

Dedicated to Duncan J. MacMillan

# Before Breathlessly Melting Into Air

Moderato (Quasi Fantasia)

1. (Before)

Bill Rea

Edited by Duncan J. MacMillan

Piano

*Red.* (as needed)



15<sup>ma</sup>

5

8<sup>va</sup>

8<sup>vb</sup>

9

8<sup>va</sup>

(8<sup>vb</sup>)

(8<sup>va</sup>)

15<sup>ma</sup>

12

resonant (not dry)

*mp*

*mf*

*p*

*f*

*mp*

accel...

accel...

*p*

(♩ = 60)  
(15<sup>ma</sup>)

15

percussive (in precise rhythm)

(15<sup>ma</sup>)

(15<sup>ma</sup>)

17

legato

percussive *mp*

(15<sup>ma</sup>)

(15<sup>ma</sup>)

19

tempo primo

ben legato *pp*

*p* > *ppp*

*sfz*

(15<sup>ma</sup>)

l.h. r.h.

(15<sup>ma</sup>)

22

*p*

*mf* *pp*

*mf* *p* *mf*

8<sup>va</sup>

8<sup>vb</sup>

25

*mp* *p* *pp*

29

*mf* *p* somewhat fragmented *15<sup>ma</sup>*

31

*mp* *15<sup>ma</sup>*

33

*p* *15<sup>ma</sup>* (approx. range) clusters (as if brushing dust off the keys)

*8<sup>vb</sup>*

(15<sup>ma</sup>)-----

35 *p* *pp* *p* 15<sup>ma</sup>-----

(8<sup>vb</sup>)-----

38 *pp* *mp* (in precise rhythm)

accel.... building in intensity

(8<sup>vb</sup>)-----

40 *pp* *mp* *p* 15<sup>ma</sup>-----

*pp* building in intensity  
accel....

(♩ = 60)

(8<sup>vb</sup>)-----

43 *mf* (in precise rhythm)

45

8va

subito *p*

8vb

Detailed description: This system contains measures 45 and 46. The music is written for piano in a grand staff. Measure 45 features a complex melodic line in the right hand with many accidentals and a steady eighth-note accompaniment in the left hand. Measure 46 shows a change in texture with block chords in the right hand and a more active bass line in the left hand. A dynamic marking of *subito p* is placed above the right hand in measure 46. Octave markings *8va* and *8vb* are present above and below the staves respectively.

47

tempo primo

delicate

*pp*

calando et legato

ben legato

6

5

3

Detailed description: This system contains measures 47, 48, and 49. Measure 47 begins with a *tempo primo* marking. The right hand has a melodic line with slurs and a *delicate* dynamic marking. The left hand has a bass line with a *pp* dynamic marking. Performance instructions *calando et legato* and *ben legato* are written below the left hand. Measures 48 and 49 continue the melodic and bass lines. Fingerings 6, 5, and 3 are indicated for the left hand. An *8va* marking is above the right hand.

50

(8va)

2 3 1 2 5 1 -2 1

6

Detailed description: This system contains measures 50, 51, and 52. The right hand has a melodic line with slurs. The left hand has a bass line with slurs and fingerings 2, 3, 1, 2, 5, 1, -2, 1. A *6* fingering is also shown. An *8va* marking is above the right hand.

53

(8va)

6

3

slentando.....

8va

accel....

5

Detailed description: This system contains measures 53 and 54. Measure 53 features a melodic line in the right hand with slurs and a bass line in the left hand. Measure 54 shows a *slentando* marking in the right hand and an *accel* marking in the left hand. Fingerings 6, 3, and 5 are indicated. An *8va* marking is above the right hand.

6

(♩ = 60)

15<sup>ma</sup>

percussive and resonant

55

Musical score for measures 55-56. The system consists of two staves. The upper staff (treble clef) features a melodic line with triplets and slurs, marked with dynamics *mf*, *mp*, *mf*, and *pp*. The lower staff (bass clef) provides harmonic support with chords and triplets, marked with dynamics *mf*, *mp*, and *mf*. Performance instructions include *ben legato*, *marcato (l.h.)*, and *ben legato*. Register markings *8va* and *8vb* are present. A tempo marking of 60 is at the top left.

