Character Pieces
in Romantic Style

12 Short Piano Solos

Martha Mier

Character pieces are short piano works that most often communicate a single emotion or idea, such as the joy of spring or the image of a child falling asleep. Composers first began writing character pieces in the 19th century, during the Romantic period, as a personal, inward-looking form of musical expression, on a smaller scale than the lengthy and highly structured sonatas of the Classical period. Many of the Romantic-period composers created character pieces. Important collections include the *Scenes from Childhood*, Op. 15, by Robert Schumann and the *Songs Without Words* by Felix Mendelssohn. My goal in writing *Character Pieces in Romantic Style* was to create new character pieces carefully graded for students that emulate this important art form from the Romantic period. Some of the pieces are bold in character, while others are lyrical and introspective. These moods are suggested by each title. I hope students enjoy exploring these pieces and use them to develop musical, imaginative playing.

Martha Mier

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Beneath the Stars

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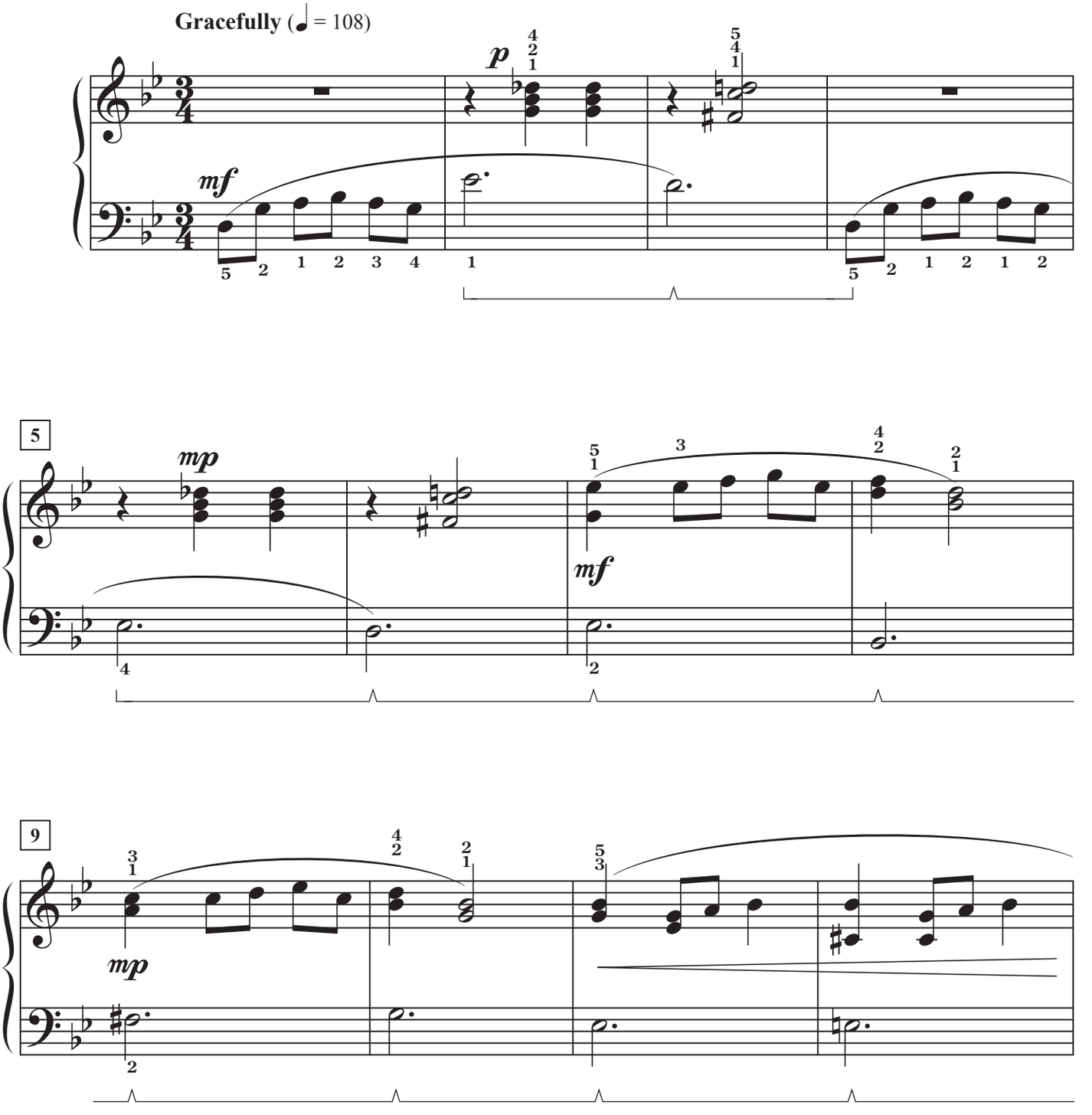

