
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

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Fantasy in F Minor

Frédéric Chopin (1810–1849)
Op. 49

Marcia

Grave (♩ = ca. 66)

5

9

13

p

ten.

(a)

(a) Bring out the A-flat.