American Progressions

for Piano

in Three Movements

Blues

Pascoalette

Grace

dedicated to Dr. Akin Euba

Amy Rubin

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American Progressions

American Progressions was composed between 2000-2002 in Chester, New Jersey and Seattle, Washington. It was inspired by the philosophies of composer and theorist Professor Akin Euba, who has been an exponent of the "Pan African Piano" and "Intercultural Musicology." Akin, in both his compositions and writings has encouraged me and others to freely explore rhythms, forms and musical concepts as they migrate and transform themselves from culture to culture, across continents, historical time periods, and styles.

This three-movement work is dedicated to Akin.

"Blues" should be played with a lot of freedom and expression in terms of sound and rhythm. It is the most distinctly "American" piece of the group, nostalgically recalling blues riffs and a barrel house style of piano playing.

"Pascoalette" is a made-up word created in affectionate homage to the Brasilian composer/pianist Hermeto Pascoal.

"Grace" is rhythmically structured around repeating patterns in 12/8, not disimilar to the *agbadza* drumming pattern I fell in love with during my time in Ghana in 1992-93. There is an improvisation section from measures 134-167 with "changes" indicated. There is also an "Improv Insert" at the end of the score, which can serve as a skeleton for improvisation.

Dramatically, "Grace" refers to a spiritual voyage through confusion, difficulty, struggle and ultimate transcendence of the physical world. It is dedicated to the memory of my cousin, Dr. Lawrence Sharpe (1930-2000).

The three movements can be played in any order, or separately.

-Amy Rubin

Blues

Amy Rubin

♩ = ca. 98

Warmly

mf

8vb

6

(8vb)

11 slightly faster (♩ = 104-112)

poco rit.

16 *a tempo*

21 ♩ = 120 Swing ♪s

bring out inner voice

7:6

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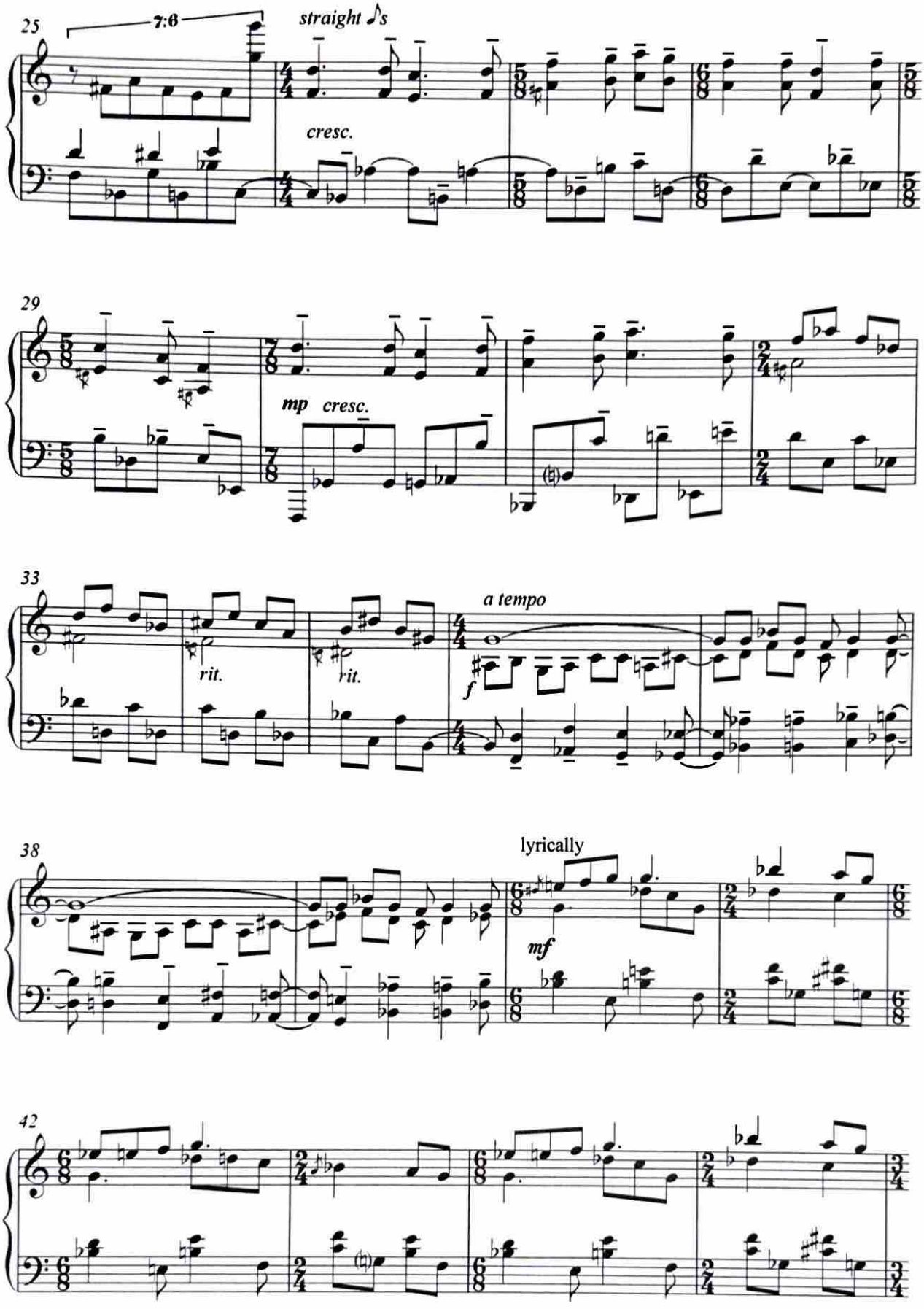
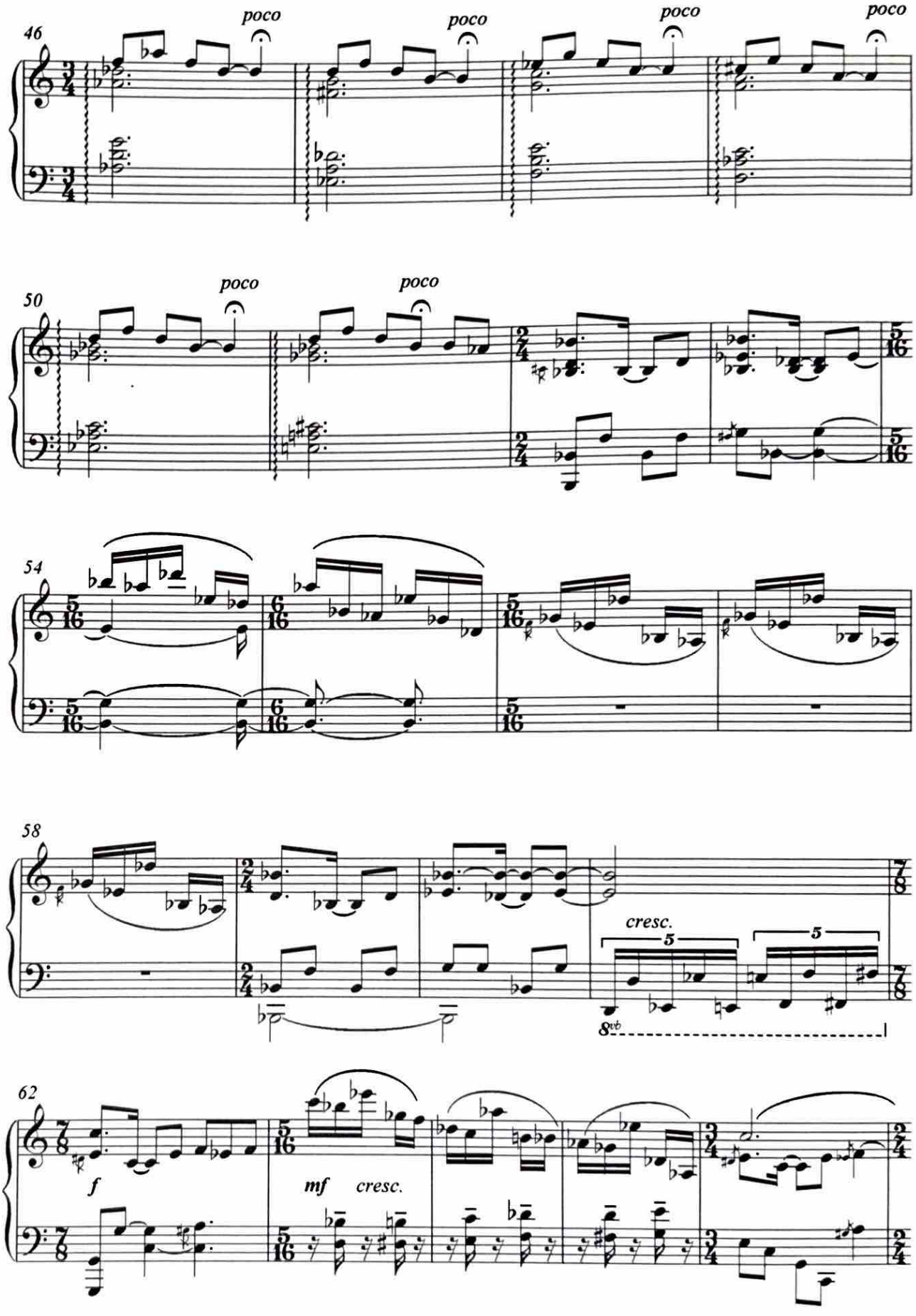

25
7:6
straight ♪s
cresc.
29
mp cresc.
33
rit.
rit.
a tempo
f
38
lyrically
mf
42


46
poco
poco
poco
poco
50
poco
poco
54
58
cresc.
5
5
8vb
62
f
mf
cresc.

PLEASE CONTACT AMY RUBIN FOR SCORE AND PARTS

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