

A scenic landscape of autumn foliage reflected in a pond, with a traditional Japanese pavilion on the right.

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 1st and 3rd 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.*

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

(x3) (x3)

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

42 (x4)

f **p** **f**

47 (x2)

dim. **mf**

(Ped. sim.) **mp**

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

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

紅葉

3

58

p *cresc.*

Measures 58-63: Treble and bass staves. Treble clef, bass clef. Dynamics: *p* at start, *cresc.* at end. 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. Treble clef, bass clef. Dynamics: *poco rall.*, *a tempo*, *f*, *dim.*, *p*. Rehearsal marks (x2) are present. A dashed line spans the entire system.

70

mp *cresc.*

Measures 70-74: Treble and bass staves. Treble clef, bass clef. Dynamics: *mp*, *cresc.*. A dashed line spans the entire system.

75

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

Measures 75-79: Treble and bass staves. Treble clef, bass clef. Dynamics: *f*, *p*. Pedal marking: (Ped. sim.). A dashed line spans the entire system.

80

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

Measures 80-84: Treble and bass staves. Treble clef, bass clef. Dynamics: *mf*, *p*, *cresc.*, *sfz*. Rehearsal mark (x2) is present. A dashed line spans the entire system.

colorful leaves falling
through crisp air

紅葉

85

(Ped. sim.)

subito p *f* *mp* *f*

Detailed description: This system contains measures 85 through 90. The music is written for piano with a treble and bass clef. A dashed line above the staff indicates a phrase that spans from measure 85 to measure 90. The bass line features a steady eighth-note accompaniment. The treble line has a melodic line with eighth notes and some ties. Pedal markings include '(Ped. sim.)' between measures 86 and 89. Dynamic markings are *subito p* at the start, *f* at measure 87, *mp* at measure 89, and *f* at measure 90.

91

mp *cresc.* (Ped. sim.)

Detailed description: This system contains measures 91 through 96. The music continues with the same piano accompaniment. A dashed line above the staff indicates a phrase from measure 91 to measure 96. Pedal markings include '(Ped. sim.)' between measures 94 and 95. Dynamic markings are *mp* at measure 91 and *cresc.* at measure 95.

97

f *mp* *f*

Detailed description: This system contains measures 97 through 102. The music continues with the same piano accompaniment. A dashed line above the staff indicates a phrase from measure 97 to measure 102. Dynamic markings are *f* at measure 97, *mp* at measure 100, and *f* at measure 102.

103

mp

Detailed description: This system contains measures 103 through 108. The music continues with the same piano accompaniment. A dashed line above the staff indicates a phrase from measure 103 to measure 108. The dynamic marking is *mp* at measure 103.

109

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

Detailed description: This system contains measures 109 through 114. The music continues with the same piano accompaniment. A dashed line above the staff indicates a phrase from measure 109 to measure 114. Pedal markings include '(Ped. sim.)' between measures 111 and 112. Dynamic markings are *mf* at measure 109, *dim.* at measure 110, *p* at measure 112, and *cresc.* at measure 113.

紅葉

5

115

f

This system contains measures 115 to 120. The music 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 across measures 115, 117, 119, and 120. The dynamic marking *f* is placed below the staff.

121

mf *f* (Ped. sim.)

This system contains measures 121 to 126. The music continues with the same melodic and bass line patterns. A dashed line above the staff indicates a phrase spanning measures 121, 123, and 125. The dynamic marking *mf* is at the start, and *f* is later in the system. The instruction (Ped. sim.) is at the end.

127

sfz

This system contains measures 127 to 132. The music continues with the same melodic and bass line patterns. A dashed line above the staff indicates a phrase spanning measures 127, 129, and 131. The dynamic marking *sfz* is at the end of the system.

133

delicately

sub. pp (Ped. sim.)

This system contains measures 133 to 138. The music continues with the same melodic and bass line patterns. The instruction *delicately* is above the staff, and *sub. pp* is below. A dashed line above the staff indicates a phrase spanning measures 133, 135, and 137. The instruction (Ped. sim.) is at the end.

