

FREDERICK CHOPIN'S WORKS

Instructive Edition

with explanatory remarks and fingerings by

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Author's Edition in English by

ALBERT R. PARSONS.

Volume III.

BALLADS

for the pianoforte.

I. Ballad in G minor Op. 23.

II. " in F " 38.

III. Ballad in A flat Op. 47.

IV. " in F minor " 32.

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Wie Rob. Schumann mittheilt, ist Chopin zur Composition der Balladen durch Gedichte von Mickiewicz angeregt worden. Da eine Erzählung in Tönen sich nach andern Gesetzen als denen der Formlehre entwickelt, so haben wir sie nach Strophen eingetheilt, und bei der Angabe ihrer Gliederung musikalisch-technische Ausdrücke gemieden. Die doppelte Bezeichnung durch Buchstaben und römische Zahlen ist gelegentlich deshalb nöthig, weil sich eine Anzahl kleinerer Abschnitte zu einem grössern Ganzen abrundet.

TH. KULLAK.

As Robert Schumann states, the composition of the Ballads was suggested to Chopin by poems of Mickiewicz. Since a narrative in tones is developed in accordance with other laws than those of the Doctrine of Form, we have divided in strophes, and in showing their articulation, have avoided the use of music-technical terms. The double reference by letters and Roman numerals is occasionally necessary where a number of smaller sections are combined to form a larger whole.

TH. KULLAK.

1) BALLADE.

1) BALLAD.

Fr. Chopin Op. 47.

Allegretto. $\text{♩} = 76-88.$

1) Robt. Schumann sagt: „Der feine, geistreiche Pole, der sich in den vornehmsten Kreisen der französischen Haupstadt zu bewegen gewohnt ist, dürfte in dieser Ballade vorzugsweise zu erkennen sein.“ Die ersten Strophen sind von aristokratischer Liebenswürdigkeit, anmutig, zum Theil pikant, ohne dass es jedoch an ernsteren Stimmungsmomenten fehlte – man denke nur an die legendenhaften Anfangstakte. Gegen den Schluss hin erscheint der Charakter des Werks verändert. Schon in Strophe D erhält das Thema Bb durch eine ebenso elegant als ausdrucks-voll geführte Bassstimme erhöhte Bedeutung. Strophe E bringt eine Steigerung im grössten Styl, nach welcher das erste Thema wie ein begeisterter Triumphgesang durchbricht. Wir hören dieselben Motive wie anfangs, und müssen uns fast besinnen, ob es die gleichen sind; so sehr scheinen durch das hochdramatische Pathos der Schlussstrophen ihre Dimensionen gewachsen zu sein.

2) Andere Ausgaben haben statt des Pralltrillers den Vorschlag c.

3) Der Bogen im oberen System gilt nicht als Haltebogen. Vgl. Rudorff's Revisions-Bericht (Breitkopf & Härtel) „Allgemeine Bemerkungen b.“

4) Die ersten sechs Octaven kann man auf beide Hände verteilen.

5) Wegen des Bogens im ♫ vgl. Anm. 3.

1) Robt. Schumann says: "The refined, gifted Pole, who is accustomed to move in the most distinguished circles of the French capital, is pre-eminently to be recognised in this Ballad." The first strophes are of aristocratic amiability, graceful, in part piquant, without, however, any lack of more earnest moods — as witness the legend-like opening-measure. Towards the end the character of the work appears changed. In strophe D, already, the theme Bb receives enhanced importance through the addition of a base-part as elegant as it is expressive. Strophe E brings a climax in the grandest style, after which the first theme bursts out like an inspired triumphal song. We hear the same motives as at first, and yet are almost compelled to reflect whether they are the same, so greatly do their dimensions seem enlarged by the highly dramatic pathos of the closing strophes.

2) Other editions have instead of the beat or transient-shake (↔) the appoggiatura c.

3) The bows in the upper staff are not ties. See Rudorff's Report on Revision (Breitkopf and Härtel) "General Remarks, b."

4) The first six octaves may be divided between the two hands.

5) Concerning the bows in the ♫ see Remark 3.

The image shows a page of sheet music for piano, page 3. The music is arranged in five staves. The top staff uses a treble clef and has a dynamic marking of 'ten.' at the beginning. The second staff uses a bass clef and includes a dynamic marking of 'cresc.->' followed by '(c)'. The third staff uses a treble clef and has a dynamic marking of 'dim.' followed by '(f)'. The fourth staff uses a bass clef and includes a dynamic marking of '(p)' followed by 'espressivo'. The fifth staff uses a treble clef and has a dynamic marking of 'cresc. legato' followed by '(d)'. The music features various performance techniques such as pedaling, slurs, and grace notes. Fingerings are indicated by numbers above or below the keys. Measure numbers 1 through 5 are present above the first four staves.

Ped. * Ped.

(b)

cresc.

(mf)

(p)

ten.

ff

ff

sempre dim.

(p) cresc.

m.s.

The sheet music consists of six staves of musical notation for piano, arranged vertically. The notation includes treble and bass staves, with various dynamics like *p*, *cresc.*, *dim.*, and *riten.*. Fingerings are indicated by numbers above or below the notes. Performance instructions include *a tempo*, *C*, and *(c)*. Pedal markings like *Ped.*, ***, and **** are placed under the staves. The music is in 8/8 time and features complex arpeggiated patterns.

6) Nach Andern nicht *e* sondern *es*, und zwar an das *es* des vorigen Tacts gebunden.

7) Die Arpeggien beginnen gleichzeitig mit dem Einsatz des Basses.

8) Zur Erleichterung für kleine Hände:

6) According to others, not *e* but *e-flat*, and tied moreover, to the *e-flat* of the foregoing measure.

7) The arpeggios begin simultaneously with the entrance of the base.

8) Facilitation for small hands:

9)

(c) *cresc.* *mf sostenuto*

(d) *p*

D mezza voce legato

9) Einigen Ausgaben zufolge ist hier der Takt einzuschalten.
9) According to some editions the measure is to be inserted here.

7

10) Variante:

The musical score consists of five staves of piano music. The top staff shows a melodic line with various dynamics and fingerings (e.g., 4, 5, 4; 5). The second staff continues the melodic line with 'Ped.' markings. The third staff features a more complex harmonic progression with various chords and fingerings. The fourth staff begins with a dynamic 'cresc.' followed by 'Ped.' markings. The fifth staff concludes with a dynamic 'ff' and a label 'F (a)'.

8

12)

stretto

cresc.

più mosso (d.=100.)

sempre ff

(b)

m.d.

sfz

sfz

m.s.

12) Variante: