Kumbukumbu

for

Marimba

Philip Herbert

Programme Notes

The title of this piece is taken from a Swahili word which means, commemoration. I thought this would be a fitting title for the collection of 200 pieces for the Royal Academy of Music's Bicentenary celebrations.

The structure of this piece is in three sections (A B A). The musical themes in the outer sections are repeated, but sometimes slightly varied, emulating the ebb and flow of repeated visions and recollections of human experience, past and present. The left hand bass part undulates rhythmically over 3 different chords across the first four bars. After this, the left hand continues, whilst the right hand part (in the treble clef) responds with a theme which is song like in character, reflective in mood, being made up of intervals of the sixth. The theme is repeated again, but there is some slight variation in each part. The first 21 bars of this piece are in A minor, after which the music modulates to F major for the middle section. Here the mood is much brighter, with dialogue between the left and right hand parts continuing, but with new contrasting thematic material, with a lilting, joyful, dance-like character. The music modulates back to A minor, where there is a recapitulation of thematic material that was presented in the opening section of this piece. It finishes with another statement of music from the first four bars.

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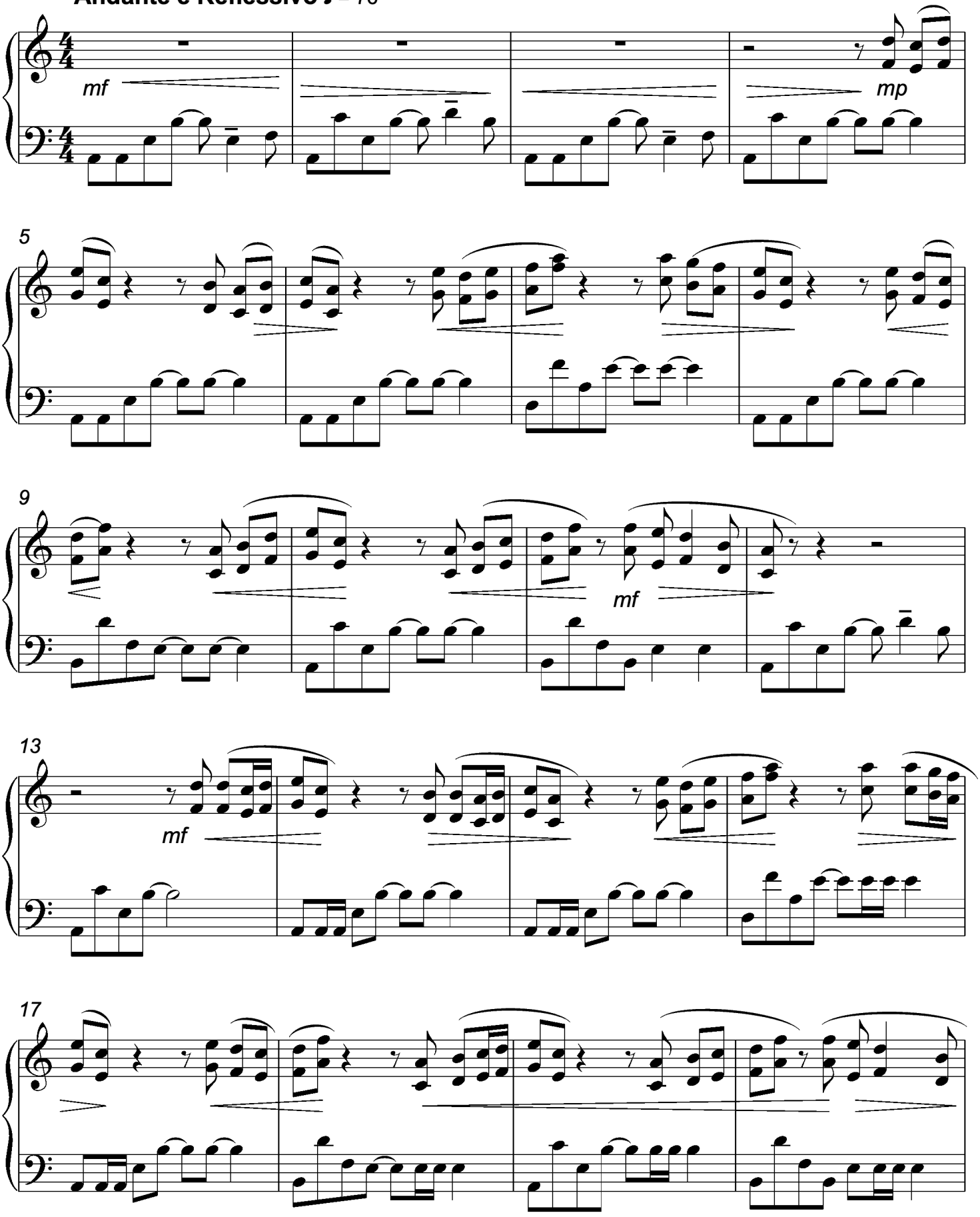
Kumbukumbu*

