I first became aware of Jóhann's music while on a trip to New York, browsing through my favorite record store, the now sadly closed Other Music. It was there that I purchased the record *Englabörn*, and I was immediately struck by the profound depth of emotion and the confident experimentation with electronics. It was unlike anything I had heard at the time.

A few years later, I had the privilege of attending Jóhann's concert at Union Chapel in London, which marked the beginning of a cherished friendship. During that time, I was in the final stages of completing my own record, *Lumiere*, and I couldn't think of anyone better than Jóhann to collaborate with. We spent two weeks living and working together at his home and studio in Copenhagen, often working late into the evenings – which was his preferred style. It was during this time that I gained invaluable insight into his approach to music and his relationship with it. I learned about the significance of space and texture, as well as the importance of allowing ideas to develop at their own pace.

A few years later, Jóhann relocated to Berlin, and we shared a studio space for many fruitful years. It was a period of immense productivity for him, and I was fortunate to witness his exceptional creativity firsthand.

After Jóhann's passing, a group of his dearest friends came together to honor his memory by performing his last scheduled concert at the Primavera Festival in Spain. The experience was profoundly moving and cathartic. On that occasion, I found myself seated at the piano, playing the parts that Jóhann would usually perform. It was through this act that I gained a deeper understanding of the intricate beauty of his music.

There is so much that can be said about Jóhann's music, but perhaps the most striking aspect is its ability to have a direct and immediate impact. It possesses the power to transport you through time, space, and emotion – highly sensitive and profoundly intelligent.

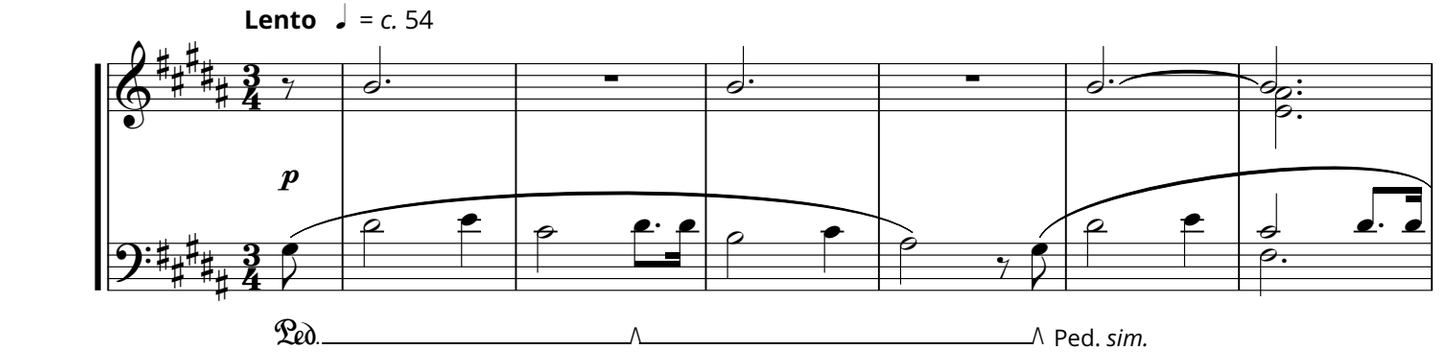
I believe that music acts as a time capsule, preserving the very essence of an individual's heart. When we play music from the past, we possess the ability to summon their spirit and bring them back to life. Jóhann's music, in its timelessness, will forever remain vibrant and alive. By playing these pieces, you will find yourself drawing closer to his musical world, ensuring its eternal resonance.

