In memory of László Kozma (1960-2026)

“Come, my friends,
‘Tis not too late to seek a newer world.
Push off, and sitting well in order smite
The sounding furrows; for my purpose holds
To sail beyond the sunset, and the baths
Of all the western stars, until I die.
It may be that the gulfs will wash us down:
It may be we shall touch the Happy Isles,
And see the great Achilles, whom we knew.
Tho’ much is taken, much abides; and tho’
We are not now that strength which in old days
Moved earth and heaven; that which we are, we are;
One equal temper of heroic hearts,
Made weak by time and fate, but strong in will
To strive, to seek, to find, and not to yield.”

Tennyson, Alfred Lord: *Ulysses*

Dr. László Kozma graduated in 1984 as a mathematician and English specialized translator at Lajos Kossuth University (now: University of Debrecen) in Debrecen. He received the Higher Education Academic Merit Medal for his outstanding academic achievement, then in the same year the first degree of the Kató Rényi Prize awarded by the János Bolyai Mathematical Society, and in 1990, the Géza Grünwald Prize.

Throughout his professional career, he worked at the Department of Geometry of the Institute of Mathematics at the University of Debrecen, as an associate professor from 1994. He received his doctorate (dr. univ.) in 1987, and then the CSc degree (Candidate of Science, equivalent to PhD) three years later. He habilitated in 2005. His teaching activity covered many areas. He gave lectures and seminars in undergraduate, master's and teacher training, took part in faculty and inter-faculty teaching, he was a supervisor of the Differential Geometry and its Applications program of the Doctoral School of Mathematics and Computer Sciences, and last but not least, he actively participated in English-language teaching. Considering the importance of a successful education, he contributed to the preparation of numerous educational materials that are still authoritative today. In the spirit of cooperative and open educational policy, he participated in developing the program of math courses for undergraduate engineering students and students of economics, and took an active role in the creation, operation and development of English-language non-medical programs. In 2004, he won the Prize of the Faculty of Economics at the University of Debrecen, in 2017 he received a Rector’s Certificate of Recognition at the University of Debrecen, and in 2021 the state award of the Knight's Cross of the Hungarian Order of Merit, Civil Division. For his scientific work, he was also granted several professional scholarships: János Bolyai Research Scholarship (1999-2001), István Széchenyi Scholarship (2003-2006), József Öveges Scholarship (2006).

Dr. László Kozma had an excellent international network of contacts. He collaborated with Japanese, American, Chinese, Czech and Romanian research groups and participated in longer study trips abroad in Europe, Asia and the United States. He regularly gave lectures on his scientific results at international conferences and seminars of foreign research institutions. His field of expertise was Finsler geometry, which has been the main research area of the School

of Differential Geometry in Debrecen for several decades. He achieved remarkable results in the connection theory of Finsler and sub-Finsler geometry, from general methods to special differential geometric spaces.

For several years, he was a member of the editorial board of the journal Acta Mathematica Academiae Paedagogicae Nyíregyháziensis, and for nearly twenty years, he was the technical editor of Publicationes Mathematicae Debrecen, the internationally renowned journal of the Institute of Mathematics at the University of Debrecen, and later he worked as a consultant in the editorial board. He used his extensive international network of contacts in research organization and tender cooperation as well. He was the professional manager of numerous international and domestic tenders. Within the framework of bilateral scientific cooperation, he contributed to the revitalization of scientific life and the preservation of the international prestige of the Institute of Mathematics by organizing international conferences.

Dr. László Kozma, Laci continuously took an active role in university public life as well. He participated in the work of a great many committees and organizational units both within the Institute of Mathematics and in the wider university environment: as Deputy Director (1999-2001, Institute of Mathematics), Deputy Dean (2005-2009, Faculty of Science and Technology), Head of Department (2006-2015, Institute of Mathematics, Department of Geometry). He was known by his colleagues for his naturally cheerful and friendly personality, open to changes and new challenges.

As a member of the Coordinating Center for International Education, he was the program coordinator for non-medical English-language programs. He represented the University of Debrecen on many occasions at international events, devotedly seeking and facilitating opportunities for cooperation. On that very day, January 19, 2026, he worked on establishing an international cooperation…

Laci was preparing to retire this year. On this occasion, the management of the Institute of Mathematics would have recognized his outstanding work with a commemorative medal. However, this could no longer be done…

We cherish his memory.

