Tango Secretum

David Rosenboom

2006

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Though written as a piano solo, *Tango Secretum* may also be arranged or orchestrated.

The texts appearing in the score are excerpts from American writer, Martine Bellen's poem, *Secretum*.* Her work is in turn "a response to Francesco Petrarca's *Secretum*, a (fictional) dialog in which he converses with St. Augustine about the human conditions of happiness and unhappiness." Bellen's words helped inspire this *Tango*. Though not imagined as being spoken, they have been enfolded inside the notation in the interest of informing creative interpretation of the music.

* Bellen, M. (2006-2007). GHOSTS! (Brooklyn, NY: Spuyten Duyvil Press).

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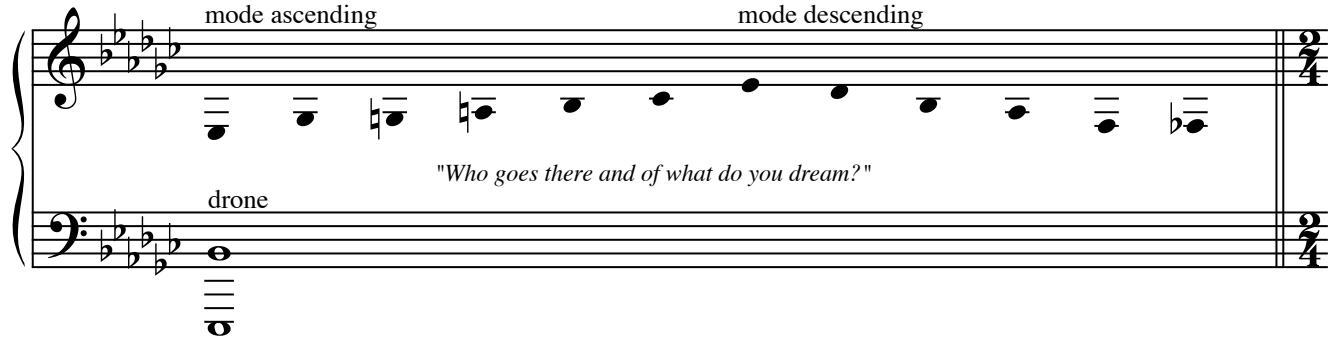
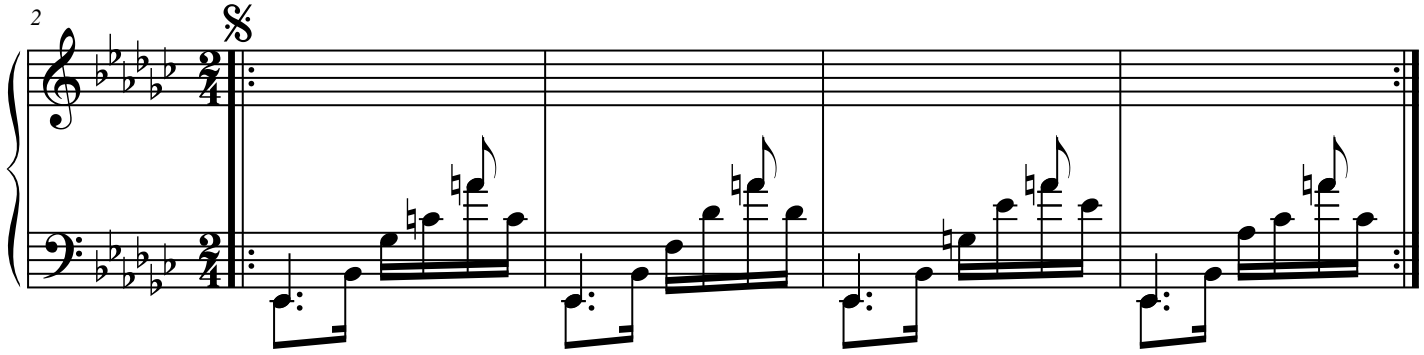
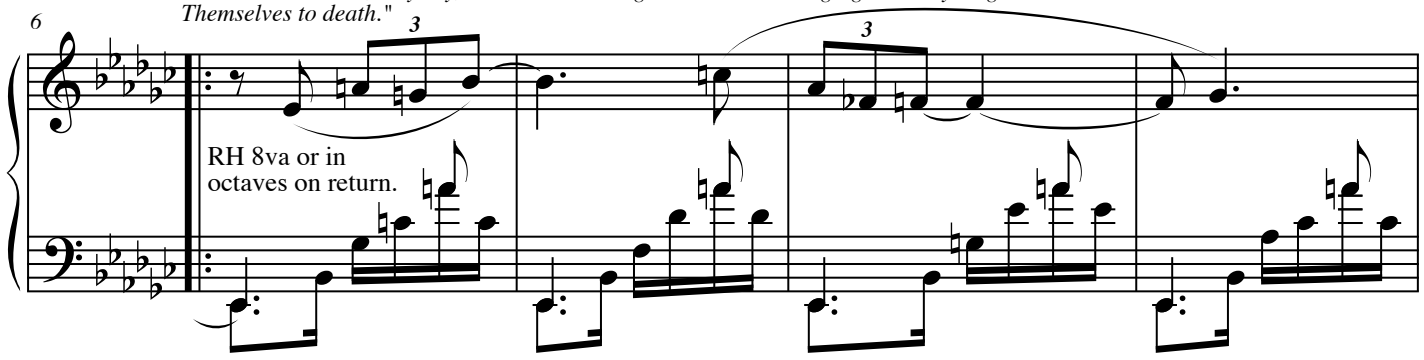
Preparatory Improvisation, "Alap" Style

