

A scenic landscape of autumn foliage reflected in a pond, with a traditional Japanese pavilion on the right. The scene is captured in a circular vignette, with the background showing a forest of trees in various shades of green, yellow, and red. The foreground shows a pond with a reflection of the trees and a small wooden pavilion on the right side. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and serene.

紅葉

Koyo

(Autumn's Changing Leaves)

for solo piano

Sharif Labban

2013

## Inspiration and Narrative

This piece is inspired by autumn's metamorphosis into winter. When playing this piece, you are communicating the following narrative. (m.1) You sit calmly on the bank of a small lake on a warm, August afternoon in Southern Appalachia. Full-bodied trees and delicate wildlife surround you. Being far from the modern world, you only hear the light trickling of water, the slow hush of healthy leaves, and the occasional stirring of animals nearby. (m. 31) Autumn's metamorphosis begins, and a plethora of colors materialize around you. The whole world seems to pulse in busy, warm waves. (m. 76) You feel the soft bite of the first cold breeze of the season. An exciting chill runs down your spine. (m. 85) Autumn is in full form. Leaves are raining steadily and the lake before you collects debris as the greenness of the world fades to deep oranges, yellows, reds and browns. (m. 133) The world becomes fragile. In the distance, grey clouds glide silently toward you, and you feel the powerful energy of a storm approaching. (m. 148) The storm begins with a light rain: a foreshadowing like a wave in the ocean beginning to crest. (m. 164) The wave breaks and you are overwhelmed with colossal gusts of wind. Leaves soar in all directions, and you feel that you are in the presence of God. (m. 188) Leaves begin to settle into the cold damp earth and frigid water. A light mist coats the world. (m. 200) The storm has ended, leaving trees bare and a variegated mat on the ground all around you. (m. 218) You are filled with nostalgia, remembering the warm and vivacious world that existed not too long ago. (m. 229) Snow begins to fall, creating a sharp contrast with the dark water before you, the mossy rocks and the stern bark of the unadorned trees. (m. 245) Ice tenuously creeps from all corners of the lake as water begins to freeze. (m. 250-end) The lake before you has frozen solid. The world is serene and silent, and you are overcome with a tender peacefulness as snow blankets everything.

## Notation Clarification and Important Musical Moments

1. Tenuto markings indicate the thematic, ringing pulse. Be sure to emphasize the return of the pulse at m. 218.
2. Single notes with up-stems are the melodic line. Up-stem notes with slurs should be legato and more lyrical.
3. Dotted slurs group phrases together. Phrases should always flow into one another in fluid waves.
4. Through repeats, dynamics should crescendo and diminuendo across all of the repeated bars.
5. The climax of the piece is at m. 164. After m. 164, the pulse is no longer 2 pulses per bar, but instead 3 pulses per bar. At m. 188, the pulse slowly and ambiguously starts to shift back from 3 pulses per bar to 2 pulses per bar. By m. 210, there should be 2 pulses per bar again.
6. In m. 257 alone, ensure that you change the pedal after striking the notes on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> beats.
7. In m. 258, ensure that the accented notes are struck hard enough so that they are present in the final chord.

Run time: 5-7 minutes

Cover artwork by Sharif Labban

# 紅葉 (Koyo)

♩. = 120-160 *rhythmic, with ringing persistence*

Sharif Labban

Piano  $\text{♩} = 120-160$

*pp*  
*Ped.*

*sempre sim.*

5 *mp* *p* *mf* (*Ped. simile*) *mp*

9 *f* *mf* *f*

13 *p* *f* *mp*

17 *p* *f*

21 *mp* *f* (*Ped. sim.*)

24 *mf* *f* *dim.*

27 *pp* *poco cresc.*  $\frac{6}{16}$

autumn's metamorphosis begins

31 (x4) (x3) (x4) (x3)

subito **f** (dim. over x4) **p** (cresc. over x3) **f** (sempre sim.) **p** **mf**

36 warm and playful

36 (x3) (x3)

(Ped. sim.) **f** **p**

42 (x4)

42 (x4)

**f** **p** **f**

47 (x2)

47 (x2)

*dim.* **mf** **mp**

(Ped. sim.)

52 (x3) (x4) (x3) (x4) (x3)

52 (x3) (x4) (x3) (x4) (x3)

**mf** **pp** **f** **p** **f**

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3

58

*p* *cresc.*

Measures 58-63: Treble and bass staves with piano (*p*) dynamics and a crescendo (*cresc.*) marking. A dashed line spans the entire system.

