

The River

(for performance-artist, and a recording of her voice, four trombones, and piano)

William Osborne

NOTES

IMAGE

young woman
seated center stage
long black sequenced robes
flowing from shoulders
and vanishing in darkness
in form of
rose of night
right breast bare
crossed tied wrists
before her chest

LIGHT

rises subdued on face
gradually brighter
widening to rose
of swirling underwater light
from "singing to herself"
slow face to face
pause
slow face to black

MOVEMENT

cradled unseen child
in bound arms
released to swirling
river of life

VOICE

both gentle
octave lower than notated

TROMBONES

x note heads
removed f-valve tuning slide
numbers = slide position
for 88-H

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Trb. 1

Lontano e lento

p

7

(Both vocal parts are sung one octave lower than written.)

Quieto e rubato (♩=ca. 52)

12 Live voice

12

sing

mp

12 Trb. 1 5

12 Pno.

p

on that night the tide rose on that night rose the flood-ing tide

mp

p

Red. * Red. *

17 *3* *3* *3* *3*

when she went with her child to let her go to let her go flow - ing on the swell

17 *8va* *6* *3* *3* *3* *3*

17 *3* *3*

Red. *8vb*



20

to live to die

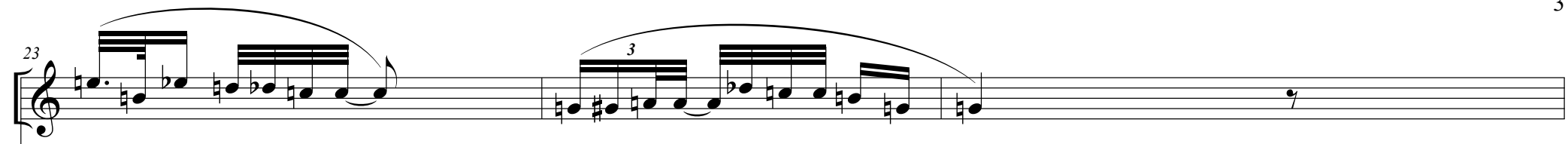
20 *p* *3* *5* *3* *3* *3* *3*

20 *3* *3* *3* *3*

8vb *Red.*

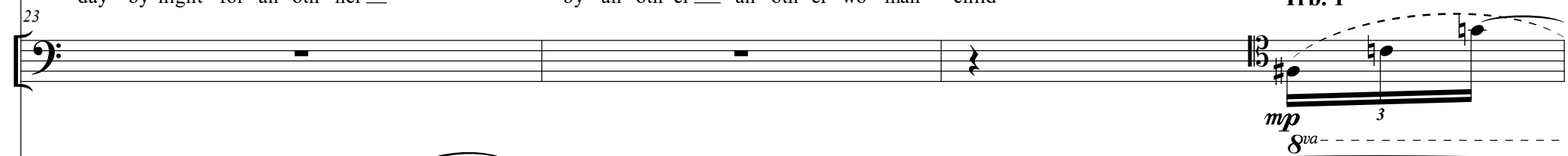
8vb *Red.*



23 

day by night for an-oth-er — by an-oth-er — an-oth-er wo-man child

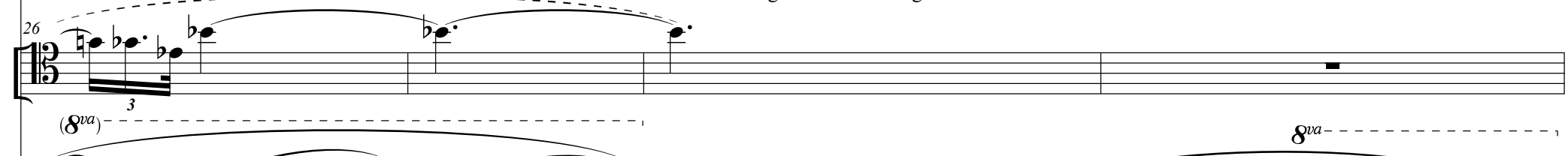
Trb. 1

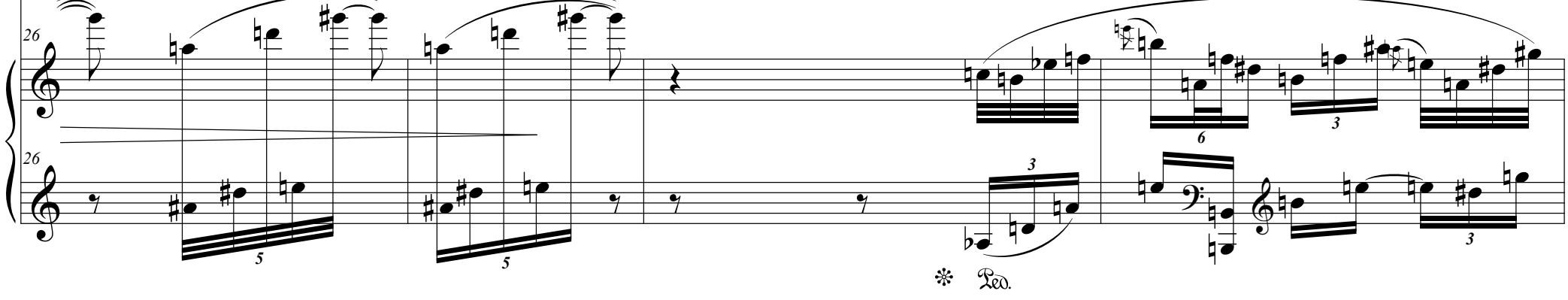
23 

23 

26 

on that night the flood-ing tide — when she went with her child

26 

26 

30

to let hergo flow - ing on the swell — to let hergo

8va-----

30

30

* Ped.

* Ped.

34

to let hergo

Lontano

34

Trb. 1

mp

34

34

3

3

3

* Ped.

* Ped.

41

47

Quieto e rubato, come sopra

52