57

15<sup>ma</sup>

Musical score for measures 57-58. The system consists of two staves. The upper staff (treble clef) has a melodic line with triplets, marked with dynamics *pp* and *pp*. The lower staff (bass clef) has chords and triplets, marked with dynamics *mf* and *pp*. Performance instructions include *marcato (l.h.)* and *ben legato*. Register markings *8va* and *8vb* are present.

59

15<sup>ma</sup>

Musical score for measures 59-60. The system consists of two staves. The upper staff (treble clef) features a melodic line with triplets and slurs, marked with dynamics *mf*, *pp*, *mf*, and *pp*. The lower staff (bass clef) has chords and triplets, marked with dynamics *mf* and *mp*. Performance instructions include *marcato (l.h.)*, *ben legato*, and *percussive and resonant*. Register markings *8va* and *8vb* are present.

61

15<sup>ma</sup>

(keep tempo)

percussive and resonant

Musical score for measures 61-62. The system consists of two staves. The upper staff (treble clef) features a melodic line with triplets and slurs, marked with dynamics *mp*, *mf*, *ff*, *mp*, *mf*, *pp*, *mp*, *mf*, and *ff*. The lower staff (bass clef) has chords and triplets, marked with dynamics *mf* and *mp*. Performance instructions include *legato* and *percussive and resonant*. Register markings *8va* and *8vb* are present.

64 (15<sup>ma</sup>)-----  
8<sup>va</sup>-----  
l.h. r.h. *mf marcato*

66 *f*

68 *mf building in intensity mp*

70 *mf f ff marcattissimo senza pedale*

*marcatissimo*

72

*p* legato

*f*

*ben marcato*

*tempo primo*

74

*pp* legato

*ff*

*calando et legato*  
*pp*

*And. (as needed)*

*8va*  
*resonant*

76

*pp* *mf* *ff*

*(8va)*

80

*pp* *mf*

*sotto voce*  
*(approx. range)*

*pp* *ben legato*

*pp* *(approx. range)*



(a little slower, reflectively)

84

*pp*  
(approx. range)

*pp*

8va-----

87

*ppp*

8va-----

89

*mf*  
*maestoso*

8va-----

92

*fff* (approx. range)  
(approx. range)

*pp*   *ppp*   *pp*

15<sup>ma</sup>-----

8<sup>va</sup>-----  
Led.   \*

## 2. (Breathlessly)

Allegretto Scherzando  $\bullet = 110$

*mf non staccato*

5

*mp*

9

*mp legato*

12

1 2 3 1 2 4 1 3

*mf non staccato*

15

*cresc.*

Detailed description: This is a piano score for a piece titled "2. (Breathlessly)". The tempo is "Allegretto Scherzando" with a metronome marking of 110. The music is in 3/8 time and consists of 15 measures. The score is divided into five systems. The first system (measures 1-4) is marked *mf non staccato*. The second system (measures 5-8) is marked *mp*. The third system (measures 9-11) is marked *mp legato*. The fourth system (measures 12-14) is marked *mf non staccato* and includes fingering numbers: 1, 2, 3, 1, 2, 4, 1, 3. The fifth system (measures 15) is marked *cresc.* (crescendo). The piece is in a key with one sharp (F#) and a common time signature.

18

3 2 3 1 5 1 2 3

21

*mp* *mp*

25

*sfz* *sub. mp* 8va

29

3 1 2 1 4 1 2 3 1 3 5 2 1 4 1 2 5

33

*sub. p e cresc.* *sf* *pp*

(8<sup>va</sup>)

36

*fz*

(8<sup>va</sup>)

(8<sup>va</sup>)

40

(8<sup>va</sup>)

(8<sup>va</sup>)

48

(8<sup>va</sup>)

(8<sup>va</sup>)

46

*sub. mp*

(8<sup>va</sup>)

49

*mp*

*maestoso mf*

(8<sup>va</sup>)

52

Handwritten musical score for measures 52-54. The system consists of two staves. The right hand (RH) starts with a whole rest, followed by a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, and a quarter note B4. The left hand (LH) has a quarter note G3, a quarter note F3, and a quarter note E3. A dynamic marking *mf* is present. A slur covers measures 53 and 54. A finger number '7' is written above the first note of measure 53 in the RH.

55

Handwritten musical score for measures 55-57. The system consists of two staves. The RH has a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, and a quarter note B4. The LH has a quarter note G3, a quarter note F3, and a quarter note E3. A dynamic marking *mf* is present. Fingerings are indicated: 3, 1, 2, 1, 4 in the LH and 2, 1, 2, 5, 2 in the RH.

