Arlo

for Viola and Piano

for Everett Ross Ekins

by
Vanessa McClintock

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for Viola and Piano
For Everett Ross Ekins

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The initial concept and inspiration for Arlo came to me in the first week of May 2018 while visiting my daughter, Emily, and newly born son, Everett, in Arlington, Virginia.

I finished this short work on May 31, 2018, at 7:06pm. When I closed the page I noted the time, and it felt complete.

It remains a mystery to me why exactly I so named this piece, rather than Everett or Emily, or even Arlington. It has almost a forlorn character to it, perhaps melancholy to some; neither was my intent, as that was a joyous time.

It came first as the open two bars in the piano. Their piano was sitting next to the stairwell and as I was about to go upstairs to my room, I felt the impulse to stop and play the chords. I continued upstairs, when to a desk and wrote it down, pencil to paper—just like the old days. Then I entered the notes into my notation program and sketched out the rest of the chord progression, this time one mouse-click at a time. The idea for the melody came shortly after, and in the next few weeks I completed the piece.

For such a short work, these are disproportionately long program notes. Still, the piece has a soft spot in my heart, and I feel like sharing.

The original version was for violin, but after a while I felt the sonorous depth of the viola more closely matched the character of the piece. I made the violin part available for download.

The viola, in my opinion, is a too often overlooked choice for solo instrument and expressiveness.

Performance time: approximately 2’20"

Vanessa McClintock

Time: 2'21"

Arlo

Viola and Piano

(Original version for violin and piano)

for Everett Ross Ekins

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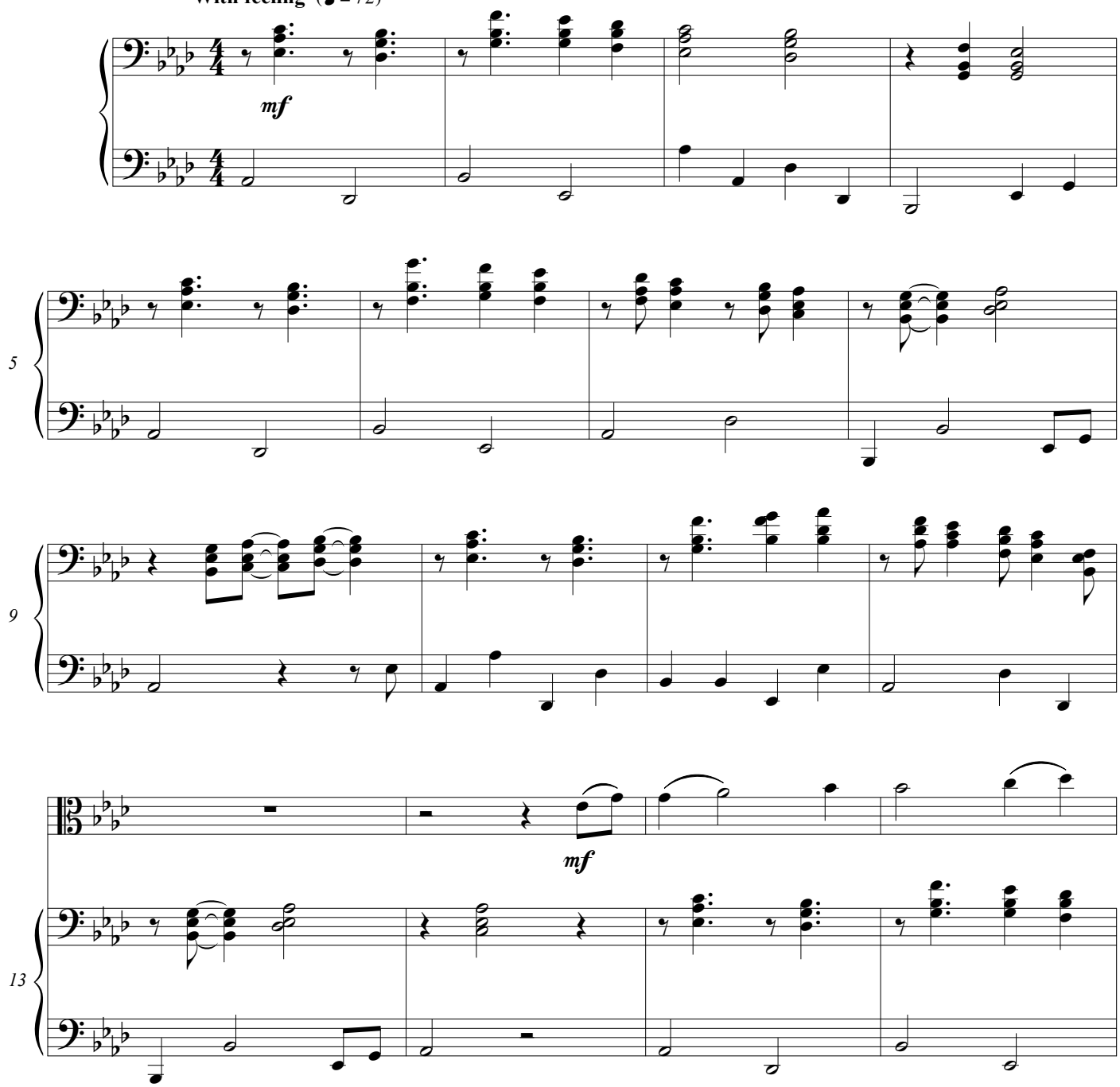

