Gilad Cohen

Circling Time

for piano solo

(2018)

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Program notes:

A few years ago, a short untitled poem by Israeli poet Yehuda Amichai that had never been published was suddenly discovered. Beginning with the words "And with severe pains...", the poem argues that there are two types of time: one that moves along, and one that repeats itself. Indeed, although life seems to move linearly from birth to death, it often feels like our experiences repeat themselves. Challenges—and our emotional reactions to challenges—sometimes create the impression that nothing really changes and that we face the same issues over and over again. Circling Time reflects these two notions of time. Although outlining various moods and textures, it features again and again a single main theme. The theme itself, while creating an impression of a continuous line, is structured of two repetitions of the same seven notes.

Our physical body also reflects these two types of time: it changes all the time, yet our basic vital signs – our breath and our heartbeat – repeat throughout our lives with little change.

Likewise, throughout the piece's journey from beginning to end, a steady pulse of the note G in the middle of the piano occurs without a stop. Only at the very end does the pulse halt: it is then replaced by a long, sustained note, suggesting the last breath and heartbeat in our life.

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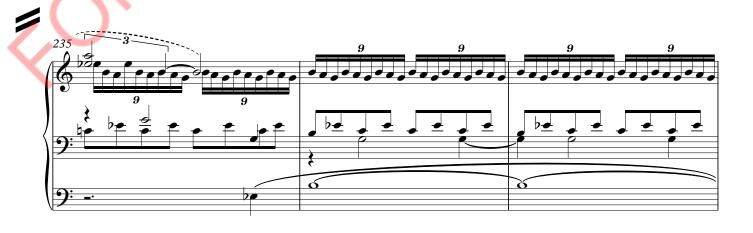


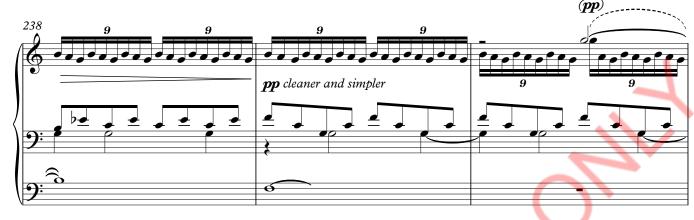






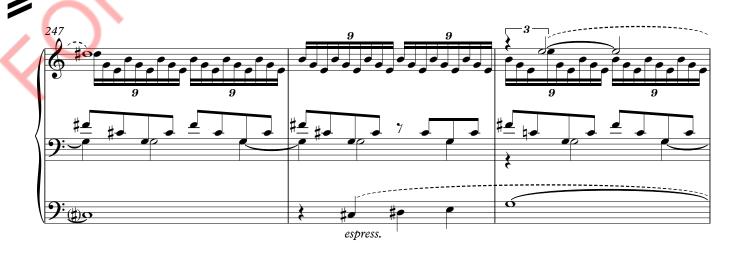


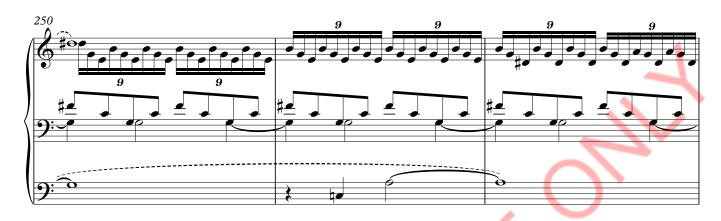


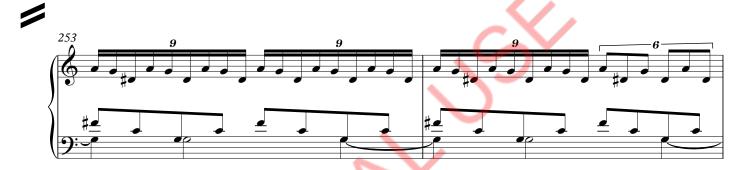




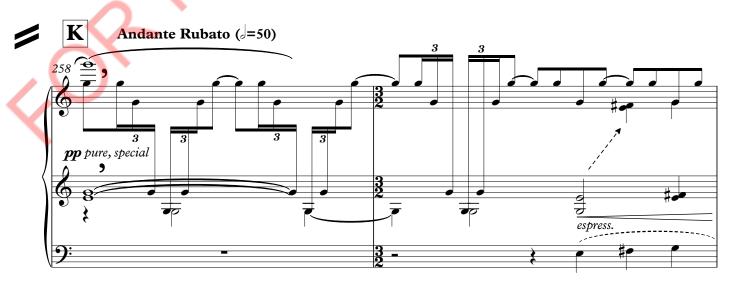










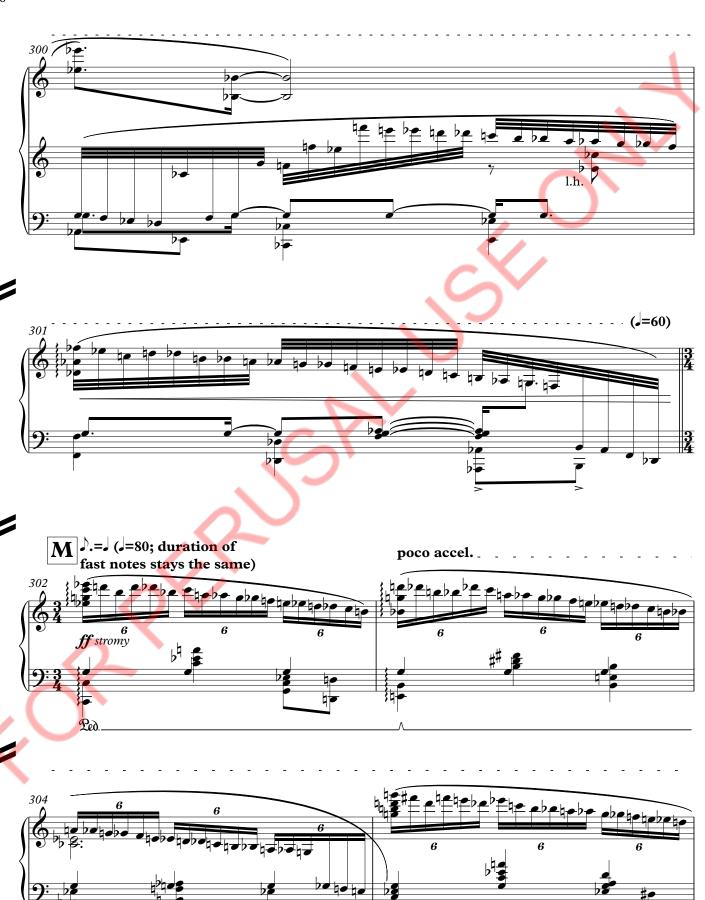












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