58

Handwritten musical score for measures 58-61. The system consists of two staves. The RH has a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, and a quarter note B4. The LH has a quarter note G3, a quarter note F3, and a quarter note E3. A dynamic marking *mf* is present. A slur covers measures 58-61. A dynamic marking *acc. e dim.* is present. A dynamic marking *a tempo* is present. A slur covers measures 60-61. Fingerings are indicated: 4, 2, 1, 3 in the LH.

62

Handwritten musical score for measures 62-64. The system consists of two staves. The RH has a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, and a quarter note B4. The LH has a quarter note G3, a quarter note F3, and a quarter note E3. A dynamic marking *mf* is present. A slur covers measures 62-64. A dynamic marking *sf p* is present. Fingerings are indicated: 2, 1, 3 in the RH and 2 in the LH.

65

Handwritten musical score for measures 65-67. The system consists of two staves. The RH has a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, and a quarter note B4. The LH has a quarter note G3, a quarter note F3, and a quarter note E3. A dynamic marking *mf* is present. A slur covers measures 65-67. A dynamic marking *sf p* is present. A slur covers measures 66-67. A dynamic marking *8va* is present. Fingerings are indicated: 2 in the LH.

70 (8<sup>va</sup>)

pp ppp

74 (8<sup>va</sup>)

*poco tranquillo e maestoso*

pppp mp

79

f

88

*a tempo non staccato*

87

mp

91

*mp* *legato*

Musical score for measures 91-93. The piece is in G major. Measure 91 features a piano introduction with a melody in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. The dynamic is *mp* and the articulation is *legato*. Measures 92 and 93 continue the melodic and harmonic development.

94

*mf* *non staccato*

Musical score for measures 94-96. Measure 94 begins with a piano introduction and a dynamic of *mf* and articulation of *non staccato*. Measures 95 and 96 show further melodic and harmonic progression.

97

Musical score for measures 97-100. Measures 97-100 continue the melodic and harmonic development of the piece.

101

*cresc.* *fp*

Musical score for measures 101-104. Measure 101 features a piano introduction with a dynamic of *cresc.* and articulation of *fp*. Measures 102-104 show further melodic and harmonic progression.

105

Musical score for measures 105-108. Measures 105-108 continue the melodic and harmonic development of the piece.

109

110

111

112

*mp*

*gva*

113

114

115

*cresc. e string.*

*mf*

*gva*

116

117

117

*f*

*p*

*pp*

*gva*

118

119

120

121

*pp*

*mf*

*p*

122

123



### 3. (Melting)

Largo Sostenuto (tranquillo ma cantabile) ♩ = 54

*p* sempre legato et espressivo simile

8 *pp*

15 *sempre legato*  
*p* sempre legato simile

21 *mp*

8<sup>vb</sup>

8<sup>va</sup>

8<sup>vb</sup>

8<sup>va</sup>

8<sup>vb</sup>

8va-----

26

(bells) (bells) (bells)

*mf*

(8vb)-----

31

*p* *poco rit.* *p*

8va-----

8va-----

35

3

39

*p*

Musical score for measures 43-46. The piece is in G major (one sharp). The right hand features a melodic line with triplets and slurs, while the left hand provides a harmonic accompaniment with triplets and slurs. Measure numbers 43, 44, 45, and 46 are indicated at the beginning of their respective staves.

Musical score for measures 47-50. The right hand continues with a melodic line, incorporating triplets and slurs. The left hand features a bass line with triplets and slurs. Measure numbers 47, 48, 49, and 50 are indicated at the beginning of their respective staves.

Musical score for measures 51-54. The right hand features a melodic line with triplets and slurs, marked with a *dolce* dynamic. A *15<sup>ma</sup>* (fifteenth measure) bracket spans across measures 52, 53, and 54. The left hand provides a harmonic accompaniment with triplets and slurs, marked with a *mp* dynamic. Measure numbers 51, 52, 53, and 54 are indicated at the beginning of their respective staves.

