Hirsute Pursuit

for solo pianist

Colin G. Johnson

Programme Note

Hirsute Pursuit was originally written as the final section of my orchestral piece Exit, Pursued by a Bear (hence the title). Eventually this section was left out of the piece, and I decided that, with minor modifications, it would stand alone as a solo piano piece. It is an unabashed exercise in classic minimalism.

Notes for Performers

The piece lasts around 1'20".

There is scope for it to be played as a duet, with one player per line. I imagine it would work rather well as a marimba piece too. Other arrangements may be possible, though part of the point of the piece is the uniformity of the texture, so I don 't imagine that it would work too well with different instrumentation on each line.

Biography

Colin Johnson studied mathematics at the University of York, and currently teaches in the Computing Laboratory at the University of Kent, from where he obtained his PhD in 2003. The present work represents the latest in a number of pieces that have explored structured frameworks in which human musicians work with a mixture of technology, composed material, random choices, theatrical miniatures, found texts from internet searches, and improvised material. He is particularly interested in ways of structuring musical and theatrical material by drawing on ways in which people have attempted to formalise complicated systems: computer programs, role-playing games, instruction manuals, finite state machines, flow charts, examination rubrics, engineering drawings, assembly instructions for flat-pack furniture, signage, et cetera. Sometimes he writes straightforward music for acoustic instruments.

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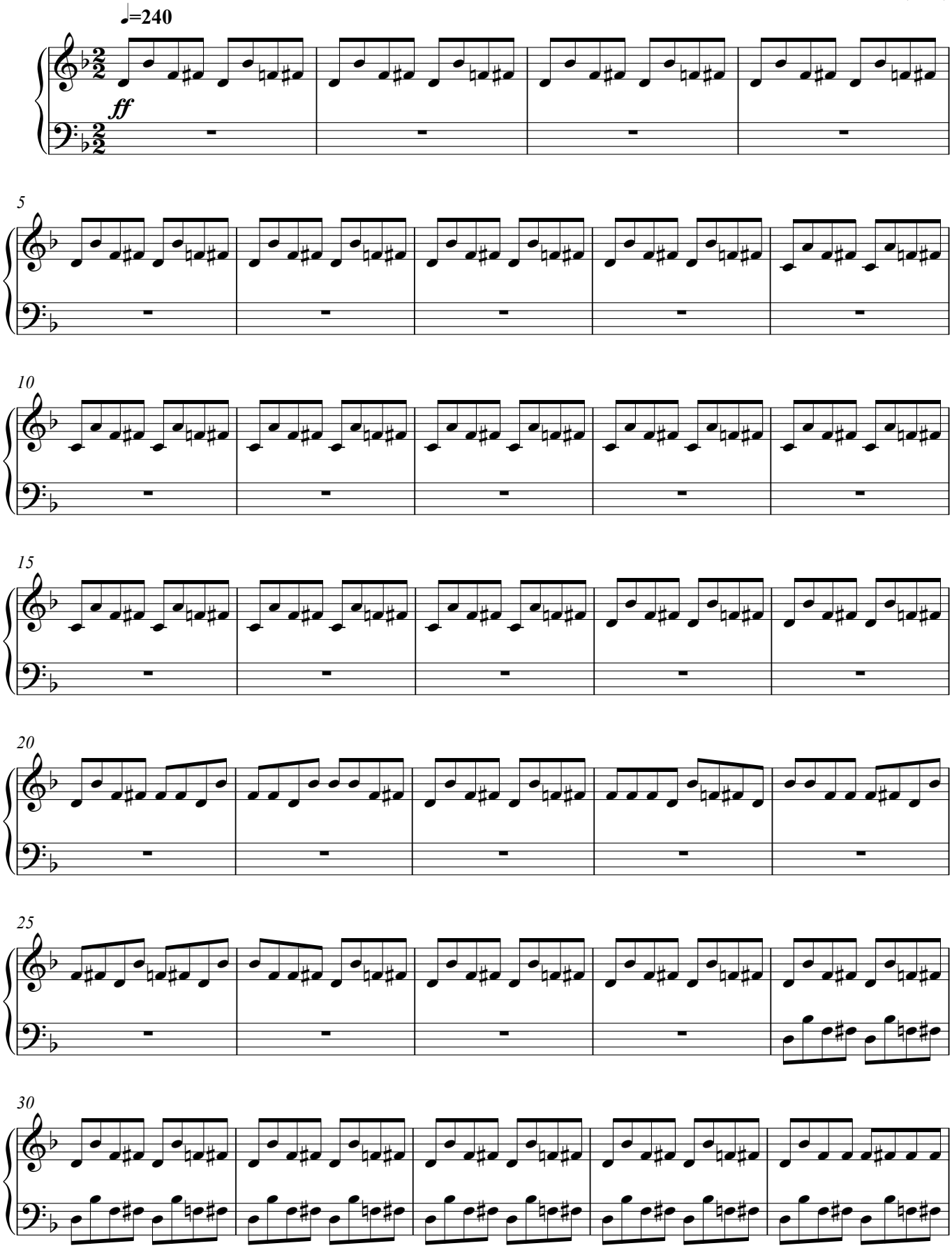
Hirsute Pursuit