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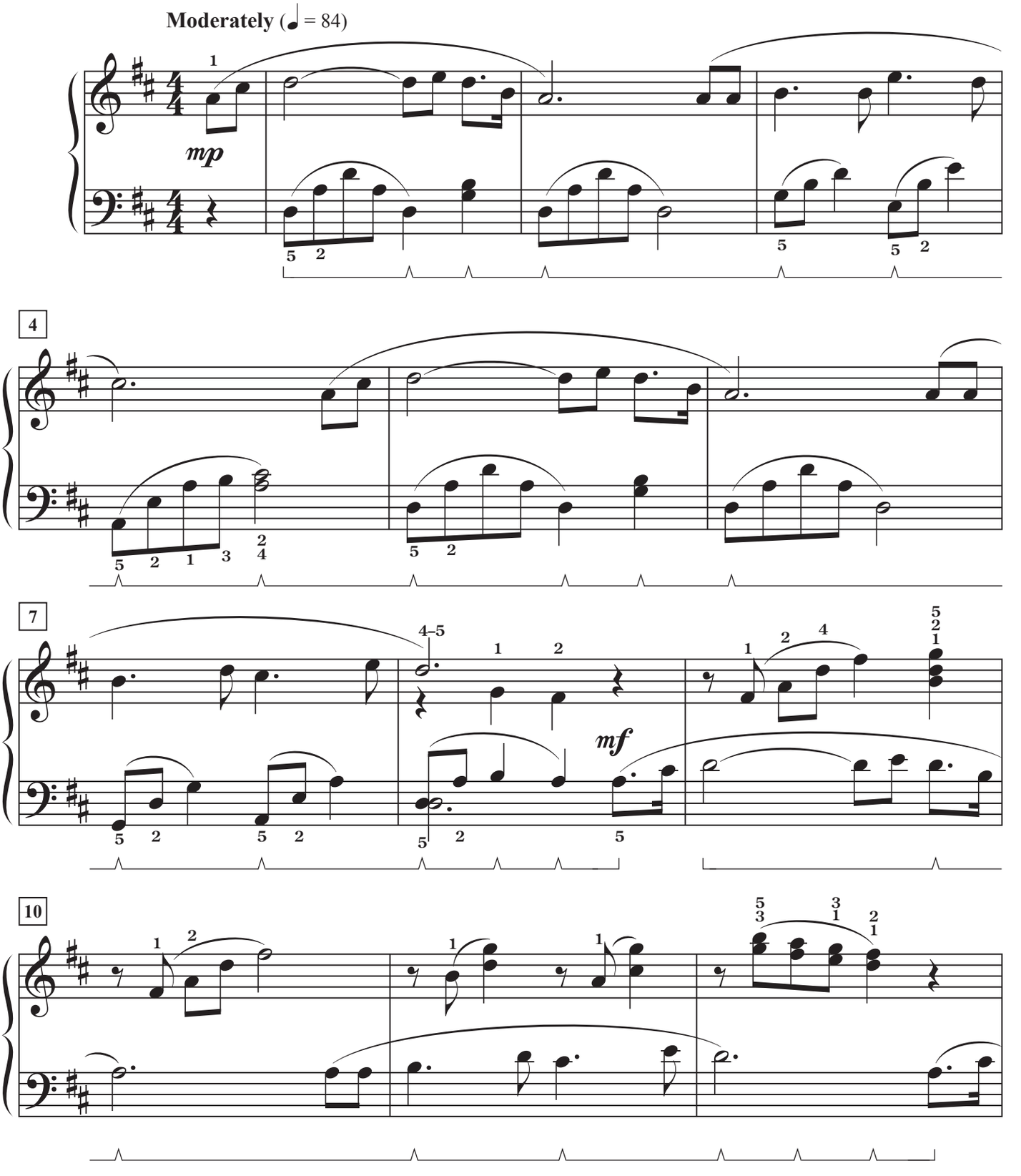
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