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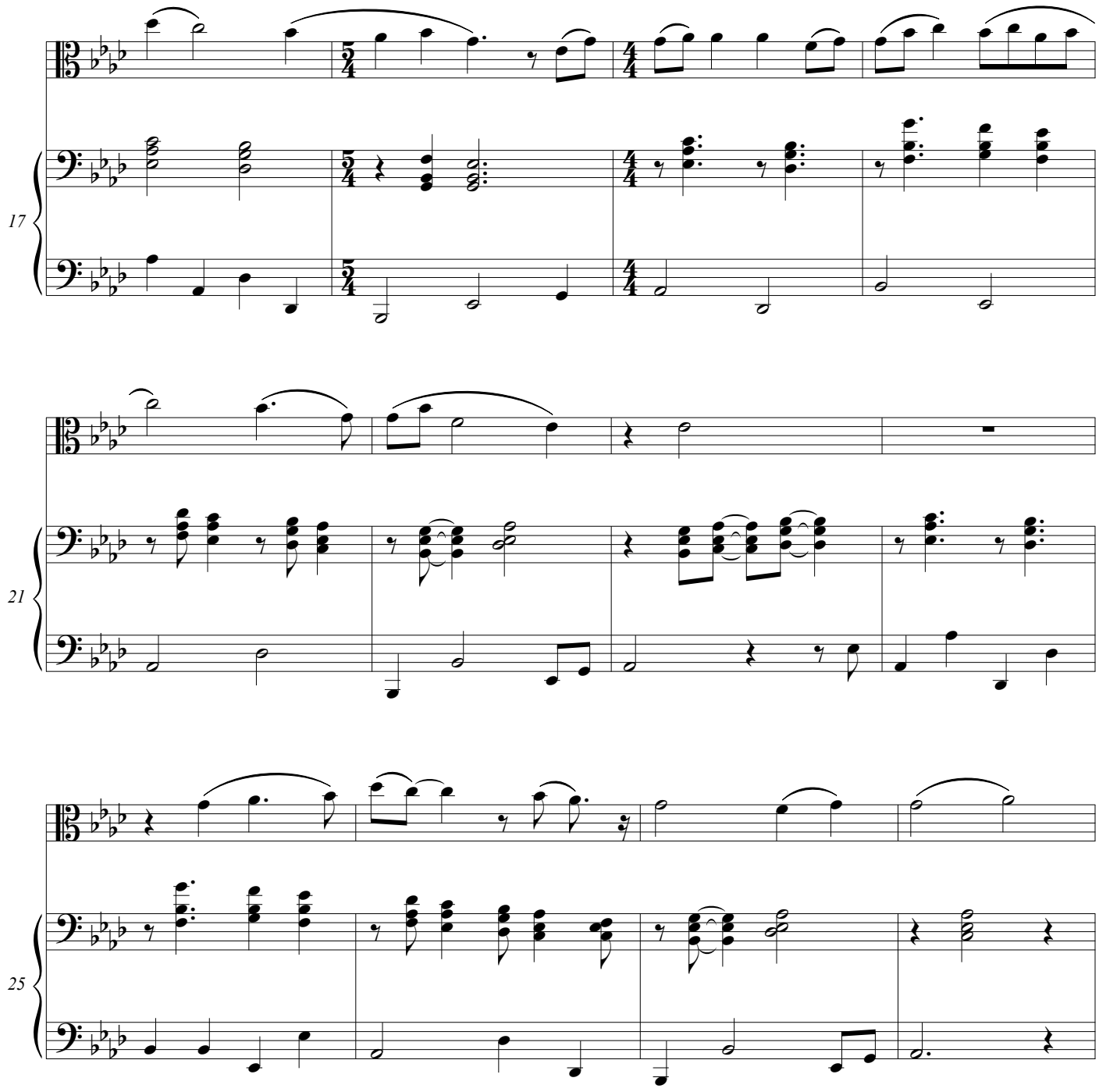