sing
mp

52

so in the night the flood-ing tide
mp

52

52

Ped.

57

went out in the night went _____ out when she went with her child to let here go to let her

8va

8vb

* Ped.

61

go flow - ing on the swell _____ it was she who went and sang by the wa - ter

8va

Ped.

* Ped.

* Ped.

*

64

took her to the wa - ter sound-less swirl - ing wa - ter ___ when she _ went with her child

8va

64

64

64

Red. * Red. * Red. *

66

in the night went and sang went with her child and sang by the wa - ter ___ took her in her arms and sang to leave her in the

66

66

66

Red. * Red. * Red. * Red. *

wa - ter _____ cra - dle in the wa - ter sound-less swirl-ing wa - ter swirl-ing cra - dle in the wa - ter _____

Ped. * Ped. * Ped. * Ped. * Ped.

to live to _____ die

8va -----

* Ped. *

76

night by night by an - oth - er for an - oth - er _____ it was an - oth - er moth - er life one oth - er moth - er

8va

76

76

Red. *

79

life

79

mp

3

3

3

4

mp

8va

79

79

3

3

(both hands 8va)

11

5

5

Lontano

build intensity

83

Trb. 2

83

mp

build intensity

This system contains measures 83 to 86. The top staff is for Trb. 2. The music features a melodic line with various articulations and dynamics. A dashed line above the staff indicates a phrase that spans across measures. The dynamic marking *mp* is present at the beginning. The score includes fingerings such as 4, 3, and 2, and accents marked with asterisks.

87

87

This system contains measures 87 to 90. The top staff continues the melodic line from the previous system. The bottom staff shows a more active accompaniment with frequent sixteenth-note patterns. A dashed line above the top staff indicates a phrase that spans across measures. The score includes fingerings such as 3, 2, and 3, and accents marked with asterisks.