64

*poco rall.* *a tempo* *f* *dim.* *p* (x2) (x2) (x2) (x2)

Measures 64-69: Treble and bass staves. Includes markings for *poco rall.*, *a tempo*, *f*, *dim.*, and *p*. Four repeat signs with (x2) are present. A dashed line spans the system.

70

*mp* *cresc.*

Measures 70-74: Treble and bass staves with *mp* dynamics and a *cresc.* marking. A dashed line spans the system.

75

*a cold breeze* *f* *p* (Ped. sim.)

Measures 75-79: Treble and bass staves. Includes the text *a cold breeze*, *f*, *p*, and *(Ped. sim.)*. A dashed line spans the system.

80

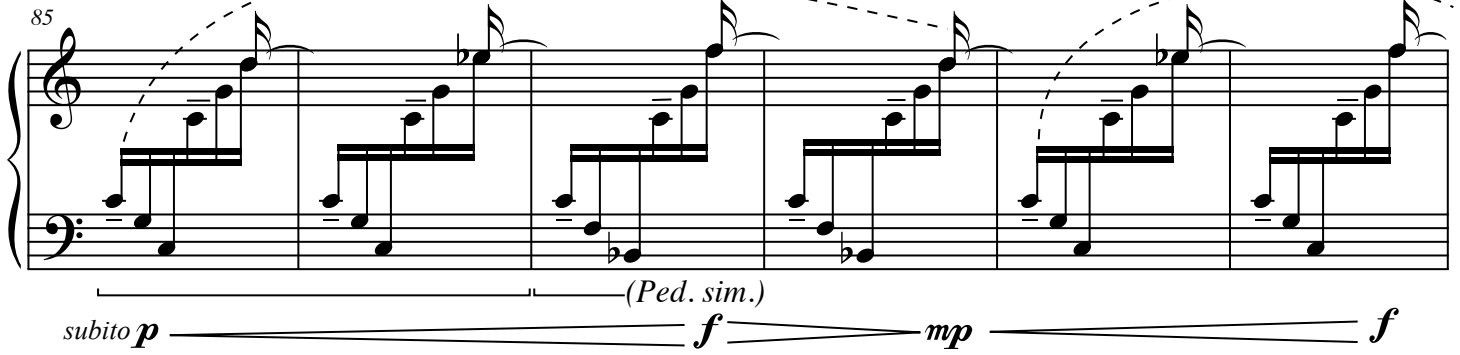
(x2) *mf* *p* *cresc.* *sfz*

Measures 80-84: Treble and bass staves. Includes a repeat sign with (x2), *mf*, *p*, *cresc.*, and *sfz*. A dashed line spans the system.

colorful leaves falling  
through crisp air

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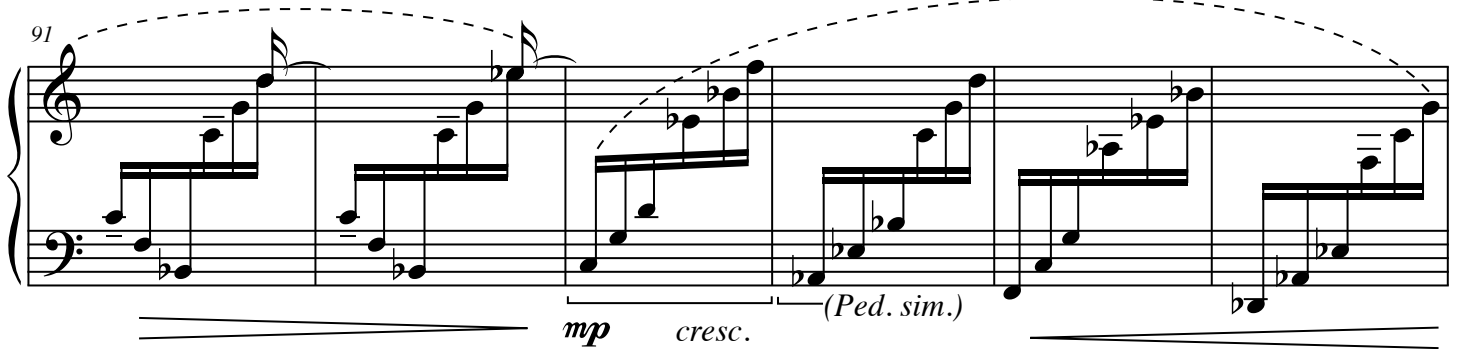
85



(Ped. sim.)