Csaba Vincze

Debrecen, February 19, 2026

The University's official commemoration in Hungarian language:
https://hirek.unideb.hu/kozma-laszlo-1960-2026

https://publi.math.unideb.hu/images_publi/Barcarola_L_K.mid

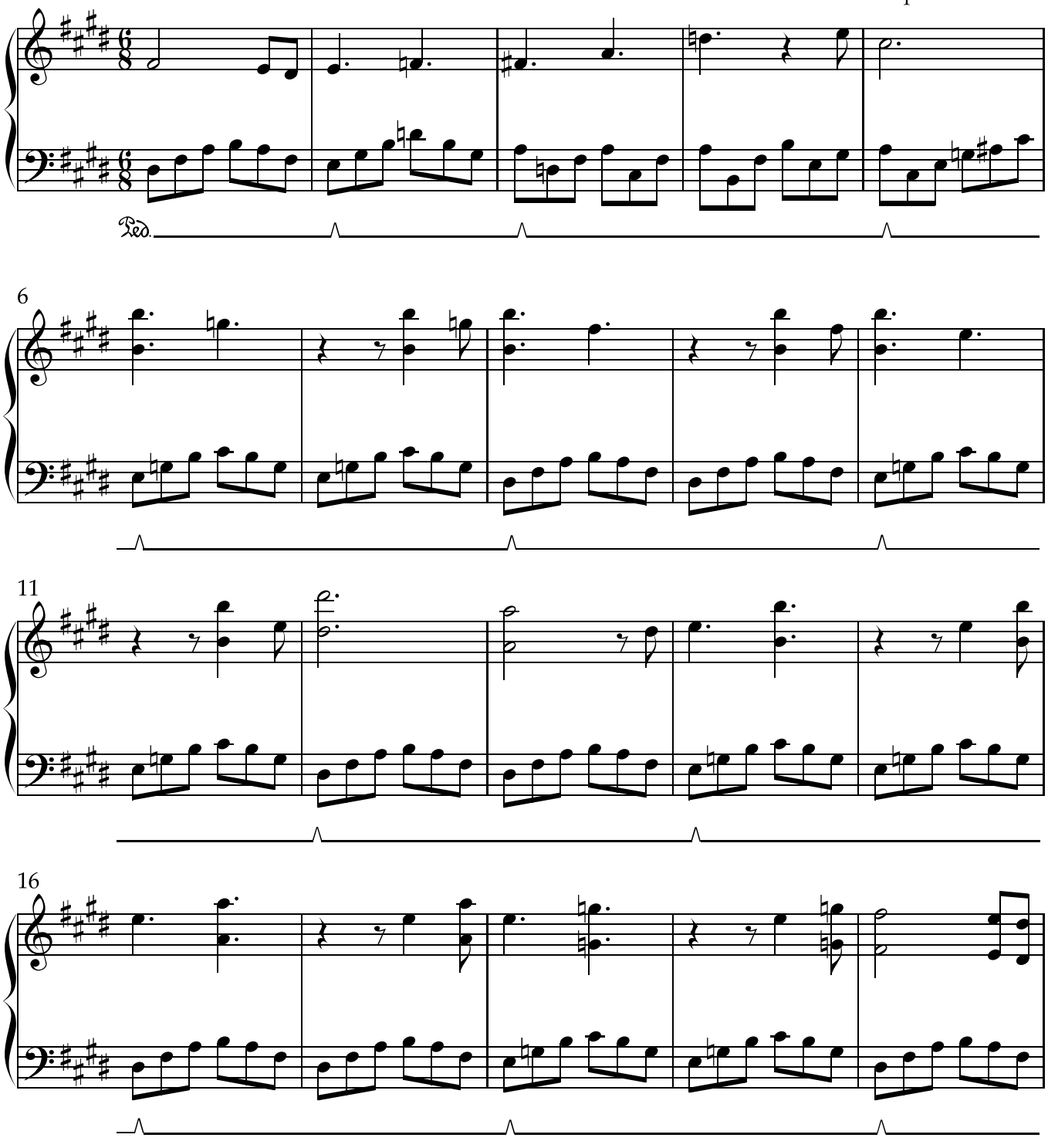
