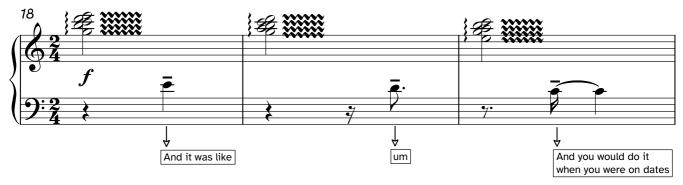
## Do you share coming out stories still?

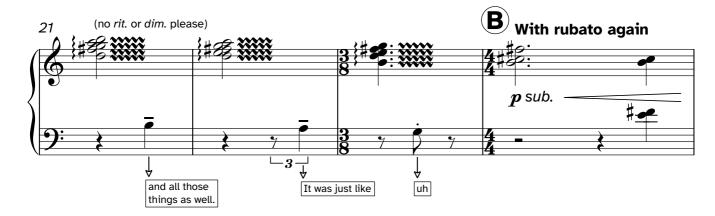
for TouchKeys, MIDI keyboard and video

Robert Reid Allan (2022)





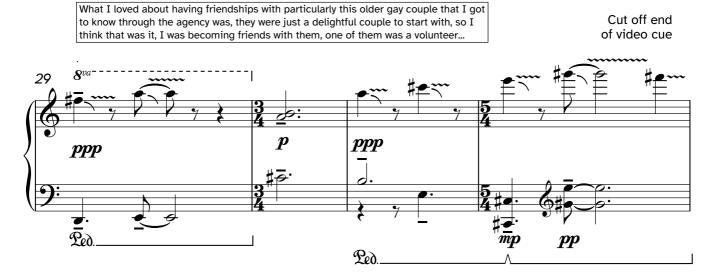


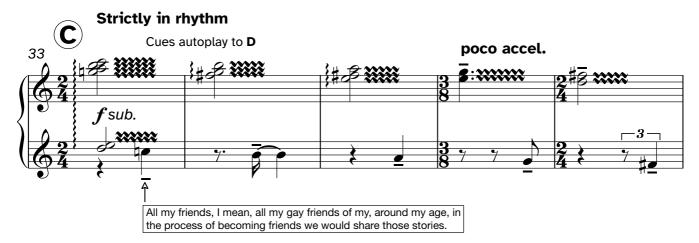


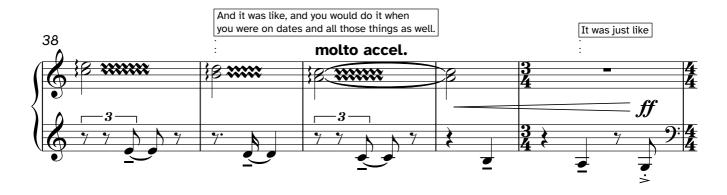
## Cues autoplay from here to C

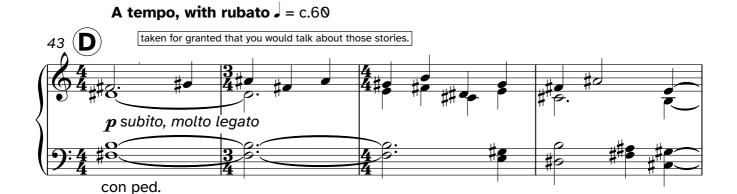
It was the kind of environment where you did become friends with some of the people that you're working with. In the same ways you became friends with some of the clients of the agency, those were the people living with HIV. Um...

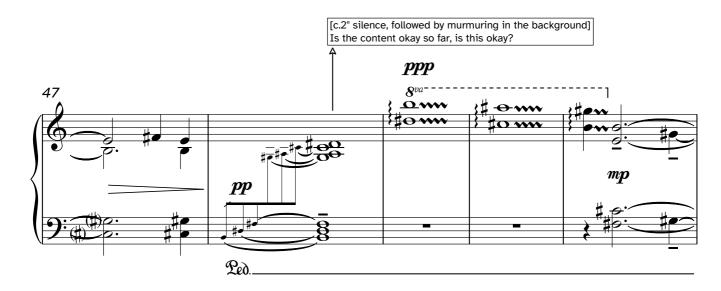










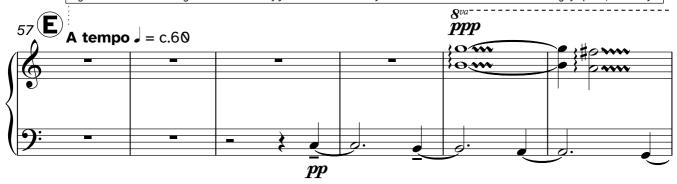


## Cues autoplay to G

But I also realised after a while, "Wow, these people are the age of my parents." And they had been together when I met them in the early 90s for coming off on for coming on for 35, 40 years, so since the 1950s and they would talk about



