

Ronald Hannah

Meditation

for cello and piano

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Ron Hannah was born in 1945 in Saskatchewan, and has resided most of his life in Western Canada, but for a seven year stretch during which he backpacked the world. At present he divides his time between Canada and Europe.

His interests have always been eclectic: travel, the sciences, philosophy. In 1969 he received a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemistry from the University of Alberta, and a Bachelor of Music and a Master of Music degree (student of Violet Archer and Malcolm Forsyth) from the same institution in 1973 and 1975 respectively.

His works have been performed in Canada and internationally. Recently (August 2012) his Missa Brevis was premiered at the Sieggraben Summer Music Workshop, in Austria. His works appear on several CDs available through the Canadian Music Centre. He is also a reviewer, essayist and travel writer.

His catalogue contains over ninety works: solo, choral, chamber, song cycles, orchestral, ballets and operas, including an opera based on the tragic history of Guatemala where he lived during its composition. He prefers vivid and honest texts that are colorful in language and irreverent in tone. His music tends toward the conservative, in a style that he calls "dissonant pan-tonality", but elements of the atonal, of textural writing, of minimalism, and of randomness can also be found. He has received commissions from the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra, and many others. At the time of this writing he has just completed his first ...
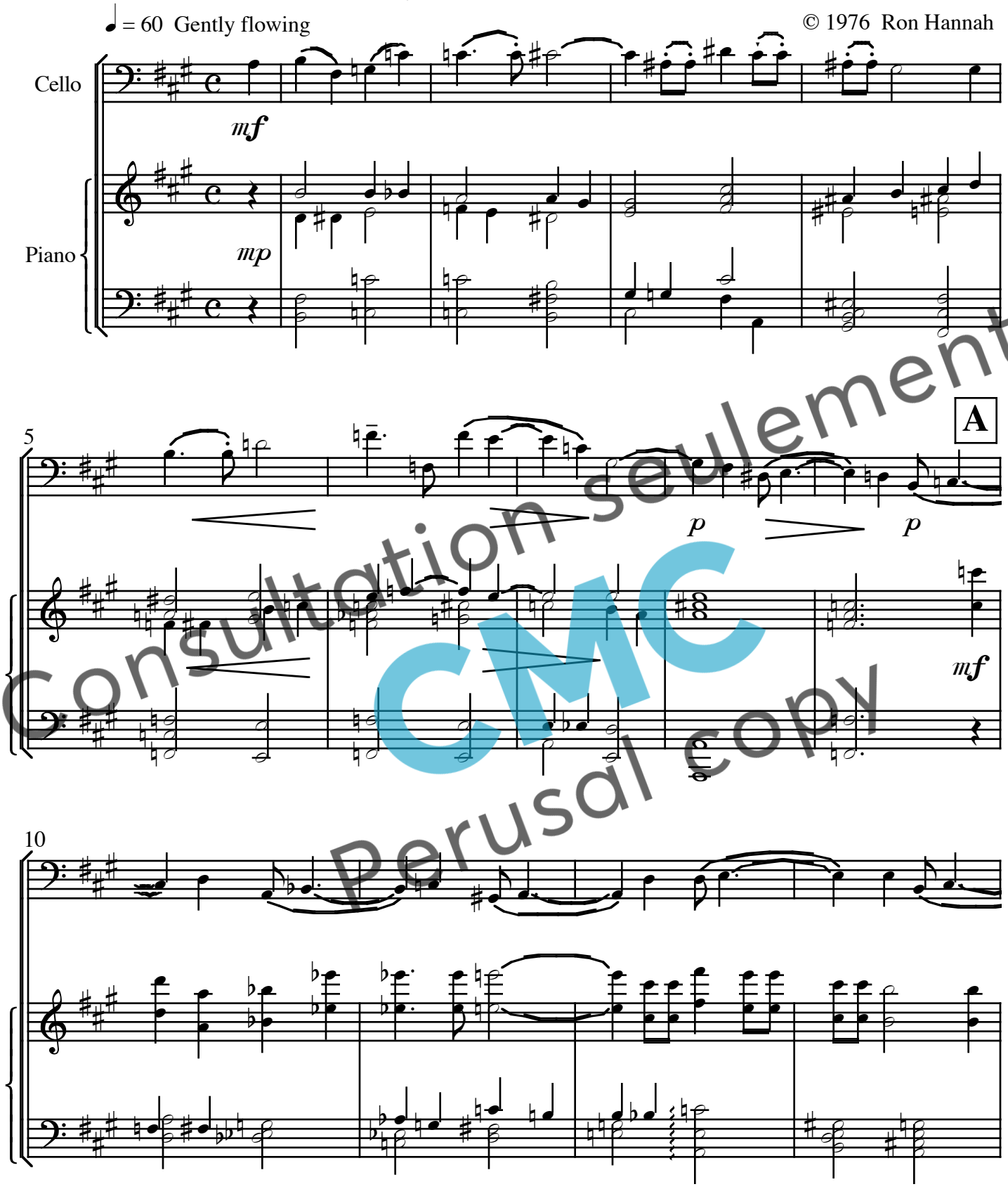
Read Ronald Hannah's full biography at our website:
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MEDITATION

