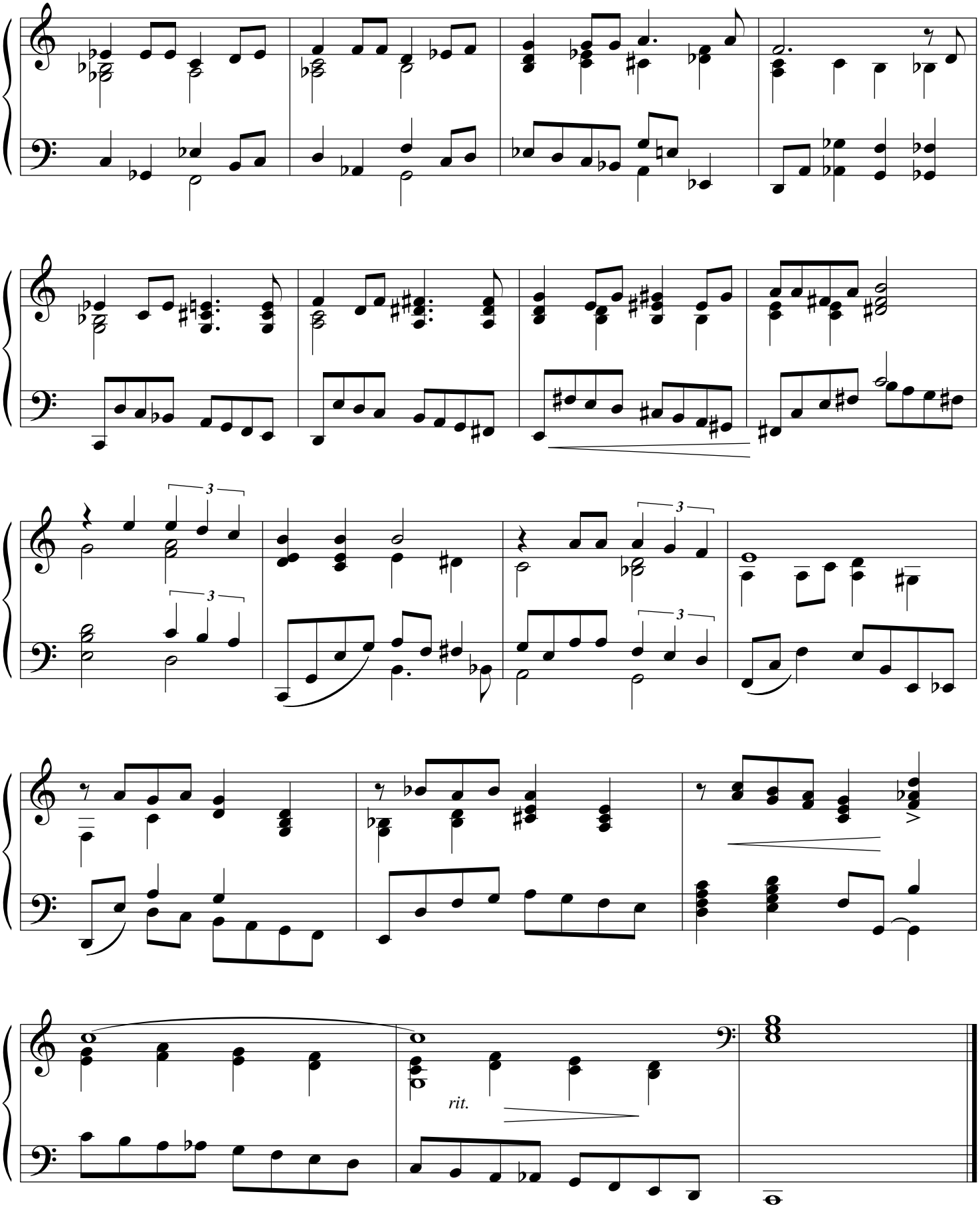
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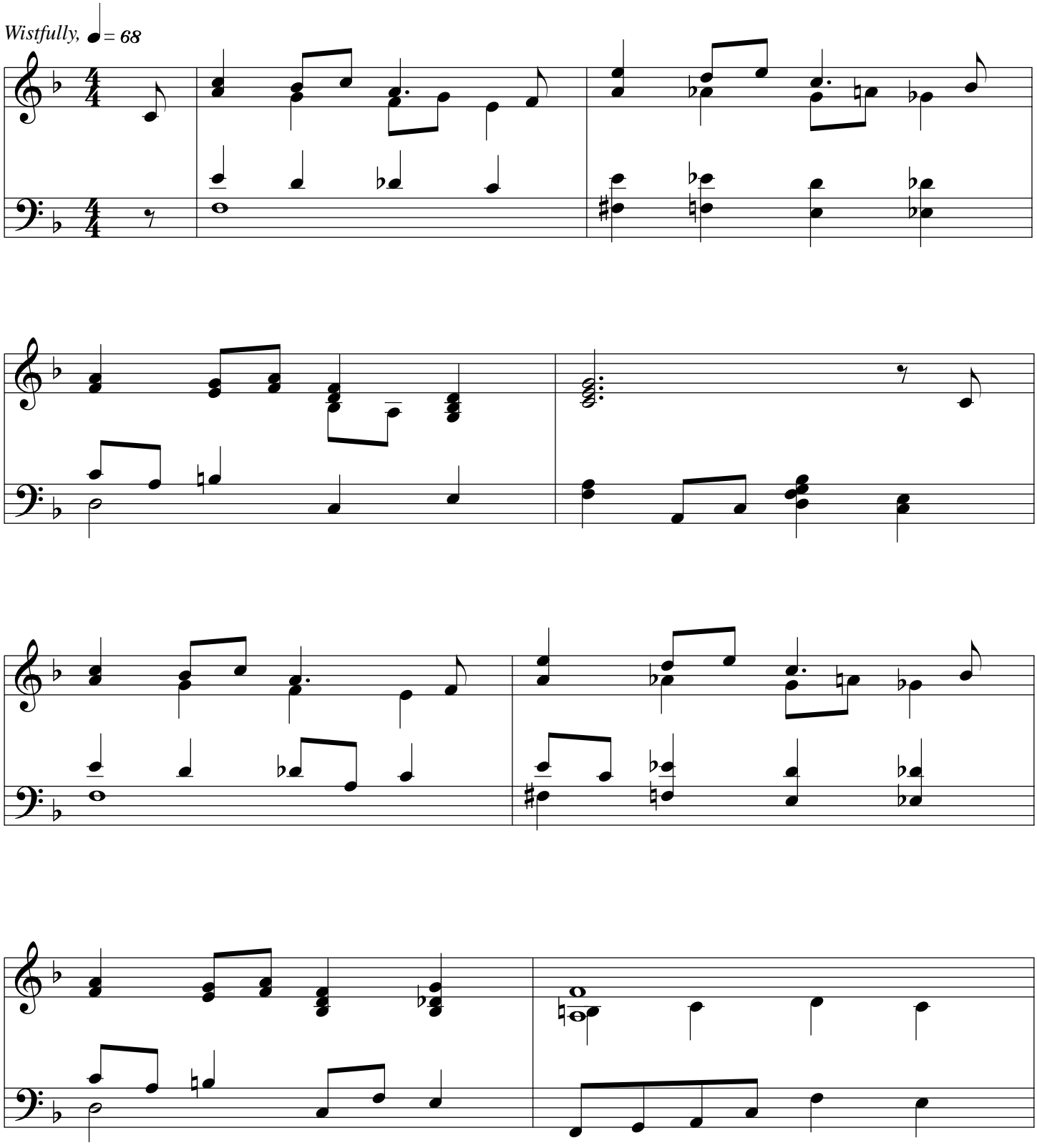
October in Paris

Ah, October in Paris, chestnut leaves falling... This AABA-form tune is only 16 bars long because I chose to use 4/4 time rather than 2/2, which would have been the traditional choice. Before continuing after the sustained chord three measures from the end, I like to take a long, deep breath and feel the hair on my neck stand up a moment.