54 *r.h.*  
*l.h.*

57 *15ma--*  
*l.h.*

60

64

8va

*a tempo*

*ppp*

8vb

69

(8va)

8vb

75

8va

8vb

(8<sup>va</sup>)

50

*pp*

*molto rit.*

*a tempo*

*ppp*

(8<sup>vb</sup>)

56

(8<sup>vb</sup>)

90

*ppp* *morendo*

(8<sup>vb</sup>)

96

*Ped.*

(8<sup>vb</sup>)

\*

Allegro non troppo et molto deciso

♩ = 100

*mf*

5 *8va-7*

*molto cresc..... p*

*mp*

9 *mp*

*p*

14 *mf*

19 *marcato*  
*l.h. >*

*f*

*r.h.*

*sub. mp* *legato*

*l.h. >*  
*f*

16

16

16

Detailed description: This is a piano score for a piece in 4/4 time, marked 'Allegro non troppo et molto deciso' with a tempo of 100 beats per minute. The score is divided into five systems. The first system (measures 1-4) features a right-hand part with chords and a left-hand part with sustained bass notes, marked *mf*. The second system (measures 5-8) shows a right-hand part with a melodic line and a left-hand part with chords, marked *molto cresc..... p* and *mp*. The third system (measures 9-13) continues the right-hand melody and left-hand accompaniment, marked *mp* and *p*. The fourth system (measures 14-18) features a right-hand part with a melodic line and a left-hand part with chords, marked *mf*. The fifth system (measures 19-22) is marked *marcato* and *f*, with a right-hand part playing a rhythmic pattern and a left-hand part with chords, marked *sub. mp* and *legato*. The score ends at measure 16.

23

*f* *feroce et marcatissimo*

8vb

Measures 23-25: Bass clef, 5/16, 9/16, 6/16 time signatures. *f* *feroce et marcatissimo*. Fingerings: 4, 2, 1.

26

*marcato*  
*f*  
*sub. mp* *legato*

Measures 26-28: Treble clef, 3/8, 2/4, 2/4 time signatures. *marcato*, *f*, *sub. mp*, *legato*. Fingerings: 1, 4, 5.

29

*mf*  
*legato et calando*  
(tempo should remain constant)

Measures 29-32: Treble clef, 3/8, 5/16, 9/16, 6/16 time signatures. *mf*, *legato et calando*, (tempo should remain constant).

33

*mf*

Measure 33: Treble clef, 6/16 time signature. *mf*.

34

*p*

Measures 34-37: Treble clef, 3/8, 5/16, 9/16, 6/16 time signatures. *p*. Fingerings: 1, 1, 4, 3, 2, 1, 2, 1.



38

*mp* *mf*

1 4 3 2 1 4 2 2 1 3 4 3 2 1 3 1 4 1 5

42

*marcato* (*keep tempo!*)

3

47

*f*

3 1 3 1 4 1 3

51

*mp* *p* *leggieramente*

5 1 3 1 1 1 5 3 2 1 2 4 5

56

*p* *p*

1 5 2 5 5 3 1 2 3

61 *mp* *f* rough and boisterous

(8va) 8va-

66 *senza accel.*

(8vb)

70

74 *feroce et marcatissimo*

78 *rough and boisterous* *senza accel.*

(8vb)

82 *calming*

*mp* *p*

Tranquillo e meno mosso, *rubato*

87  $\bullet = 63$

*p*

93

*p* *legato*

101

108

114

*gradually building intensity*

119

124

*piu tranquillo e delicato*

*mf*

*mp* 6

129

*senza accel.*

*p*

*sempre tranquillo*

134

*mp*

# 4. (Into Air)

139

*ppp* *accel.* *pp*

*molto accel.....*

144

**Tempo primo**

*p* *8va* *senza accel.*

149

*ff* *rough and boisterous* *8va* *8vb*

152

*8va*

156

*marcato*

*mf*

*p legato*

*f marcato*

160

*mf*

*ff*

*rough (as before)*

*mf*

*8vb*

163

*mp*

*8vb*

167

*p*

*calming*

170

*r.h.*  
*l.h.*  
*non staccato*

173

177

*mf*

181

*8va*  
*15ma*  
*(into)*  
*mp*  
*mf*  
*p 15ma (air)*  
*(into) pp (air)*  
*8vb*

186

8va  
15<sup>ma</sup>  
8va  
glissando  
15<sup>ma</sup>  
8vb  
(15<sup>ma</sup>)  
(into)  
senza pedale, una corda

190

15<sup>ma</sup>  
(air)  
senza pedale, una corda