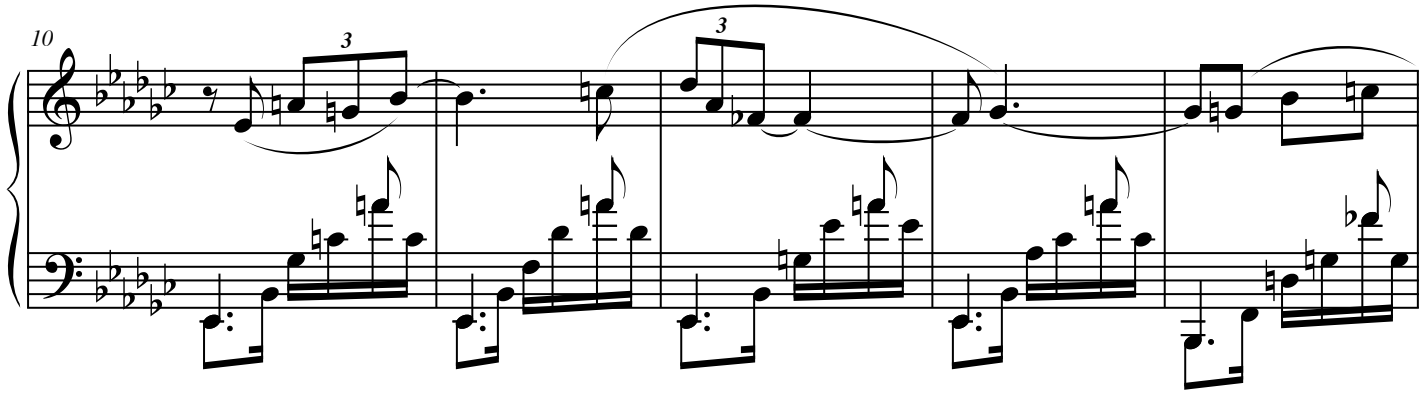


Slow Sultry Tango



"Little birds, they say, take so much delight in their own singing that they sing Themselves to death."





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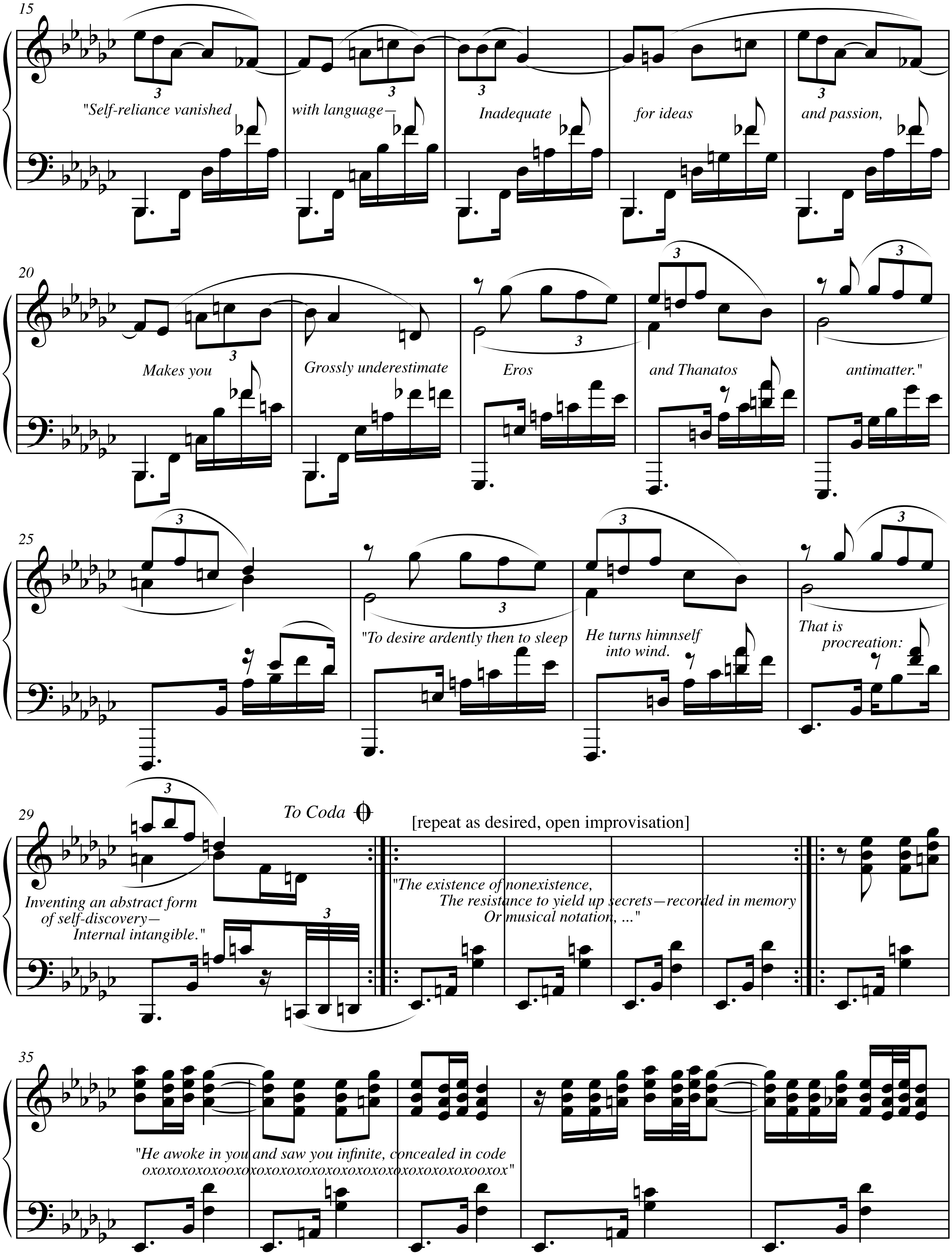
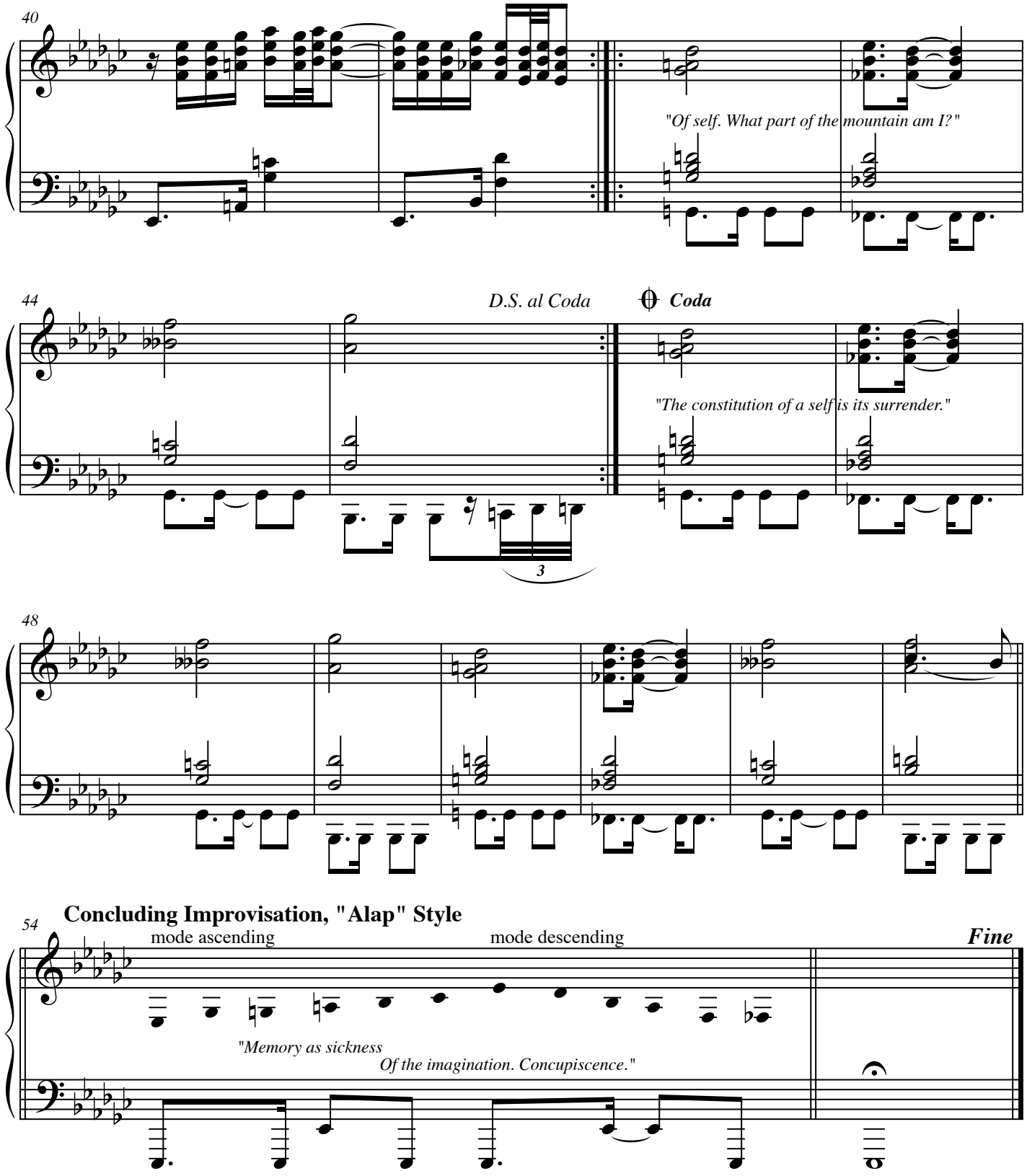

15
"Self-reliance vanished
with language—
Inadequate
for ideas
and passion,
20
Makes you
Grossly underestimate
Eros
and Thanatos
antimatter."
25
"To desire ardently then to sleep
He turns himnself into wind.
That is procreation:
29
Inventing an abstract form of self-discovery— Internal intangible."
To Coda
[repeat as desired, open improvisation]
"The existence of nonexistence,
The resistance to yield up secrets—recorded in memory
Or musical notation, ..."
35
"He awoke in you and saw you infinite, concealed in code
oxoxoxoxoxooxoxoxoxoxoxoxoxoxoxoxoxoxoxoxoxoxoxooxox"


40
"Of self. What part of the mountain am I?"
44
D.S. al Coda
Coda
"The constitution of a self is its surrender."
3
48
54
Concluding Improvisation, "Alap" Style
mode ascending
mode descending
Fine
"Memory as sickness
Of the imagination. Concupiscence."