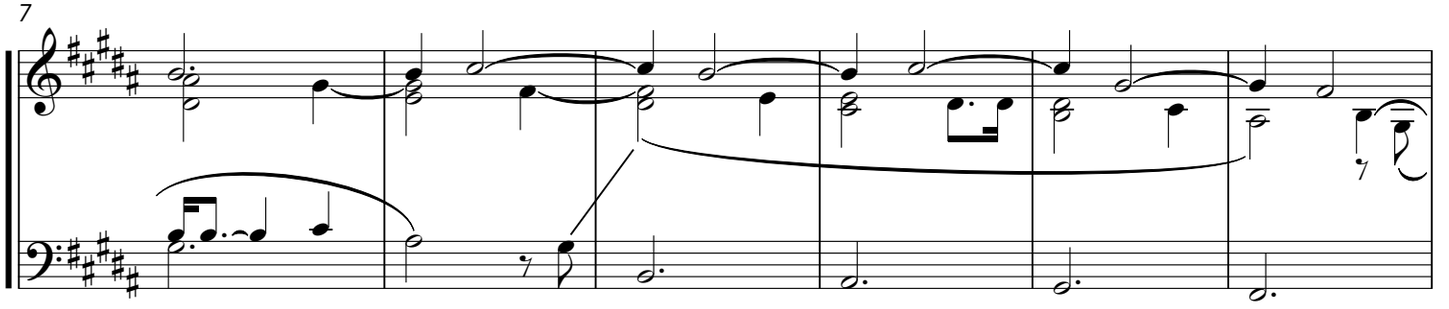
Dustin O'Halloran
June 14, 2023
Iceland

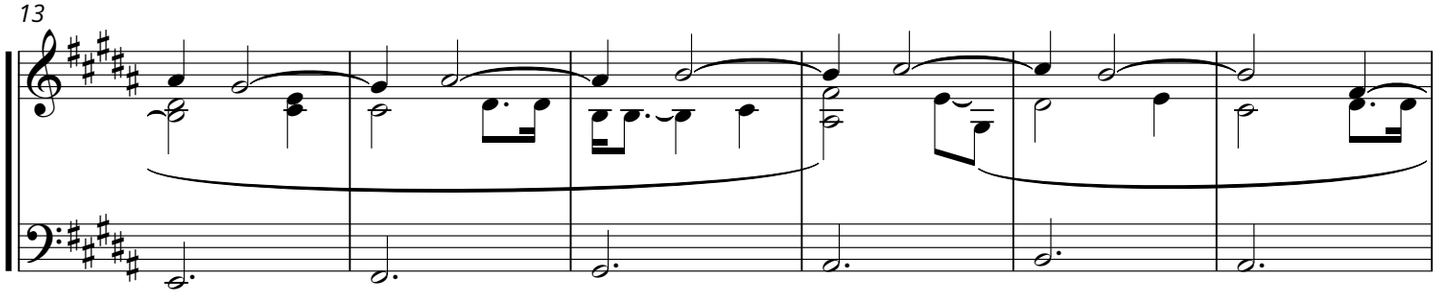
© Jónatan Gretarsson

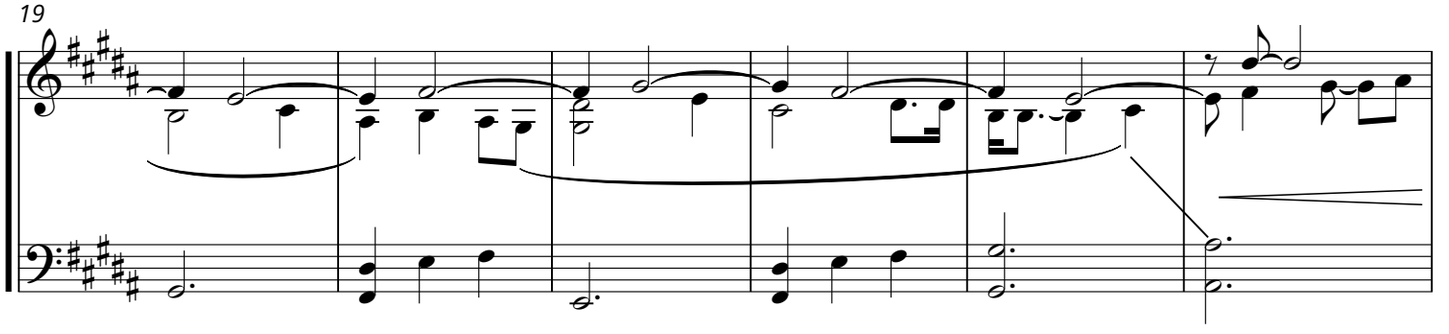
The Sun's Gone Dim and the Sky's Turned Black