for Cello and Piano

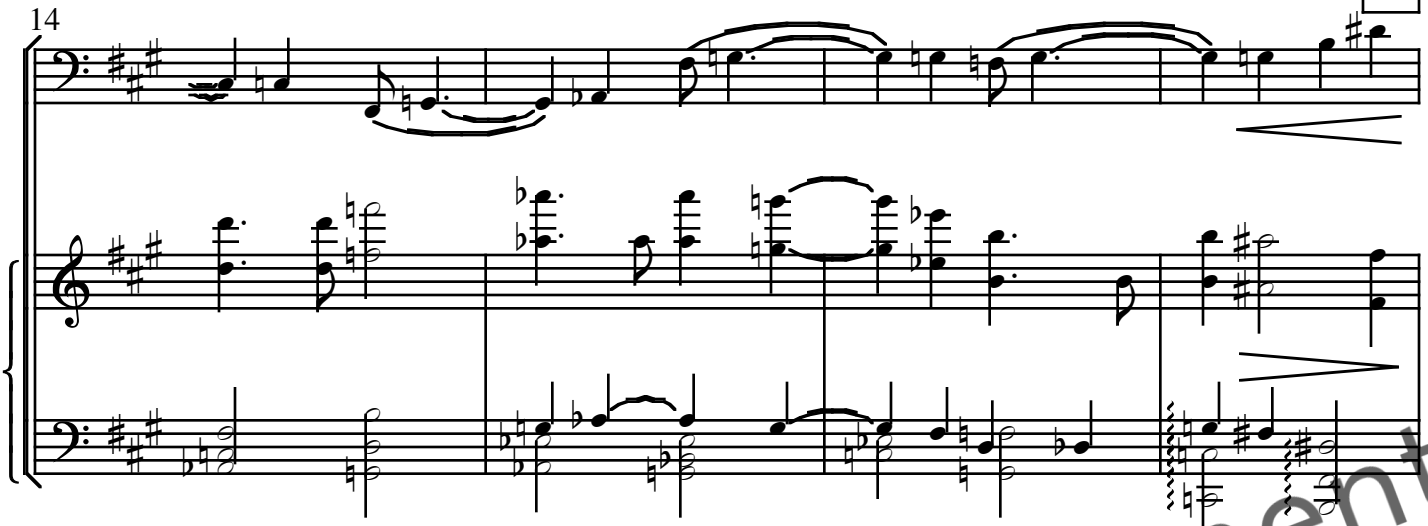
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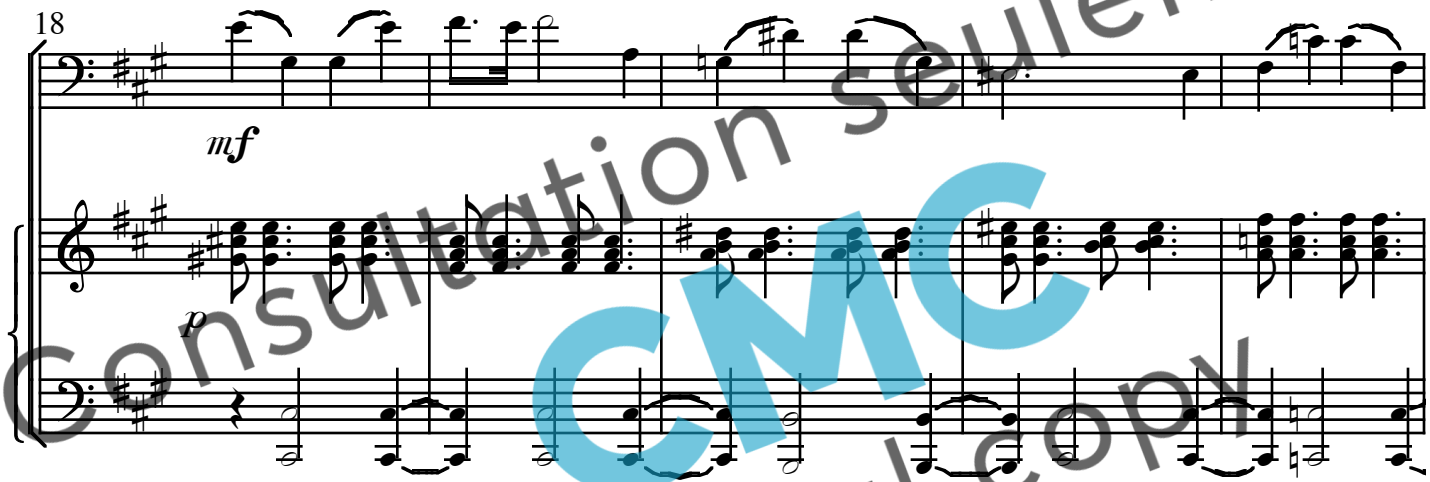