Philip Herbert

Andante e Reflessivo ♩ = 76



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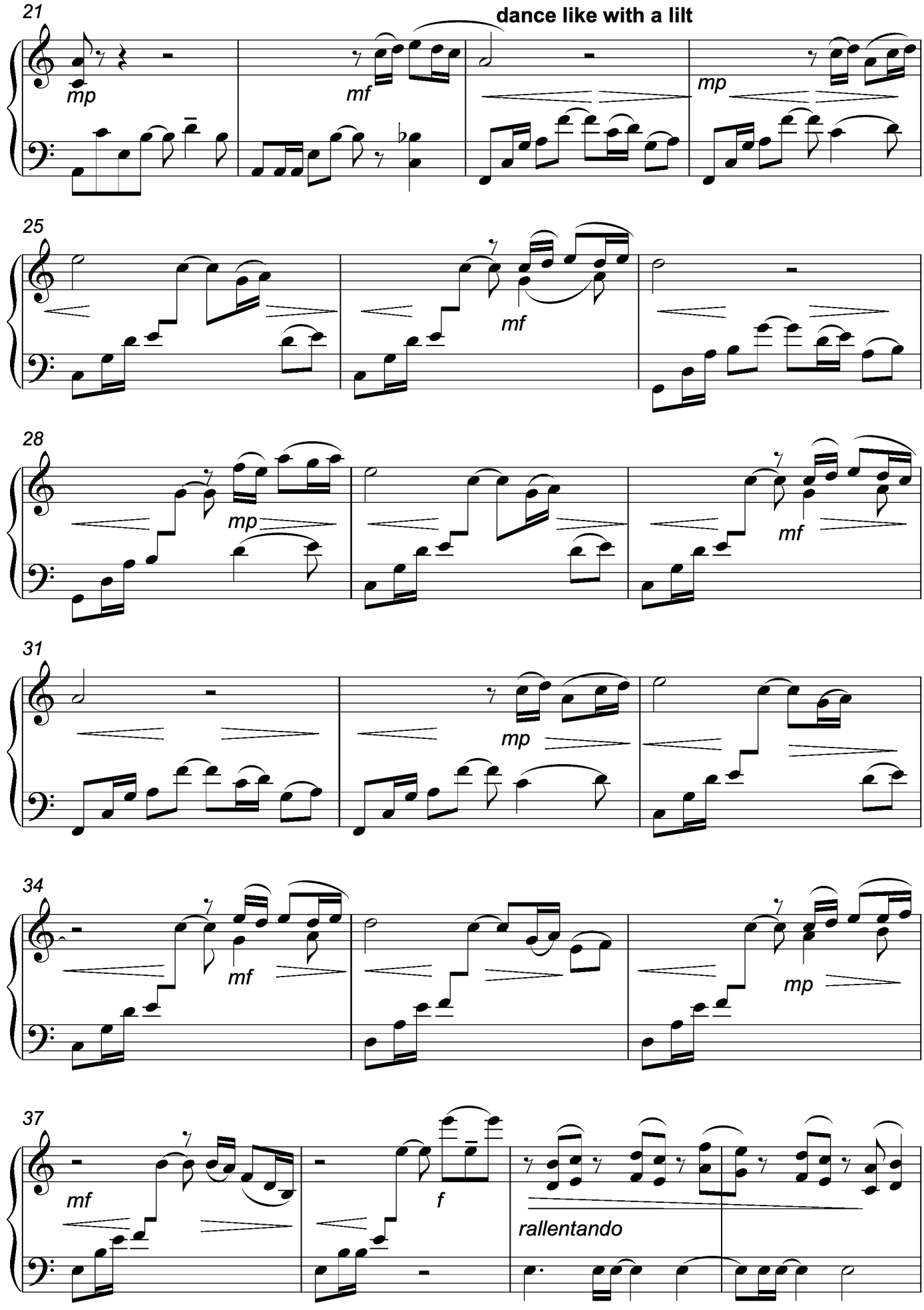
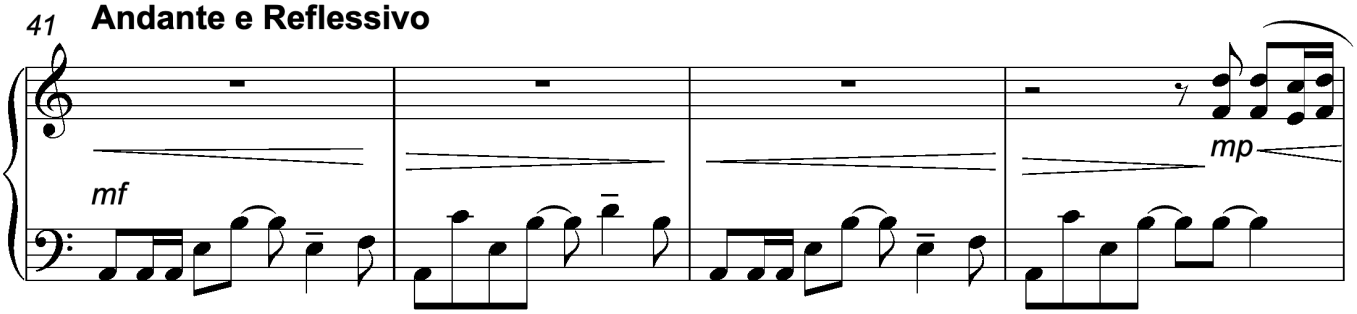