Music by Jóhann Jóhannsson









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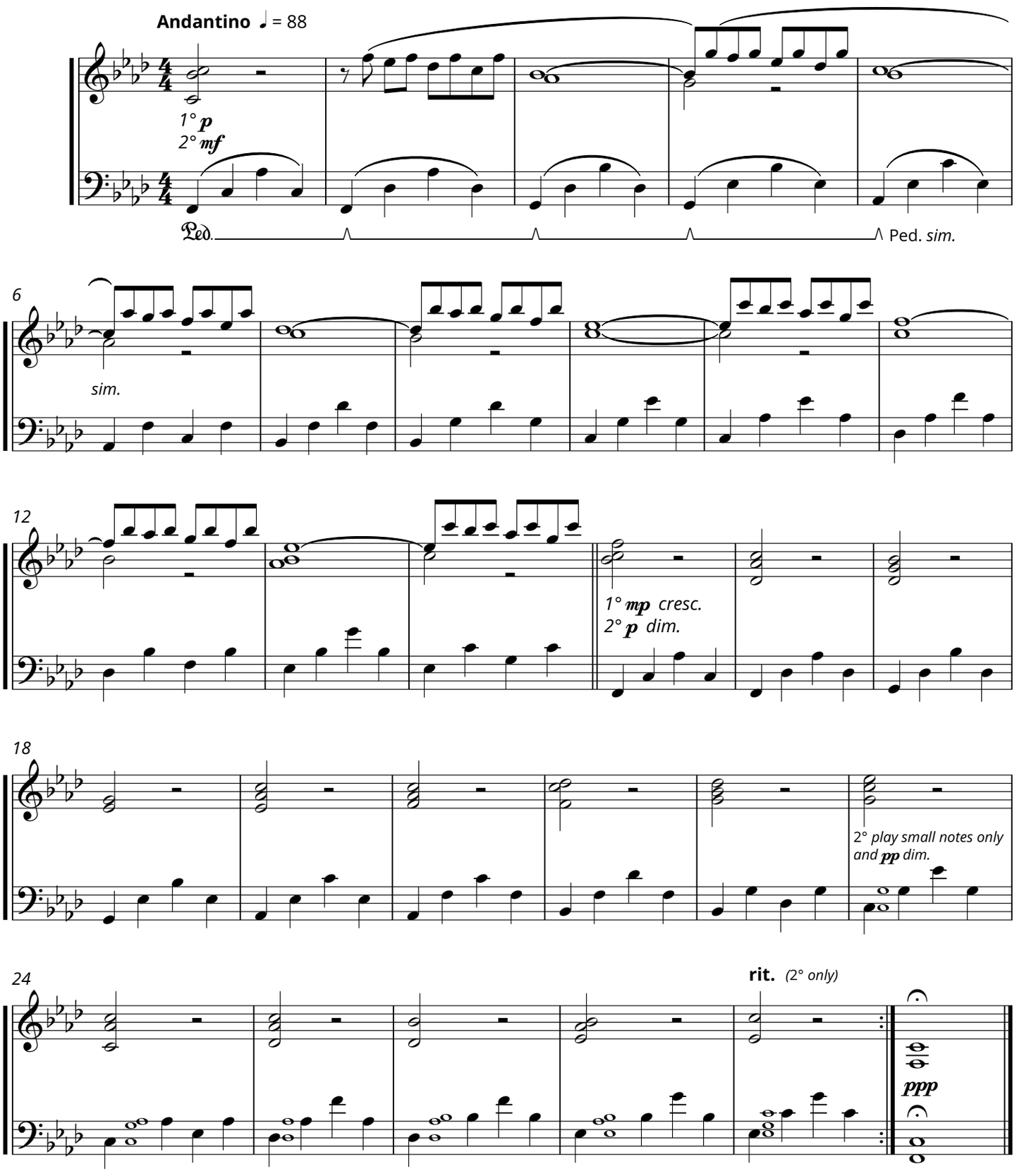
By the Roes, and by the Hinds of the Field

Music by Jóhann Jóhannsson



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