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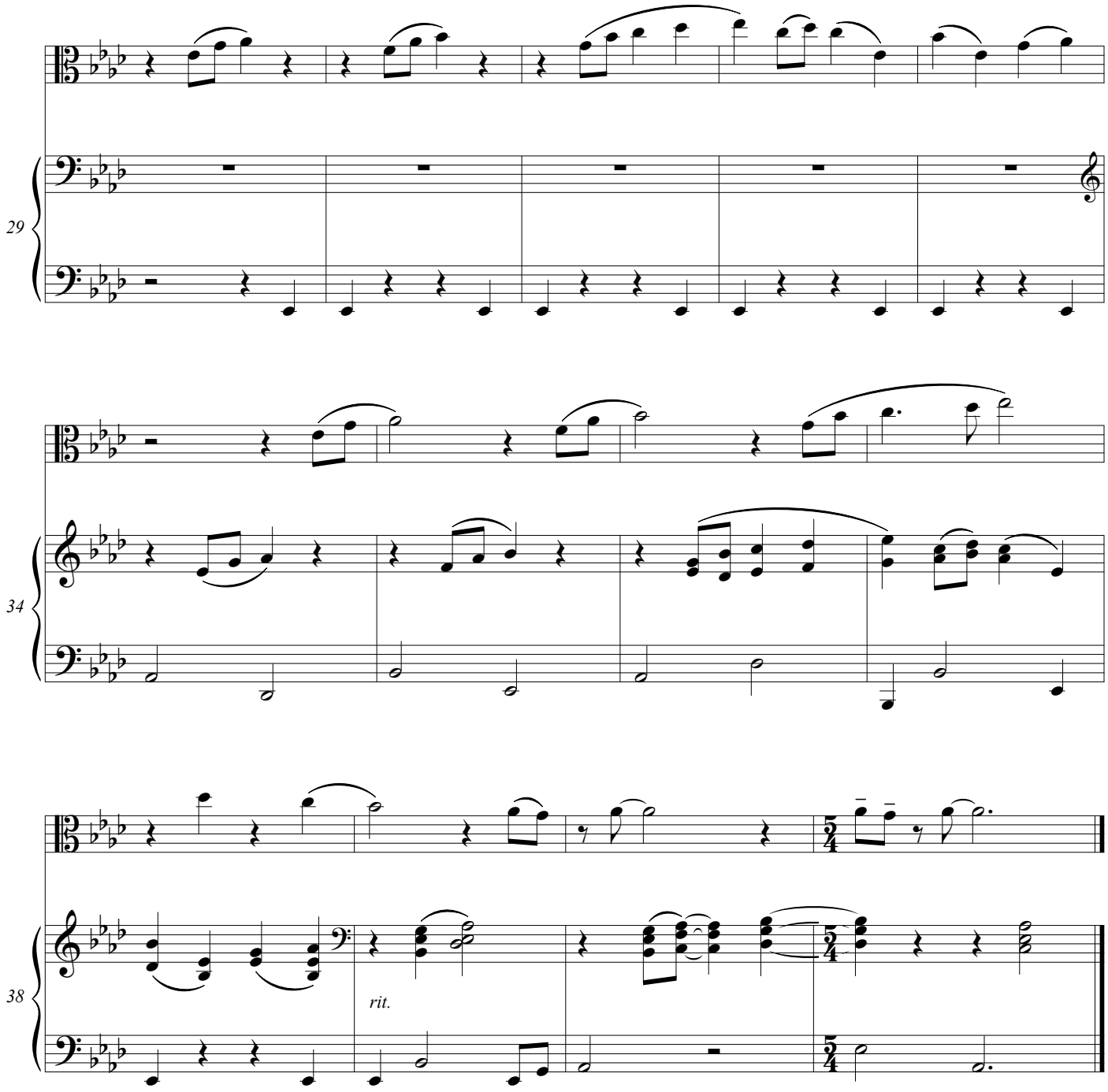

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