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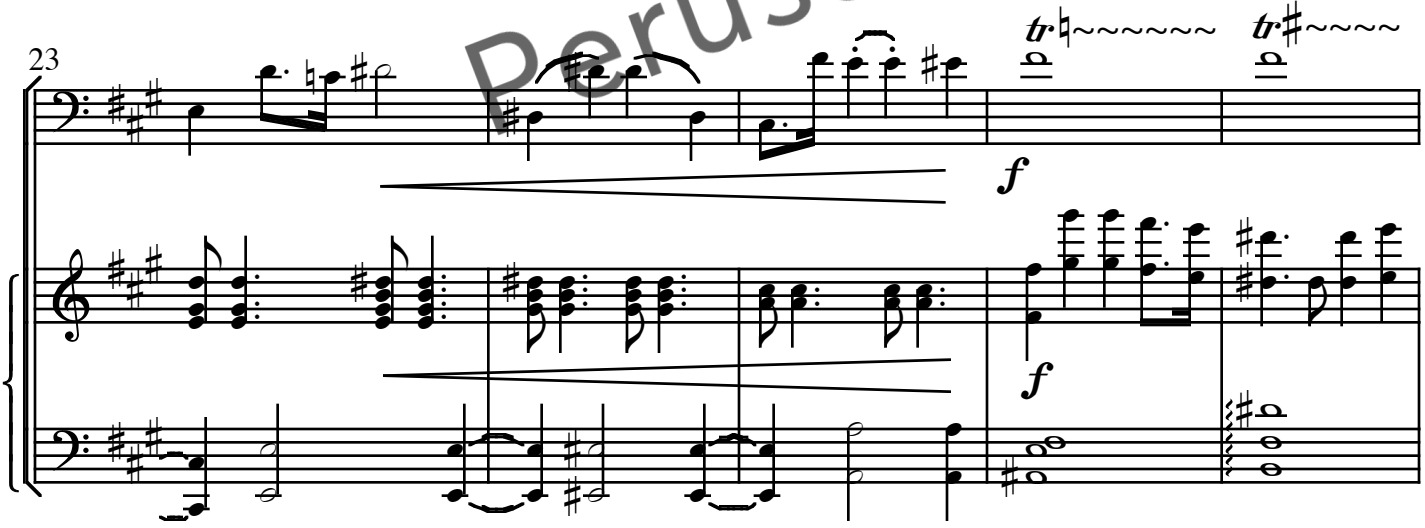