21
dance like with a lilt
mp
mf
mp
25
mf
28
mp
mf
31
mp
34
mf
mp
37
mf
f
rallentando

41 **Andante e Reflessivo**



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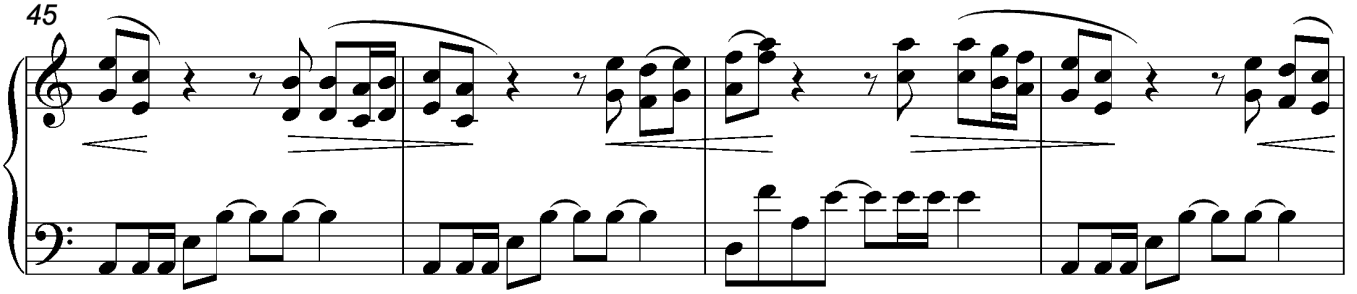