Colin G. Johnson (2001)



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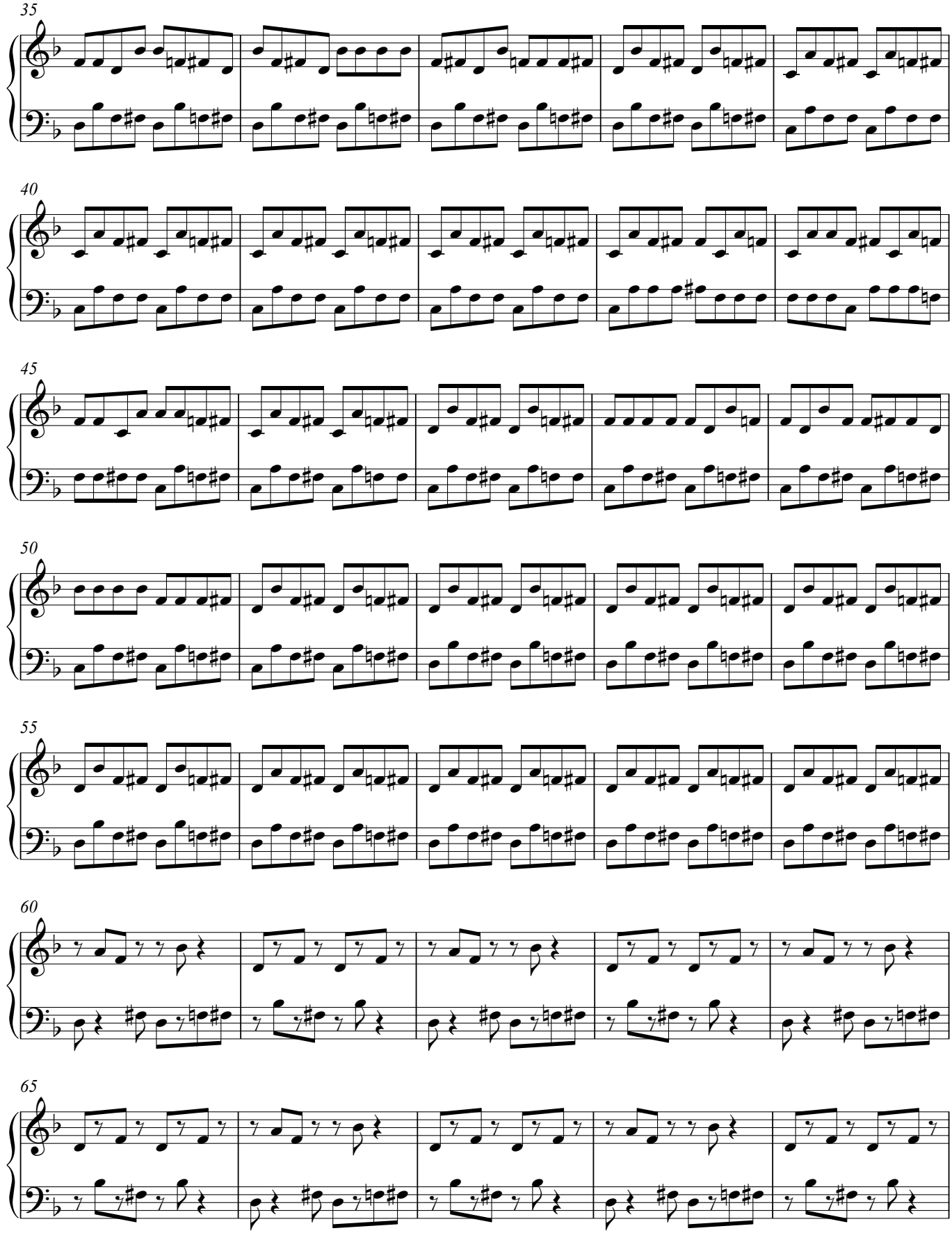