subsiding

91

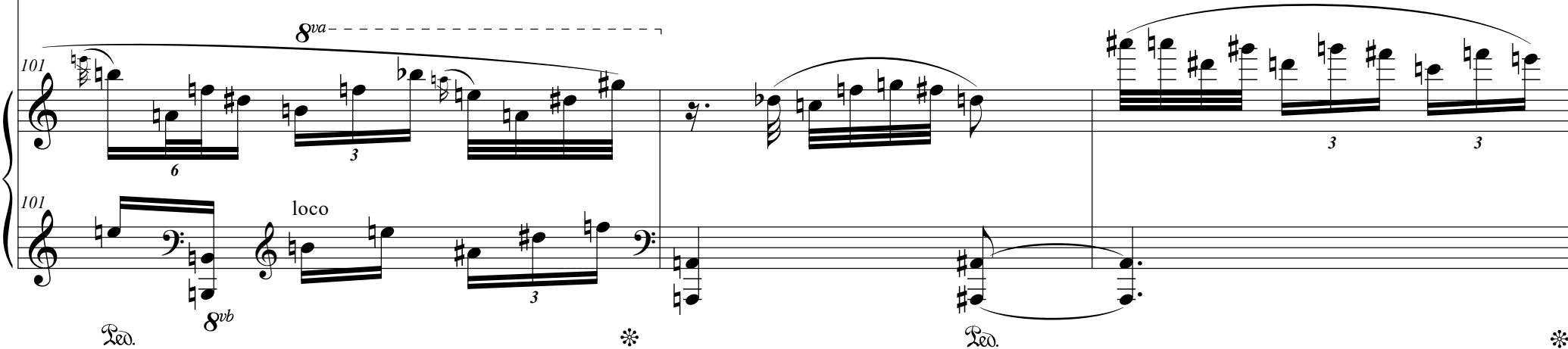
91

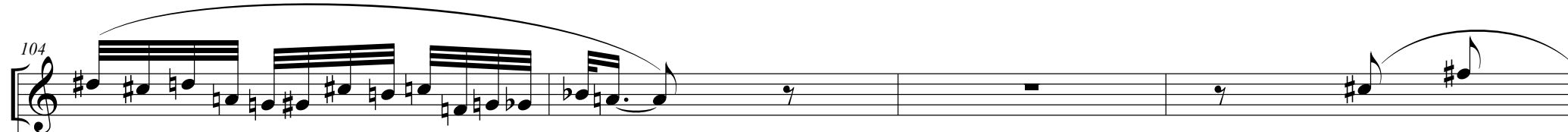
subsiding

This system contains measures 91 to 94. The top staff continues the melodic line. The bottom staff features a more active accompaniment. A dashed line above the top staff indicates a phrase that spans across measures. The dynamic marking *subsiding* is present. The score includes fingerings such as 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6, and accents marked with asterisks.

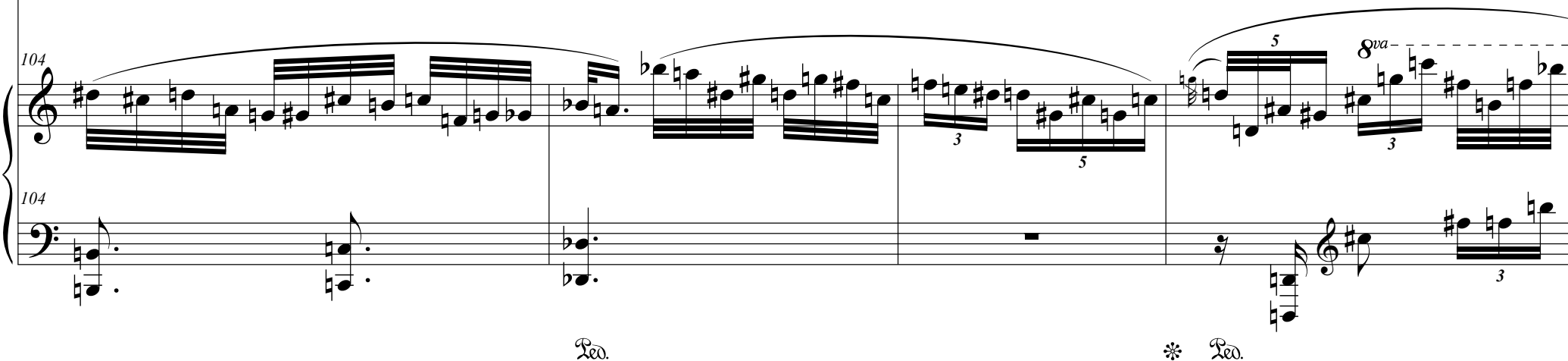
101 

when she went with her child to put her in the wa-ter

101 

104 

sound-less-swirl-ing wa-ter swirl-ing cra-dle in the wa-ter to live

104 

108

to — die day by night by and for an-oth-er an - oth - er child vieled bride child

108 *8va*

108

3 *3* *3* *5*

3 *5*

* *Ped.* * *Ped.*

113

no need to fear the wo-man tied moth-er flood we bound to shine give light

113 *8va*

113

3 *3* *3* *5* *5*

senza pedale *senza pedale*

* *Ped.* * *Ped.* * *Ped.* * *Ped.* *

118

no vieled wed bound it was one more wo-man tied

8va

3 5 3 3 3 5

Red. * Red. * Red.

Detailed description: This system contains measures 118 through 122. The vocal line (top staff) has lyrics: "no vieled wed bound it was one more wo-man tied". The piano accompaniment (middle and bottom staves) features a complex texture with triplets and octaves. The right hand of the piano part has triplets of eighth notes, with some marked with a '3' and others with a '5'. The left hand has octaves, with some marked with a '5'. There are dynamic markings 'Red.' and '8va' (octave) with dashed lines indicating the octave shift.

123

wed bound locked a-way bound a-way an - oth - er moth - er life one oth - er moth - er

8va

5 3 5 5 5 5

* Red. * Red. * Red. * Red.

Detailed description: This system contains measures 123 through 127. The vocal line (top staff) has lyrics: "wed bound locked a-way bound a-way an - oth - er moth - er life one oth - er moth - er". The piano accompaniment (middle and bottom staves) features octaves and triplets. The right hand of the piano part has octaves, with some marked with a '5'. The left hand has triplets of eighth notes, with some marked with a '3' and others with a '5'. There are dynamic markings '* Red.' and '8va' (octave) with dashed lines indicating the octave shift.