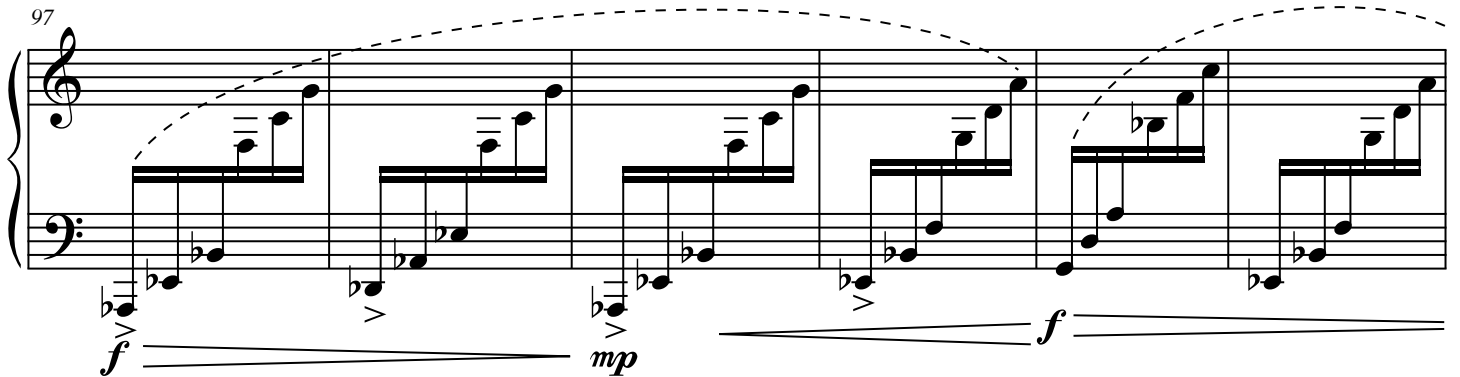
*subito p* *f* *mp* *f*

91



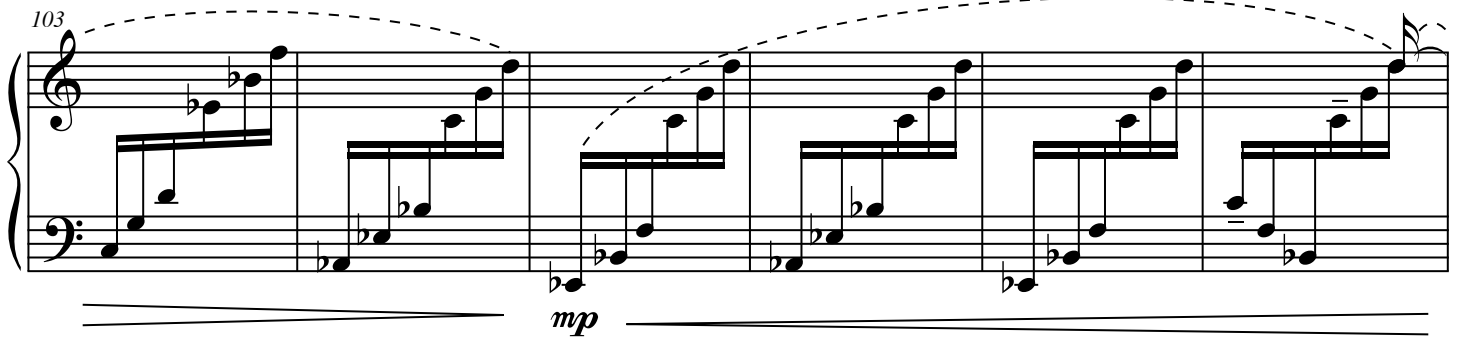
*mp* *cresc.* (Ped. sim.) *f*

97



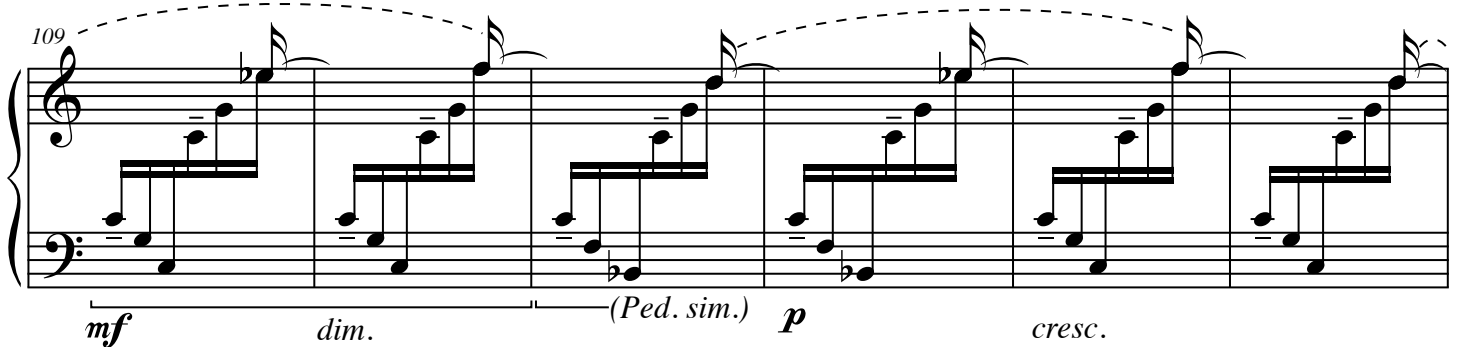
*f* *mp* *f*

103



*mp*

109



*mf* *dim.* (Ped. sim.) *p* *cresc.*

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5

115

*f*

This system contains measures 115 to 120. The music is written for piano in a key with two flats. It features a melodic line in the right hand and a supporting bass line in the left hand. A dashed line above the staff indicates a phrase that spans from measure 115 to the end of the system. A dynamic marking of *f* (forte) is placed below the system.

121

*mf* *f* (Ped. sim.)

This system contains measures 121 to 126. The musical notation continues from the previous system. A dynamic marking of *mf* (mezzo-forte) is at the beginning, and *f* is further along. A dashed line above the staff indicates a phrase from measure 121 to the end. The instruction "(Ped. sim.)" is written at the bottom right of the system.

127

*sfz*

This system contains measures 127 to 132. The musical notation continues. A dashed line above the staff indicates a phrase from measure 127 to the end. A dynamic marking of *sfz* (sforzando) is at the bottom right.

133

*delicately*

*sub. pp* (Ped. sim.)

This system contains measures 133 to 138. The music is marked *delicately* and *sub. pp* (sub-pianissimo). A dashed line above the staff indicates a phrase from measure 133 to the end. The instruction "(Ped. sim.)" is written at the bottom.

139

*sweetly, in the calm before a storm* (x2)

*ppp* (Ped. sim.) *mp*

