

Frédéric CHOPIN (1810-1849)

Mazurka Op 17 No 1

INTERMEDIATE/
ADVANCED

A mazurka is a characteristic dance from Mazovia, the region of Poland where Chopin grew up, and there is a nationalist pride evident in his mazurkas – the ‘Vivo e risoluto’ marking here suggests something defiant. This Mazurka is the first of a set of four written in Paris in 1832-33, and sounds quite heroic from the outset, although like most of Chopin’s many mazurkas (some 50 of them in all), there is a contrasting sorrowful section before a return to the bold mazurka mood. *Playing tips:* In order to get the right feeling for a mazurka, you need to have the rhythm spot on. In a mazurka, the accent has to be on the second or third beat (see

the accents throughout the score), unlike a waltz, where the emphasis is on the first beat. Make sure that you place the hands over the chords before you play them. There’s quite a bit of jumping around. Look at the phrase markings too – there’s a lot to think about in each bar! As in all Chopin mazurkas, there’s lots of repetition (e.g. bars 25-40 are a straight repeat of 9-16). Bar 41-61 sees a short middle section – this has to be softer and more ‘mysterious’, with the LH accompaniment the driving force. Return to the beginning, and then end at the ‘Fine’ at bar 40. *Pedal tips:* Don’t over-pedal. There are markings on the score, but really listen.

Vivo e risoluto ♩ = 160

The musical score consists of four systems of staves. Each system includes a grand staff (treble and bass clefs) and a piano (p) dynamic marking. The tempo is marked 'Vivo e risoluto' with a quarter note equal to 160 beats per minute. The score includes various performance instructions such as accents (>), slurs, and pedal markings (Ped.). Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1-5 above or below notes. The score is divided into measures, with measure numbers 1, 5, 9, and 14 clearly marked at the start of their respective systems.

18

* Ped. * Ped. * Ped. *

22

Ped. * Ped. * Ped.

26

* Ped. * Ped. *

31

Ped. * Ped. *

36

Ped. * Ped. * Ped. * Ped. * Fine

41

p
Ped. *

45

dolce
Ped. * Ped. * Ped. *

49

Ped. *

53

Ped. * Ped. * Ped. *

57

8va
D. C. al Fine
Ped. *
1
2
3