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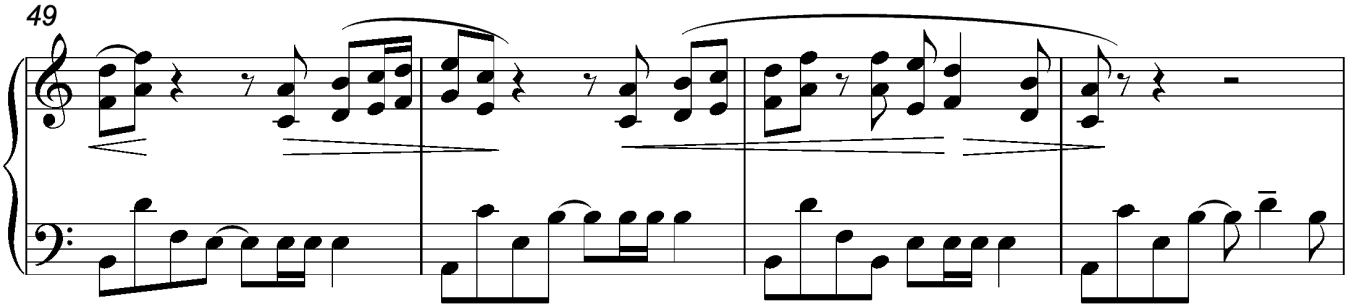

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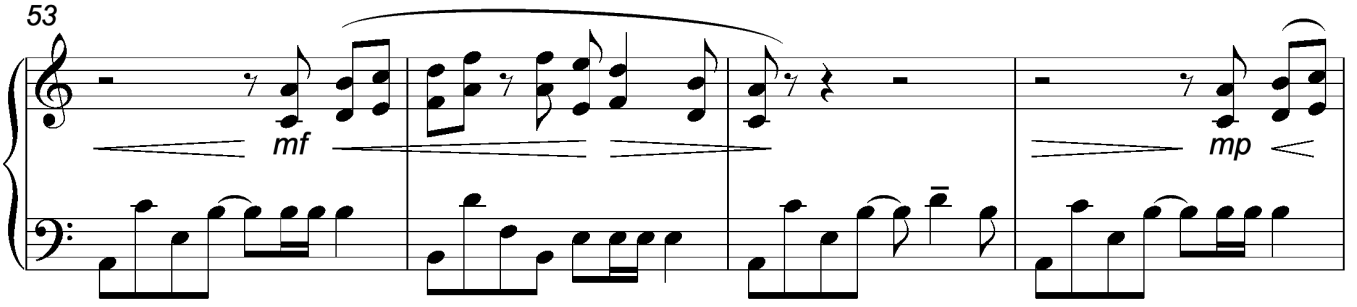

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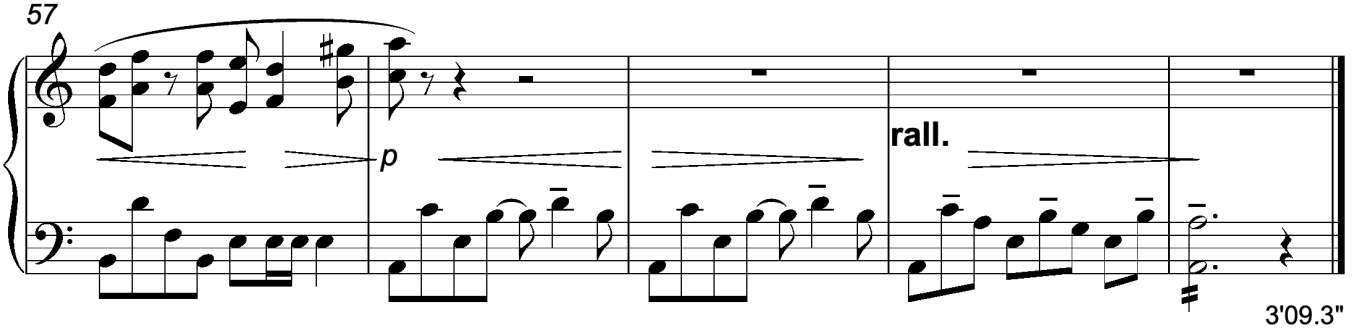

3'09.3"

* in Swahili meaning 'Commemoration'