This system contains measures 139 to 144. The music is marked *sweetly, in the calm before a storm* and repeated (x2). A dashed line above the staff indicates a phrase from measure 139 to the end. Dynamic markings *ppp* (pianississimo) and *mp* (mezzo-piano) are shown at the bottom. The instruction "(Ped. sim.)" is written above the *mp* marking.

144 *poco rall.* (x2) *a tempo* (x2)

*p* *pp*

148 *the storm begins; drive to m. 164*

*p cresc.*

154 *mf* (Ped. sim.) *cresc.*

160 *climaxing* (Ped. sim.)

*the wave breaks*

164 *ff* (Ped. sim.)



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168

*mf* *f dim.* *mf*

172

*soaring*

*f dim.*

176

*mp*

180

*mf cresc.*

184

*f* *mf* *blurred 7* *f*

*mysterious and sinking*

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*blurrier*

188

*mp* *mf*

8

*blurriest*

192

*p* *mp*

9

(Ped. sim.)

*poco cresc.*

196

*pp* *poco cresc.* *pp*

*the storm ends*

200

*p* *dim.* *pp* *poco cresc.*

(C#)

204

*p*

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207

(Ped. sim.)

210

*p*

214

*mf* *mp*

(Ped. sim.)

218

*f* *mf*

(Ped. sim.)

*in strict time,  
with familiar ringing*

223

*f* *mf*

(Ped. sim.)

snow begins to fall

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229

*p* *pp* *mp*

(Ped. sim.)

235

*p* *mf* *pp*

8va loco

241

*mp* *mf*

245

*rall. poco a poco; slowly freezing*

*p*

8va loco

248

*pp* *ppp*

8va loco *più rall. ; freezing solid* 8va

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11 *rubato; hesitant and spacious*

251 *loco* *pp* *Ad lib.*

$\text{♩} = 72$  *sempre rubato, like snow falling*

253 *mf* *dim.* *(Ped. sim.)*

254 *p* *non arpegg.* *pp*

256 *rubato* *rall.* *p cresc.*

257 *mf* *dim.* *pp* *molto rit.*