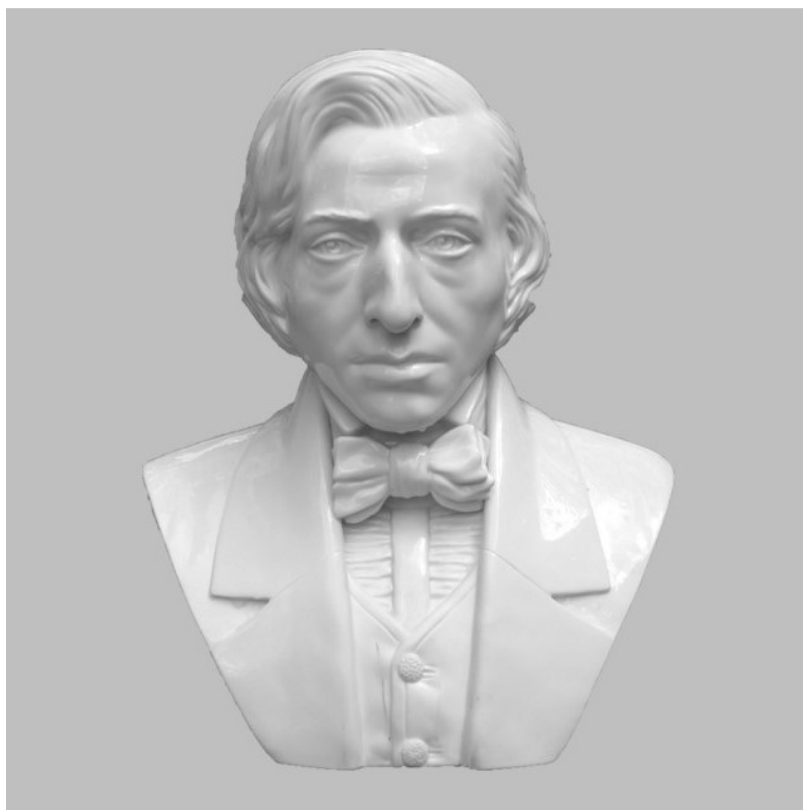


Marche Funèbre - Chopin

(Funeral March - Piano Sonata No.2 Op.35)

FRÉDÉRIC CHOPIN, ARR. HUGH LEVEY



WIND QUINTET

SCORE & PARTS

Marche Funèbre: Piano Sonata No.2 Opus.35

FRÉDÉRIC CHOPIN

If there is any piece of music that modern western culture associates with a sombre funeral procession, it is this march from Chopin's second piano sonata in B ♭ minor. It was used for Chopin's own funeral in Paris in 1849. In the 20th century it was used at the state funerals of Sir Winston Churchill, John F. Kennedy, and Leonid Brezhnev. It also appears in both serious and comic films to symbolise death or impending disaster.

Everyone knows the opening march with the slow plodding notes in the piano's left hand, but there is so much more to this wonderful piece of music! There is light and shade. There is seriousness, but it is tempered with poignancy and a sublimely beautiful and lyrical trio section in D ♭ major. It is a composition which is both world-famous and unknown at the same time. Educate your audiences by performing the whole movement. They will see it in a new light.

The piano sonata was published in 1840, although the march had been written two years earlier. It is one of Chopin's most enduringly popular works. Although published as 'Marche Funèbre' (funeral march) in 1838, Chopin later removed the word Funèbre and referred to it simply as "Marche", both in later editions of the sonata and in his personal correspondence. It seems he did not want the march to be associated purely with funerals, which seems remarkably prescient given the associations that the music has today.

So it is definitely time to look at this work afresh and that is what the arranger has done in this version for Wind Quintet. The instrumental colours lend themselves to the sombre opening march (bassoon, horn and clarinet) and to the lyrical central trio where the flute and oboe take centre stage, accompanied by flowing quavers in the clarinet and Chopin's original bass line in the bassoon, and the horn filling out the harmony.

Duration; 8.30 to 9 minutes (7 minutes without repeats)

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Marche Funèbre

Piano Sonata Opus 35

Frédéric Chopin (arr. Hugh Levey)

Lento

The musical score is arranged in two systems. The first system includes parts for Flute, Oboe, B♭ Clarinet, Horn in F, and Bassoon. The Flute and Oboe parts are mostly rests. The B♭ Clarinet part begins with a melody marked *p* (piano) and *mp* (mezzo-piano). The Horn in F and Bassoon parts play a steady accompaniment of quarter notes, marked *p*. The second system, starting at measure 5, continues the woodwind parts. The B♭ Clarinet part has a *mp* dynamic, while the Horn in F and Bassoon parts remain marked *p*. The score is in 4/4 time and features a large watermark in the center.

9

Musical score for measures 9-12. The score is in 3/4 time and features a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). It consists of five staves: four treble clefs and one bass clef. The first two staves are mostly silent in measures 9 and 10. In measure 11, the second and third staves enter with a forte *sfz* dynamic. The fourth staff begins in measure 9 with a mezzo-piano *mp* dynamic. The fifth staff provides a steady bass line throughout. A large, semi-transparent watermark is visible in the center of the page.

13

Musical score for measures 13-16. The score continues in the same key signature and time signature. It features five staves. The first staff starts in measure 13 with a mezzo-piano *mp* dynamic. The second staff starts in measure 14 with a piano *p* dynamic. The third and fourth staves start in measure 15 with a forte *f* dynamic. The fifth staff continues with a forte *f* dynamic. The music shows a dynamic contrast between the first half and the second half of the system. A large, semi-transparent watermark is visible in the center of the page.

17

mp

p

f (sempre)

p

tr

tr

22

ff

f

ff

f

ff

f

ff

f

ff

f

26

mp

tr

p

p

31

Solo

p

p

p

Musical score for measures 35-38. The score consists of five staves. The top staff contains rests. The second staff is marked 'Solo' and features a melodic line with a slur and a trill ('tr') in the third measure. The third staff is marked 'p' and contains a piano accompaniment of eighth notes. The fourth staff contains rests. The fifth staff is the bass line, featuring a simple harmonic accompaniment of quarter notes.

Musical score for measures 39-42. The score consists of five staves. The top staff is marked 'mp' and features a melodic line with a slur. The second staff contains rests. The third staff is marked 'p' and contains a piano accompaniment of eighth notes. The fourth staff is marked 'pp' and contains rests. The fifth staff is the bass line, featuring a simple harmonic accompaniment of quarter notes.