Lontano

126

life

Trb. 1

126

mp

3

3

8va

mp

4

2+

3

126

3

3

(both hands 8va)

126

3

8vb

11

5

5

* Ped.

131

Trb. 2

131

mp

4+

4-

5

3

2

3

3

4

4-

1

Detailed description of the musical score: The score is for a piece titled 'Lontano'. It features four staves. The top staff is a vocal line starting at measure 126 with the word 'life'. The second staff is for Trb. 1, starting at measure 126 with a dynamic marking of *mp*. It contains several triplet markings (3) and an octave-up marking (8va). The third staff is for the Piano, starting at measure 126, with a dynamic marking of *mp*. It includes markings for both hands playing an octave up (8va) and an octave down (8vb), as well as a double bar line with the number 11 below it. The bottom staff is for Trb. 2, starting at measure 131 with a dynamic marking of *mp*. It includes various fingering and articulation markings such as 4+, 4-, 5, 3, 2, 3, 3, 4, 4-, and 1. There are also asterisk (*) and Ped. (pedal) markings throughout the score.

135

build intensity

Trb. 3

Trb. 4

mf

Detailed description: This system contains measures 135, 136, and 137. The top staff (unlabeled) has a whole rest in measure 135 and a whole note in measure 136. The middle staff (Trb. 3) and bottom staff (Trb. 4) play a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes with slurs and accents. A dashed line above the Trb. 3 staff indicates a 'build intensity' across measures 135 and 136. Measure 137 continues the pattern with a 'mf' dynamic. Fingerings are indicated with numbers 1, 2, 3, and 4.

138

f

Detailed description: This system contains measures 138, 139, 140, and 141. All four staves (unlabeled, Trb. 3, Trb. 4, and another unlabeled staff) play complex rhythmic patterns with slurs and accents. A dashed line above the top staff indicates a 'build intensity' across measures 138 and 139. Measure 140 features a 'f' dynamic. Measure 141 continues the pattern with various fingerings (2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7) and articulation marks.

The image displays a musical score for four staves, covering measures 143 to 146. The score is written in bass clef with a 3/4 time signature. The word "subsiding" is written above the first measure of each staff. The notation includes various rhythmic values, accidentals, and articulation marks. Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1-5. Slurs and dashed lines group notes across measures. The first staff has a measure rest in measure 145. The second staff has a measure rest in measure 144. The third staff has a measure rest in measure 145. The fourth staff has a measure rest in measure 144. The score concludes with a double bar line at the end of measure 146.

148

sing
mp

148

so in the night the flood-ing tide
mp

148

148

148

148

148

mp

148

And.

154

in the night went down down in-to the deep child in arms and down sing-ing down by the flood-ing tide where her moth-er went

mp

154

p

154

senza pedale

158

long a go — child in arms — moth-er arms in the night the tide rose a fath-er-less child they said a fath-er-less

158

158

6

ped.

* *ped.* *

163 *6* *3* *3*

child bear a - way the bur - den care worn moth - er giv - en life no bound bound to life

163 *3* *p*

163 *3* *6* *3*

163 *Reo.* * *Reo.* * *Reo.*

167 *3* *3* *3* *3*

by the ri - ver child in arms cling - ing on moth - er hold - ing hold - ing

167

167 *8va* *5* *(both hands 8va)* *5* *5* *5*

167 *6* * *3* *Reo.* * *Reo.* *5* *5* *5* *

170

on so in the night the flood-ing tide went

170

170

(both hands 8va)

174

down with her child wo - man child went down went with her child to let her down down in-to the deep sing-ing down

174

174

Red. * Red. 8vb* Red. *

178

moth-er life her moth-er life — in the night the flood-ing tide went down down int - the deep child in arms and down sing-ing down

moth-er life her moth-er life — in the night the flood-ing tide went down down int - the deep child in arms and down sing-ing down

178

178

178

Lead. * *Lead.* * *Lead.* * *Lead.* * *Lead.* *

182

to the flood-ing tide and held her held her sing-ing to her-self no riv-er flow on deep wa-ter — the flood at last sing-ing to the ri-ver rose of

to the flood-ing tide and held her held her sing-ing to her-self no riv-er flow on deep wa-ter — the flood at last sing-ing to the ri-ver rose of

182

182

188

night flow-ing on let her — go rose of night let her go — let her — go

188

p 3 3 3

198 *morendo poco a poco*

3 3 3 3 3 3

8va

198

3

8va

203

(8va)

8va

203

3 3 3 3

8va

206

8va

8va

206

3 5 5

8va