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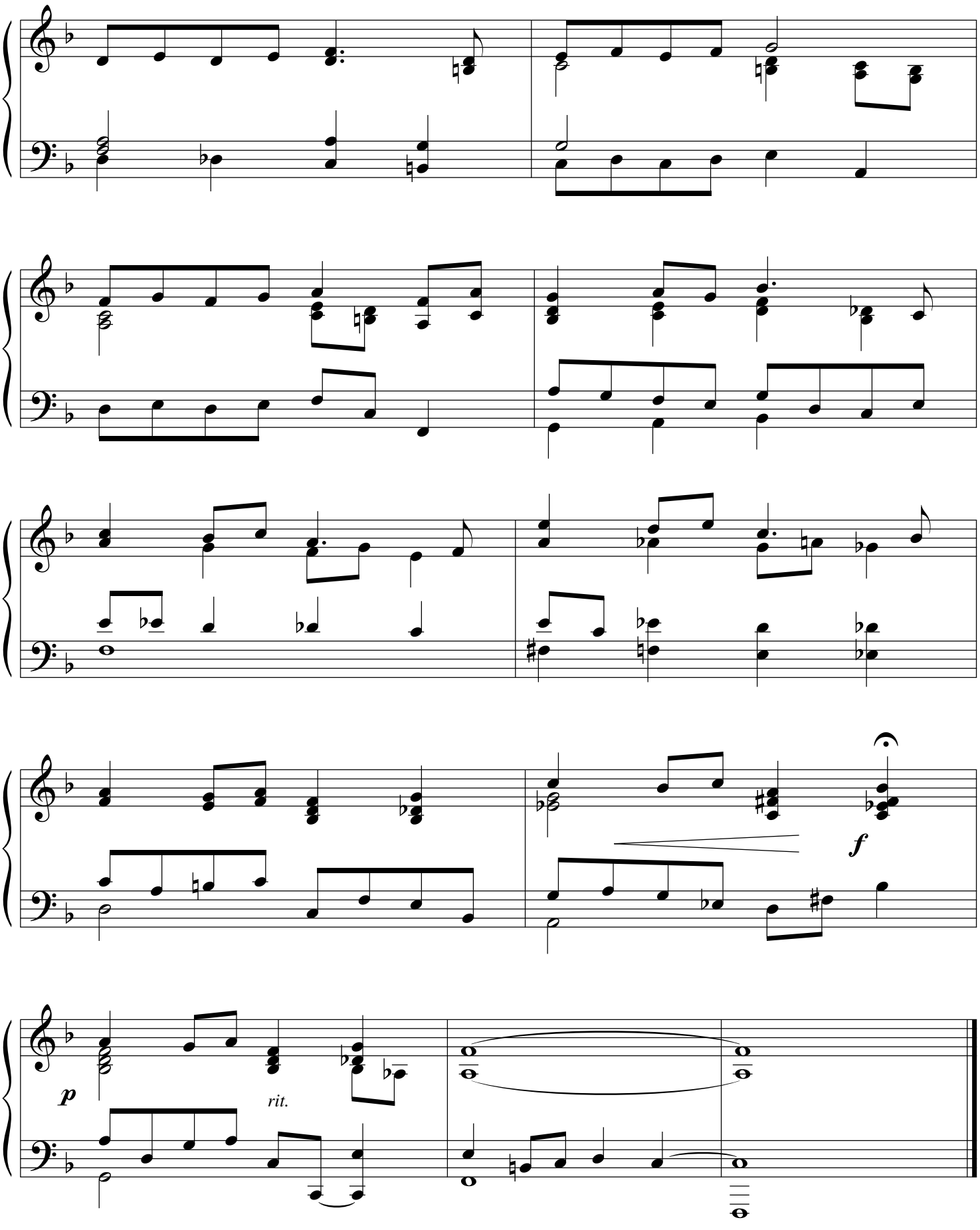
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