

à la mémoire de Frédéric Chopin

DOUZE ÉTUDES

Claude Debussy
(1862–1918)

I - pour les “cinq doigts” d’après Monsieur Czerny

Sagement

(sopra)

Animé (Mouv^t de Gigue)

Ⓐ Helffer suggests an *accelerando* for measures 15–16 to match measures 5–6.

IV - pour les sixtes

Lento

mezza voce, dolce sostenuto

rit.-----// Mouvt

5

calando

p sempre dolce

9

più p

pp

13

Animando poco a poco

p

The musical score is written for piano and voice. It begins with a 'Lento' tempo marking and a 'mezza voce, dolce sostenuto' instruction. The piano part features a series of chords and single notes, while the vocal line consists of a melodic line with various ornaments and fingerings. The score is divided into four systems. The first system (measures 1-4) is marked 'Lento' and 'mezza voce, dolce sostenuto'. The second system (measures 5-8) is marked 'rit.' and 'Mouvt'. The third system (measures 9-12) is marked 'calando' and 'p sempre dolce'. The fourth system (measures 13-16) is marked 'Animando poco a poco' and 'p'. The score includes various dynamics such as 'mezza voce', 'dolce', 'sostenuto', 'rit.', 'Mouvt', 'calando', 'p', 'più p', and 'pp'. It also includes articulations like 'rit.', 'Mouvt', 'calando', and 'Animando poco a poco'. The score is written in 3/4 time and features a variety of musical notations, including notes, rests, and ornaments.

VIII - pour les agréments

Lento, rubato e leggiero

The musical score is written for piano and right hand. It begins with the tempo marking "Lento, rubato e leggiero". The first system features a piano (pp) dynamic and includes a first ending bracket labeled "a". The second system includes a second ending bracket labeled "b". The third system includes a "Stretto" section with a 2/4 time signature and a "sopra" (soprano) line. The fourth system includes a "m.g." (mezzo-gioco) section. The score is marked with various fingerings and articulations.

- (a) Since Debussy did not have a piano equipped with the sostenuto pedal, the low pedal points must be sustained with the damper pedal in measures 1–2. Explore half-damping technique (releasing it halfway and re-engaging it rapidly) and careful voicing to keep textures from sounding too blurry. Some performers will wish to use the sostenuto pedal, and the tempo is slow enough to allow time to engage it. However, be aware that using it will result in a different sonority mix.
- (b) Performers who can reach the eighth notes in the treble clef with the LH may want this option.

XII - pour les accords

Décidé, rythmé, sans lourdeur

4
2
1

f

mf

f

simile

6

dim.

13

più dim.

cresc.

f

20

p

Ⓐ Measures 15–17 and 141–143 have puzzled editors because of the apparent non-symmetrical patterns. Some editors believe either the RH G octave on the downbeats of measures 16 and 142 should be a B octave, or beat 2 of measures 17 and 143 should return to the G octave. The E. autograph does show the former arrangement. The above text follows the Durand autograph and the first edition.