Barcarola

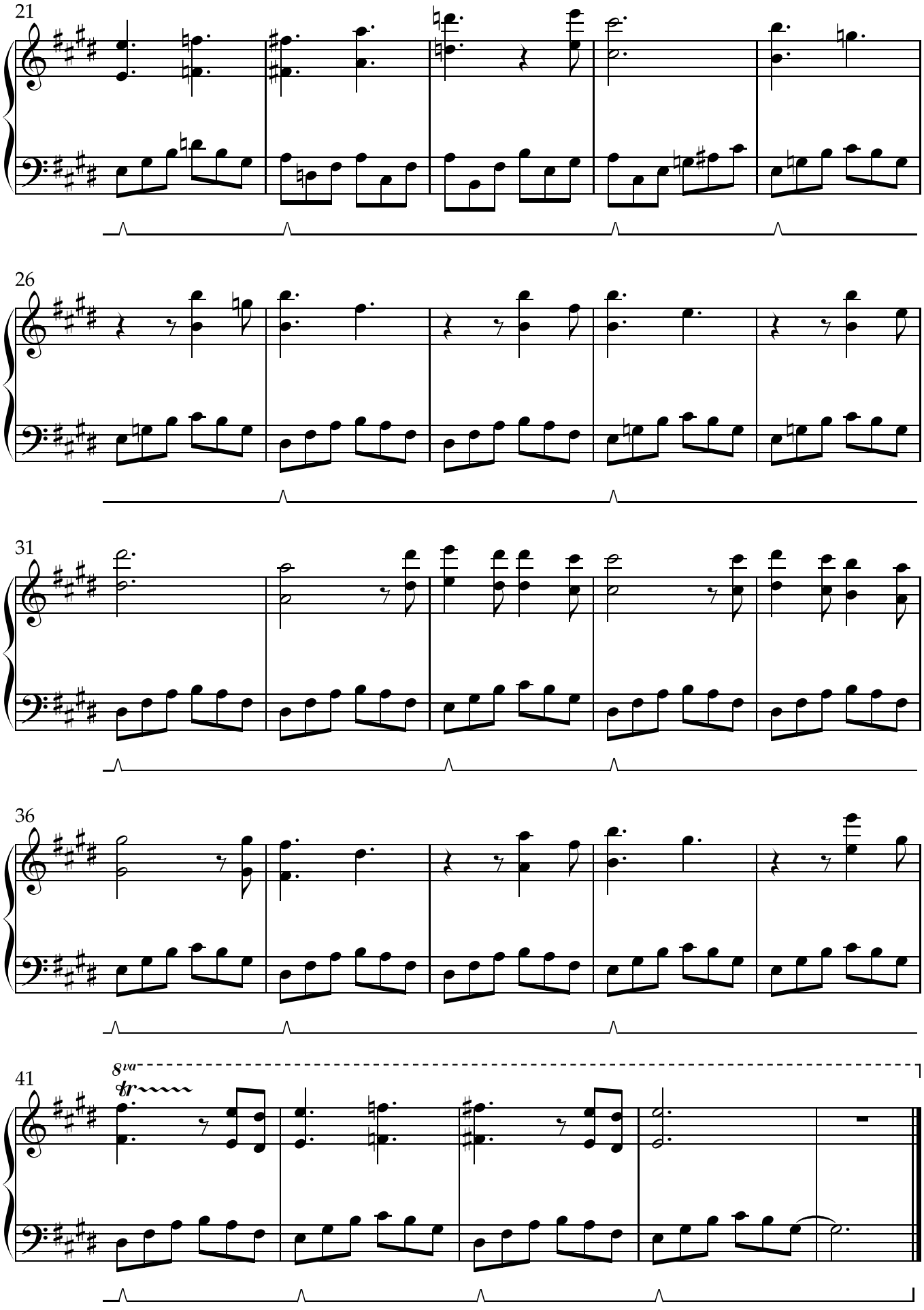
18 February 2026

In memory of László Kozma
1960-2026

Csaba Vincze
Germinal motive: 3 September 1986.

Andante

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