

---

---

## About the Music

---

Form: Sonata-allegro.

Introduction: measures 1–42; Transition: 43–63; Exposition: 63–198; Development (chorale-like *lento*): 199–222; Transition: 223–235; Recapitulation: 235–321; Coda: 322–332.

One of Chopin's finest works, *Fantasy in F Minor*, Op. 49 was sketched early in 1841 and completed in October of that year, approximately the same time as the *Ballade in A-flat Major*, Op. 47. Chopin dedicated the *Fantasy* to one of his students, Princess Catherine de Souzzo. It is a sonata movement with short *lento*, *sostenuto* and *adagio sostenuto* sections. The piece contains a number of distinctive musical ideas that are restated periodically. It begins in F minor—in the style of a slow, stately march—and ends in the relative major key of A-flat.

## Performance Suggestions

- Keep the introduction (measures 1–42) slow and deliberate, similar to the steady tread of a funeral march. No rubato should be used.
- Starting at measure 21, keep the theme legato.
- Project measures 43–68 with a free, improvisatory character. Begin slowly, then gradually increase speed.
- In measures 120 and 122, use loose arms and keep the fingers on the keys for the repeated chords.
- Measures 127–142: move along briskly and lightly, playing the legato theme over the accompanying staccato chords. Use very little pedal.
- Measures 199–206 (through the second beat): play all voices equal, like a four-voice choir.
- Measures 206 (third beat) to 222: play legato, with an organ-like sonority.
- Play up the drama between measures 222 (quiet repose) and 223 (violent explosion).

- Be careful not to slow down too soon before the *adagio sostenuto* at measure 320.
- Measures 322–326 call for a big crescendo before the diminuendo in measures 327–330.
- End the piece in a straightforward manner, with the broad, final plagal cadence in A-flat major (measures 331–332).

---

## Sources Consulted in Preparation of This Edition

---

Brown, Maurice J. E. *Chopin: An Index of His Works in Chronological Order*. Second, revised edition. New York: Da Capo Press, 1972.

Jost, Mack. *Practice, Interpretation, Performance*. West Melbourne, Australia: Jenkin Buxton, 1984.

Lenz, Wilhelm von. "Übersichtliche Beurtheilung der Pianoforte-Kompositionen von Chopin," *Neue Berliner Musikzeitung*, XXVI/36, 37, 38 (1872): 298–9.

Rawsthorne, Alan. "Ballades, Fantasy and Scherzos," in *The Chopin Companion*, ed. by Alan Walker, New York: W. W. Norton & Co., 1973.

Schachter, Carl. "Chopin's Fantasy, Op. 49: The Two-Key Scheme," in *Chopin Studies*, ed. by Jim Samson, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1988, pp. 221–253.

Walker, Alan. "Chopin and Musical Structure," in *The Chopin Companion*, ed. by Alan Walker, New York: W. W. Norton & Co., 1973.

# Fantasy in F Minor

Frédéric Chopin (1810–1849)

Op. 49

## Marcia

Grave (♩ = ca. 66)

The musical score for the Marcia section of Chopin's Fantasy in F Minor, Op. 49, is presented in four systems. The key signature is F minor (three flats) and the time signature is 3/4. The tempo is marked 'Grave' with a quarter note equal to approximately 66 beats per minute. The piece begins with a piano (*p*) dynamic. The first system (measures 1-4) features a bass line with a descending eighth-note pattern and a treble line with a complex chordal texture. Fingering numbers 1, 3, 5, 5, 4, and 2 are indicated. A breath mark is present. The second system (measures 5-8) continues the bass line pattern and treble line texture. Fingering numbers 2, 5, 5, and 4 are shown. A breath mark is also present. The third system (measures 9-12) shows the bass line continuing its pattern, while the treble line has a more active melodic line. Fingering numbers 3, 2, 1, 2, 1, 4, and 5 are indicated. A circled 'a' is placed above the treble line in measure 11. The fourth system (measures 13-16) concludes the section. Fingering numbers 4 and 5 are shown. A 'ten.' marking is present above the treble line in measure 15. The score includes various articulations, slurs, and dynamic markings throughout.

(a) Bring out the A-flat.