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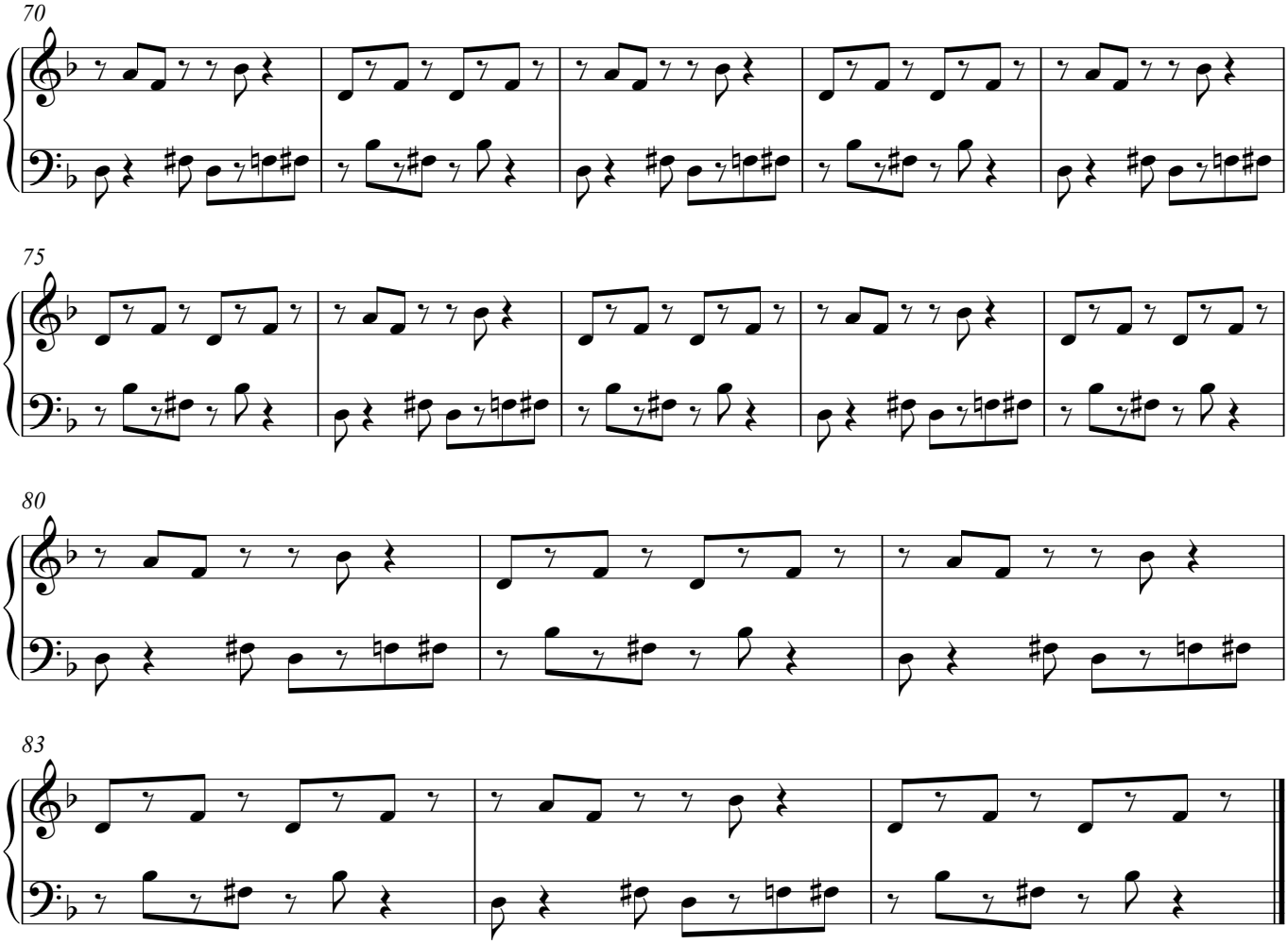
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