

Frédéric Chopin



"Chopin knows what sounds are heard in our fields and woods," wrote a critic. "He has listened to the song of the Polish villager, and he has made it his own." But the composer's adopted France brought a new elegance and refinement into his music, and Frédéric Chopin, revered as "the poet of the piano," was welcomed into Paris's highest social and courtly circles. The story and music of a great composer forever torn between two worlds appear in the pages that follow.

Contents

In approximate order of difficulty

- | | |
|---|----|
| An Elegant Chopin Melody (in French Ballroom Style) | 6 |
| [Prelude, Op. 28 no. 7] | |
| A Plaintive Chopin Melody (in Polish Mazurka Style) | 7 |
| [Mazurka, Op. 67 no. 2] | |
| Lullaby | 8 |
| [Berceuse, Op. 57] | |
| Mazurka | 10 |
| [Mazurka, Op. 67 no. 2 (revisited)] | |
| Mazurka in F | 12 |
| [Mazurka, Op. 68 no. 3] | |

Etude No. 3	14
[Etude, Op. 10 no. 3]	
Prelude No. 7	16
[Prelude, Op. 28 no. 7 (<i>revisited</i>)]	
An Early Nocturne	18
[Nocturne, Op. 9 no. 2]	
A Late Nocturne	20
[Nocturne, Op. 55 no. 1]	
First Ballade	22
[Ballade No. 1, Op. 23]	
Ballade in F	24
[Ballade No. 2, Op. 38]	
Funeral March	26
["Marche funèbre" from Sonata No. 2, Op. 35]	
Mazurka in C	28
[Mazurka, Op. 33 no. 3]	
Grand Waltz in A Minor	30
[Grande Valse Brillante, Op. 34 no. 2]	
"Farewell" Waltz	32
[Waltz, Op. 69 no. 1, "L'adieu"]	
"Minute" Waltz	34
[Waltz, Op. 64 no. 1]	
"Organ" Prelude	37
[Prelude, Op. 28 no. 20]	
"Raindrop" Prelude	38
[Prelude, Op. 28 no. 15]	
Fantaisie-impromptu	40
[Fantaisie-impromptu, Op. 66]	
"Butterfly" Etude	42
[Etude, Op. 25 no. 9]	
"Military" Polonaise	44
[Polonaise, Op. 40 no. 1]	
"Heroic" Polonaise	46
[Polonaise, Op. 53]	
Scottish Dance	48
[The first of Trois Écossaises, Op. 72 no. 3]	

Italian words in this music, and what they mean

Allegretto = play at a moderately quick, light tempo

Allegro con brio = play fast, with excitement

Andante = play at a "walking" speed (*andare* means "to walk")

Andantino = play at a speed that's slightly faster and lighter than *Andante*

a tempo = return to the original speed

Cantabile = songful

cresc. (*crescendo*) *poco a poco* = get louder little by little

crescendo e allargando = get louder and hold back the speed

D.C. al Fine [*da capo al fine*] = literally, "from the head to the tail";
that is, go back to the beginning, then continue to the word "Fine" (end)

dolce = sweetly, gently

espr. (*espressivo*) = expressive

espr., sost. (*espressivo, sostenuto*) = expressive, sustained

Fine = the end

Largo = play at a very slow tempo

legato = connect the notes in a smooth way

Lento = play slowly

Maestoso = play at a majestic, broad speed

marcato = marked, accented

Moderato cantabile = play at a moderate speed, and in songful way

molto legato = very smoothly connected

poco accel. (*accelerando*) = speed up a little

poco rall. (*rallentando*) = hold back a little

poco rit. (*ritardando*) = slow down a little

rall. (*rallentando*) = hold back your speed

rall. (*rallentando*) *molto* = hold back a lot

rall. (*rallentando*) *poco a poco* = hold back little by little

rit. (*ritardando*) = slow down

Semplice = play in a simple, unaffected way

sempre stacc. (*staccato*) = always detached

sost. (*sostenuto*) = sustained, connected

sostenuto e cantabile = sustained and songful

sotto voce = hushed (literally, "in an under voice")