Museum Masterpieces

10 Piano Solos Inspired by Great Works of Art

Catherine Rollin

As a child, I was very fortunate to have wonderful, loving parents who also loved the arts and viewed culture as something essential to life. They frequently took me to concerts, plays, and operas, and to visit our city's wonderful art museum, the Detroit Institute of Arts (DIA). It was at the DIA where I first became aware of the power of the visual arts. Since my childhood, I have traveled to many wonderful places in the world, but I feel that the greatest journey of all is the one that my parents fostered in me: it is the journey we can take into the world of creativity and imagination. It is through the world of the arts that human beings can create and reach beyond the ordinary experiences of daily life, and it is through the arts that the best of human potential is reached.

These pieces are inspired by paintings that have moved me and taken me on a creative journey. My goal is to fire the imagination and creativity of students starting with some of their earliest performing experiences. I hope that students will enjoy learning and performing these pieces and that they will be fueled by the imagery of the magical and evocative paintings that inspired this music.

Warmest wishes,

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for Marilyn Slenk

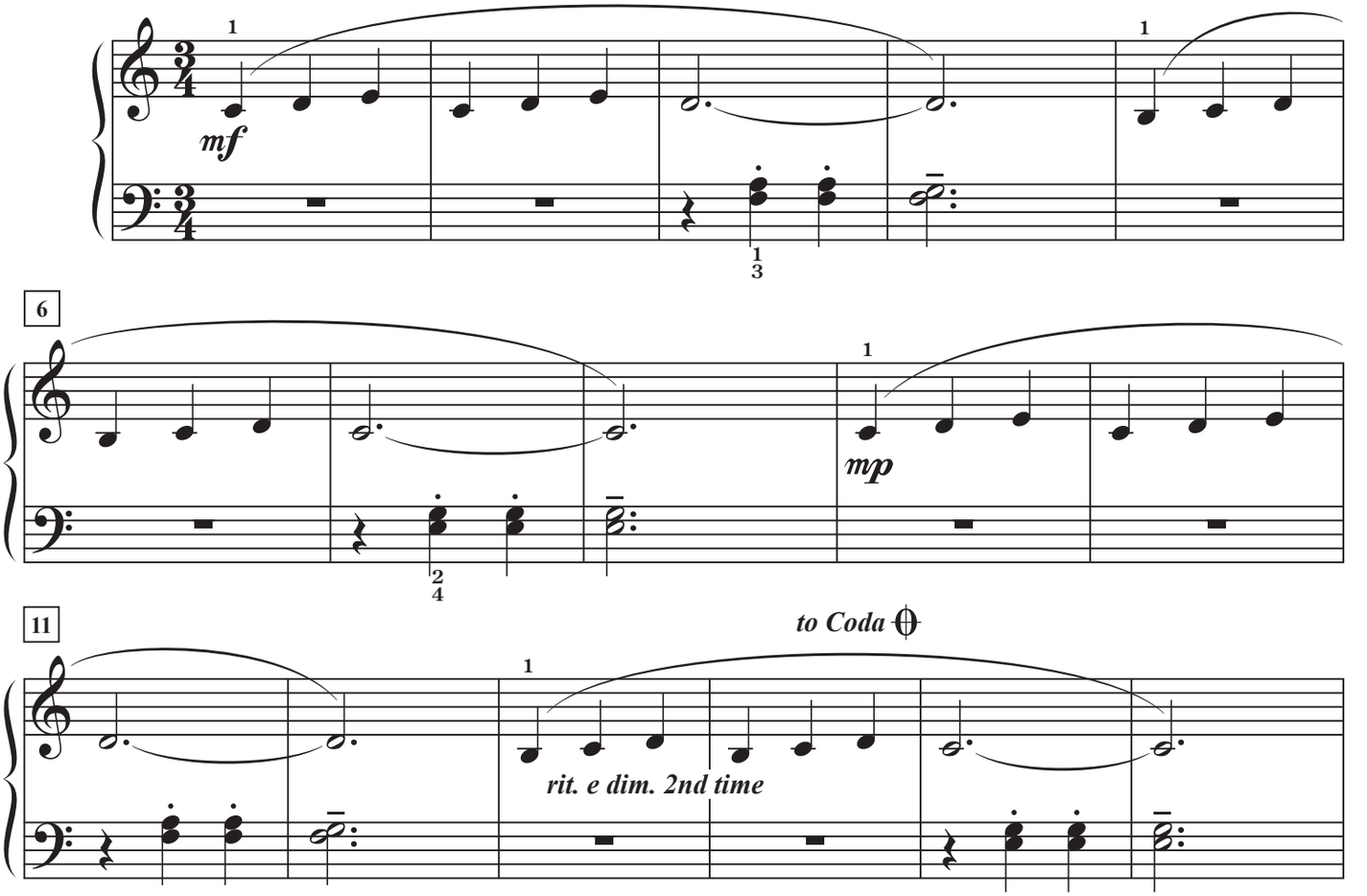
The Swing

collection of Musée d'Orsay, Paris

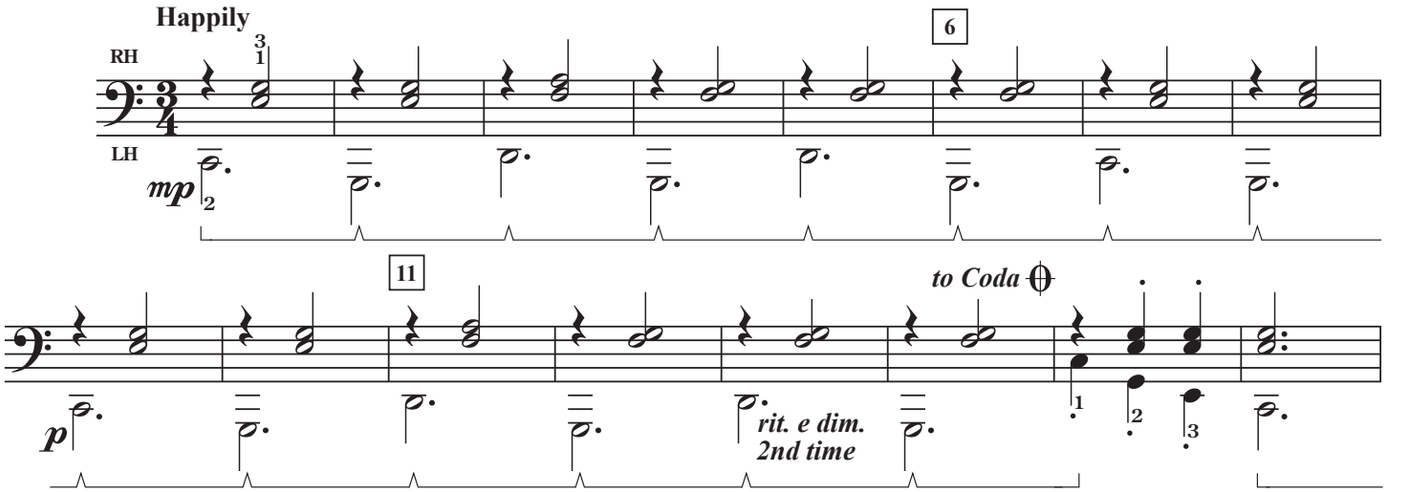
artist: Pierre-Auguste Renoir (1841–1919)

Happily Catherine Rollin

Both hands one octave higher throughout



Optional Duet Accompaniment (Student plays as written.)