If a house was for sale or for rent and they found out about it, they would do whatever they could to put off straight couples from moving there. So they would make this road look really unpleasant if a straight couple was coming up the road and viewing a house or something like that. And they just sort of found ways to make sure that it would remain a gay space, basically.

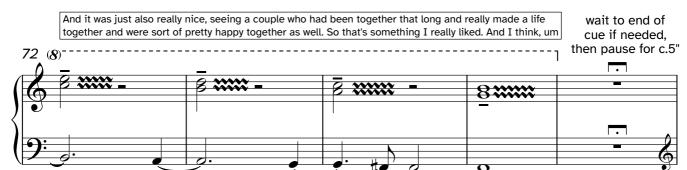


They also said that one of the ways you used to advertise if you want to if you were gay, and you wanted a roommate in those days, was to say, if you were posting a classified ad, you would say, 'Seeking congenial roommate,' and that was code for 'queer'.



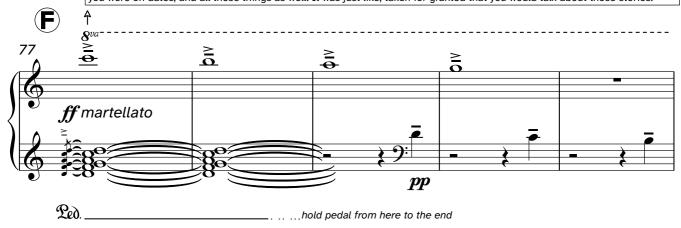
And so it was kind of interesting, just hearing this stuff and getting this like window on to a different era. You know, when you're in your twenties you arrogantly think that anyone more than ten years older than you is like, ancient. And these guys were in their seventies.





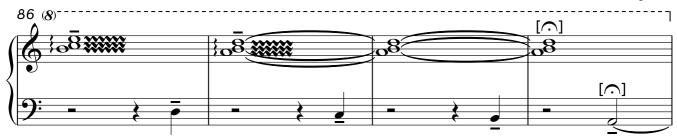
## [5" silence]

You know, the quintessential coming out story from my time is, and still for many people today I recognise, is, you know, one of self-realisation and then stru-... You know, figuring out that you're gay and then struggling with that, or being aware that it's not okay to come out. And then just trying to decide when you'll do it. And all my friends, I mean, all my gay friends of my, around my age, in the process of becoming friends, we would share those stories. And it was like... And you would do it when you were on dates, and all those things as well. It was just like, taken for granted that you would talk about those stories.



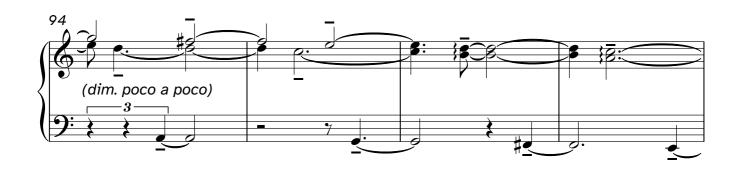


pause if necessary before start of following cue



But to the extent that kids can declare themselves gay when they're, you know, seven or eight or fourteen or whatever (which I think is fantastic) they won't necessarily... Therefore, they don't really have a coming out story, at least not that initial coming out story. There may be other environments in which they have to come out, but hopefully increasingly not. But it does make me wonder if that's like a whole genre of narrative, whether it's oral or written down or transmuted into art somehow, that is fading away. I mean, that will become a kind of historic, it'll be kind of... It'll be a historical narrative form that isn't really directly relevant any more.





But I mean, I don't know how it is if that's, like, for someone like you and your queer friends, do you share coming out stories still?

[background murmuring which slowly fades out]