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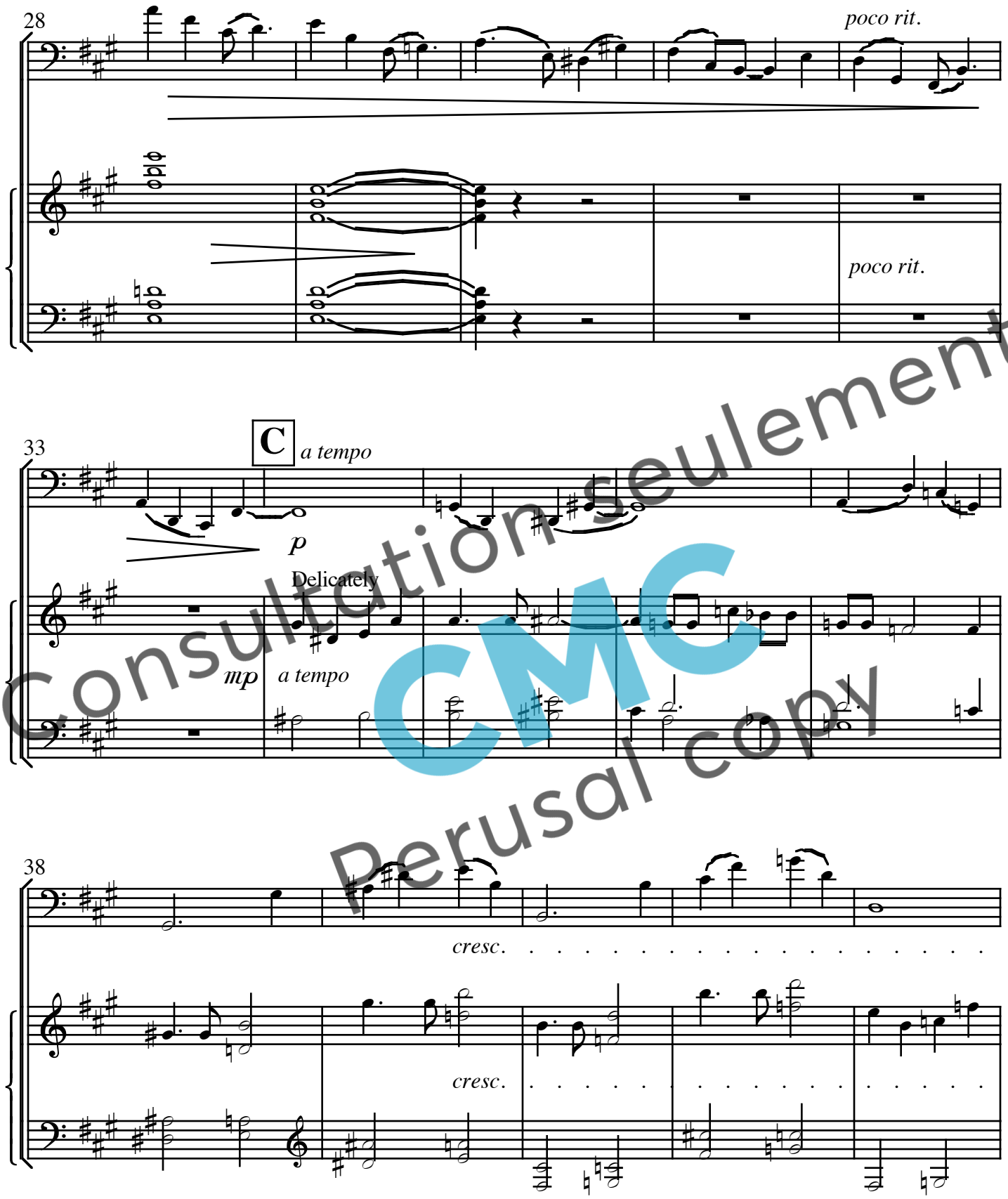