for Emma and Mia Asayama-Stoloff

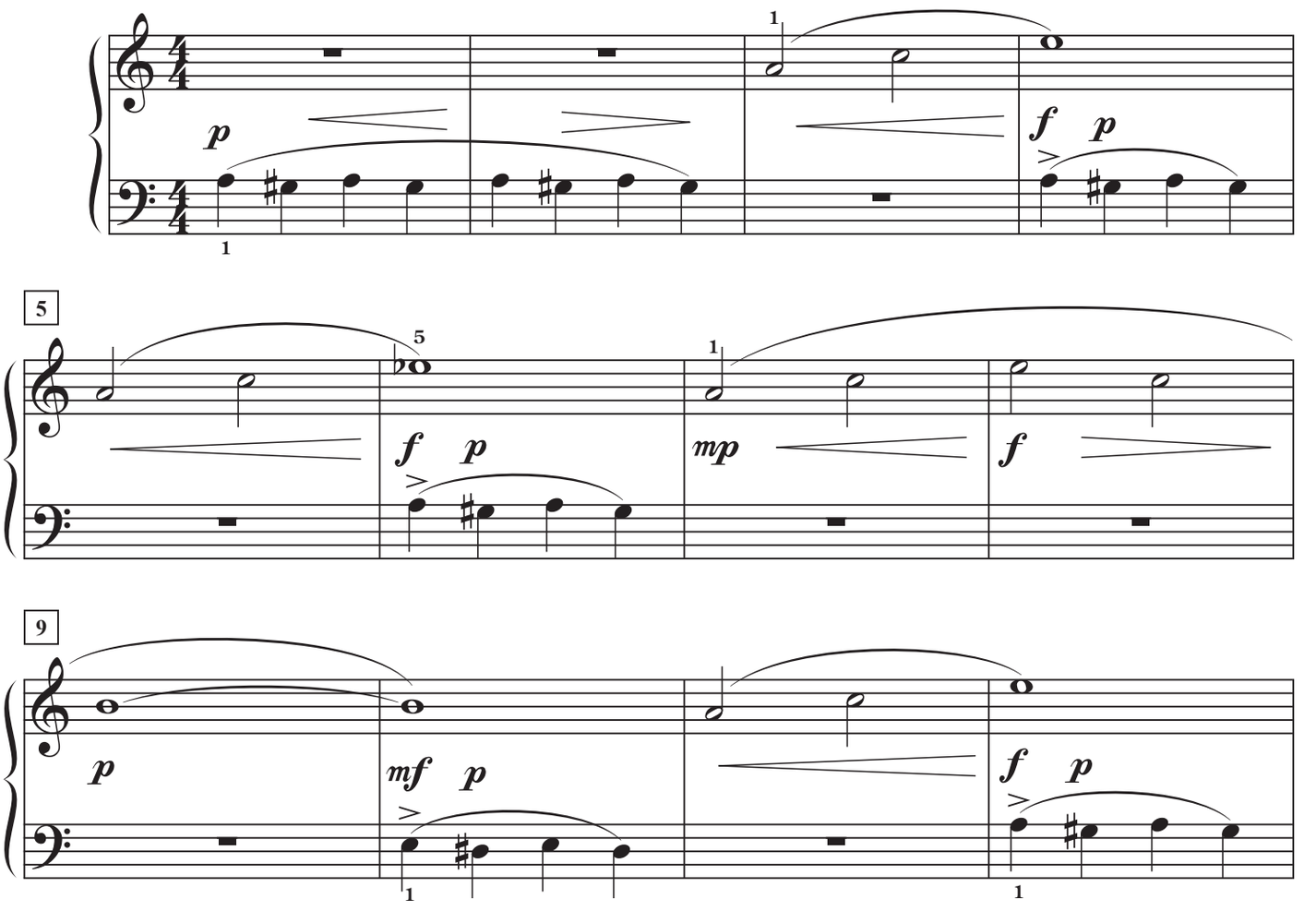
Tiger in a Tropical Storm

collection of National Gallery, London

artist: Henri Rousseau (1844–1910)

Catherine Rollin

Moving forward, on the prowl



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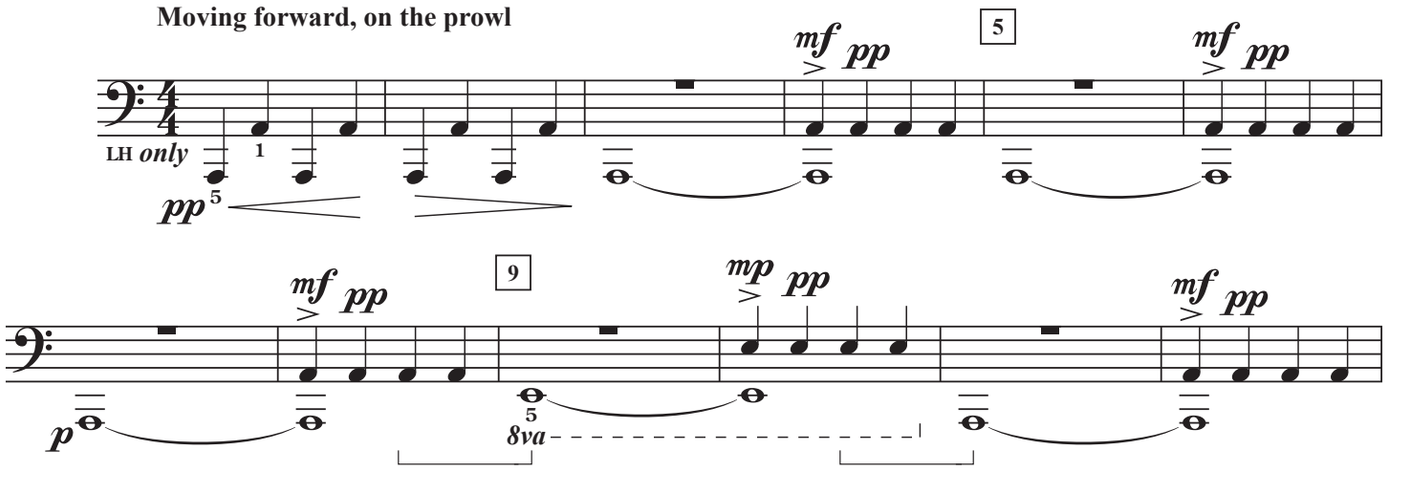
Moving forward, on the prowl