

The Polish composer Frédéric Chopin was born near Warsaw. He traveled to Vienna when he was 19, and performed two concerts with great success. When he returned a year later, he wasn't received with the same excitement, and Chopin decided to move to Paris where he lived the rest of his life. This *Ballade*, composed during the autumn of 1835, is said to be a musical portrait of Maria Wodzinska, a woman with whom Chopin was in love.

First Ballade Theme

Frédéric Chopin (1810–1849)

Op. 23

Arr. Allan Small

Moderato

The musical score is presented in four systems, each with a measure number in a box at the beginning of the first staff:

- System 1:** Measures 1-4. Starts with a piano (*p*) dynamic. The right hand has a slur over measures 1-4 with a finger number '2' above the first note. The left hand has a slur over measures 1-4 with a finger number '1' below the first note.
- System 2:** Measures 5-8. The right hand has a slur over measures 5-8 with finger numbers '4', '3', '1', and '5' above the notes. The left hand has a slur over measures 5-8 with finger numbers '3', '5', '2', '1', and '3' below the notes.
- System 3:** Measures 9-12. The right hand has a slur over measures 9-12. The left hand has a slur over measures 9-12 with finger numbers '1', '4', and '5' below the notes.
- System 4:** Measures 13-16. The right hand has a slur over measures 13-16 with finger numbers '4', '4', '1', '2', '1', and '4' above the notes. The left hand has a slur over measures 13-16 with finger numbers '3' and '3' below the notes.