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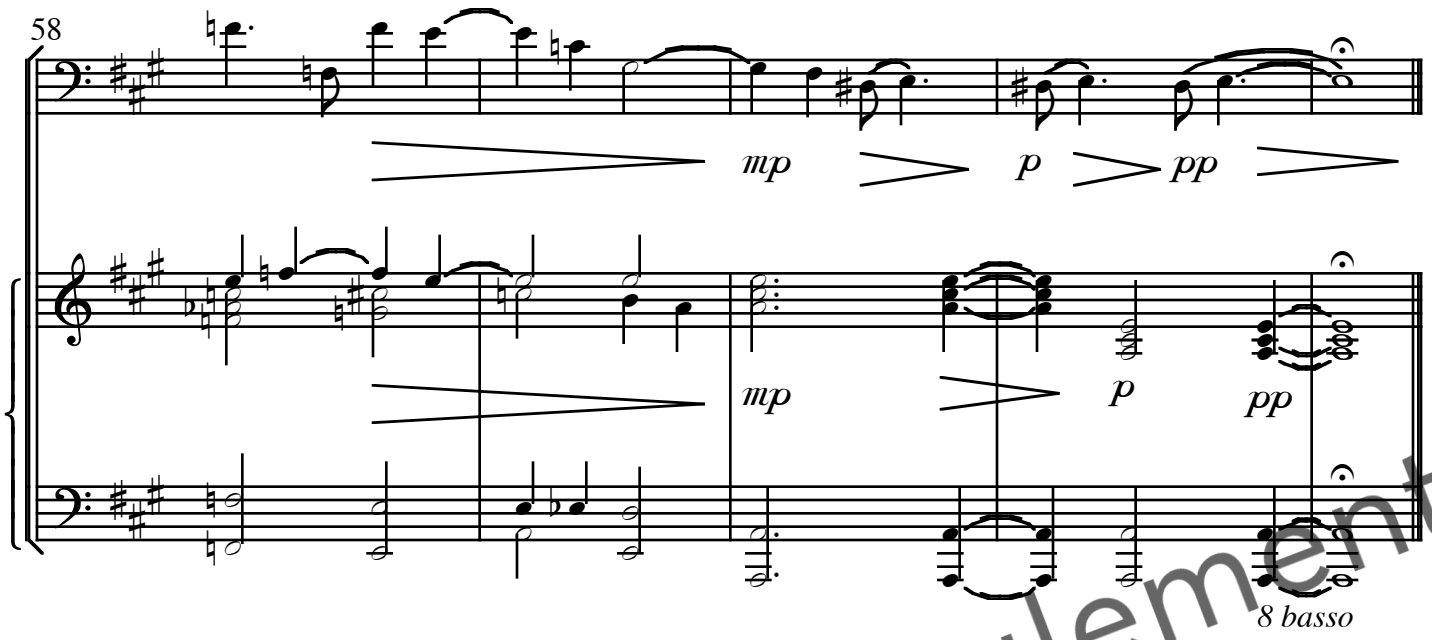
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MEDITATION for Cello and Piano takes its inspiration from an African poem
entitled "Diptych", by the Senegalese poet, Birago Diop.
It is not reprinted here for copyright reasons, but may be found in a volume called
"Modern Poetry from Africa", edited and translated by Gerald Moore and
Ulli Beier, published by Penguin Books, 1966.

The melody, in turn, comes from my own University of Alberta Master's Thesis composition,
"The Shrine of Kotje", which is a work for chorus and orchestra
based on African poetry. "Diptych" is the third section.

—Ron Hannah
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