139

sweetly, in the calm before a storm (x2)

ppp (Ped. sim.) *mp*

This system contains measures 139 to 144. The music continues with the same melodic and bass line patterns. The instruction *sweetly, in the calm before a storm* is above the staff, and (x2) is at the end. A dashed line above the staff indicates a phrase spanning measures 139, 141, and 143. The dynamic marking *ppp* is at the start, (Ped. sim.) is in the middle, and *mp* is at the end.

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.)

紅葉

168

mf *f dim.* *mf*

172

soaring

f dim.

176

mp

180

mf cresc.

184

f blurred 7

mysterious and sinking

紅葉

blurrier

188

mp *mf*

8

blurriest

192

p *mp*

9

(Ped. sim.)

196

pp *poco cresc.*

the storm ends

200

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

(C#)

204

p

(C#)

紅葉

9

207

(Ped. sim.)

This system contains measures 207, 208, and 209. The right hand plays a melody with a long slur over the first two measures and a shorter slur over the third. The left hand provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords and moving lines. A dashed line above the staff indicates a phrasing slur. The instruction "(Ped. sim.)" is placed below the first two measures.

210

p

This system contains measures 210, 211, 212, and 213. The right hand features a melodic line with slurs and ties. The left hand continues with accompaniment. A dynamic marking of *p* is shown below the first measure. A dashed line above the staff indicates a phrasing slur.

214

mf *mp*

(Ped. sim.)

This system contains measures 214, 215, 216, and 217. The right hand has a melodic line with slurs. The left hand accompaniment includes chords and moving lines. Dynamic markings of *mf* and *mp* are shown below the first and third measures respectively. The instruction "(Ped. sim.)" is placed below the first two measures. A dashed line above the staff indicates a phrasing slur.

218

f *mf*

(Ped. sim.)

*in strict time,
with familiar ringing*

This system contains measures 218, 219, 220, 221, and 222. The right hand has a melodic line with slurs and ties. The left hand accompaniment includes chords and moving lines. Dynamic markings of *f* and *mf* are shown below the first and fourth measures respectively. The instruction "(Ped. sim.)" is placed below the first two measures. A dashed line above the staff indicates a phrasing slur. The performance instruction "in strict time, with familiar ringing" is written above the first measure.

223

f *mf*

(Ped. sim.)

This system contains measures 223, 224, 225, and 226. The right hand has a melodic line with slurs and ties. The left hand accompaniment includes chords and moving lines. Dynamic markings of *f* and *mf* are shown below the first and fourth measures respectively. The instruction "(Ped. sim.)" is placed below the first two measures. A dashed line above the staff indicates a phrasing slur.

snow begins to fall

紅葉

10

Musical score for measures 229-234. The piece is in a key with one flat (B-flat major or D minor) and a 4/4 time signature. The right hand features a melodic line with a long slur over measures 229-234. Dynamics include *p*, *pp*, and *mp*. The left hand provides a steady accompaniment. A *Ped. sim.* marking is present at the end of the system.

Musical score for measures 235-240. The right hand continues the melodic line with a slur. Dynamics include *p*, *mf*, and *pp*. An *8va* marking is present above the right hand in measure 239. The left hand continues its accompaniment.

Musical score for measures 241-244. The right hand features a melodic line with a slur. Dynamics include *mp* and *mf*. The left hand continues its accompaniment.

Musical score for measures 245-247. The tempo is marked *rall. poco a poco; slowly freezing*. The right hand features a melodic line with a slur. Dynamics include *p*. An *8va* marking is present above the right hand in measure 246. The left hand continues its accompaniment.

Musical score for measures 248-250. The tempo is marked *più rall. ; freezing solid*. The right hand features a melodic line with a slur. Dynamics include *pp* and *ppp*. An *8va* marking is present above the right hand in measures 248 and 250. The left hand continues its accompaniment.

紅葉

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* *p cresc.* *rall.*

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