

Prelude in B Minor (Chopin) - Romantic period

What does the title mean?

A prelude is a movement that goes before a more complex movement. Preludes are based on one idea. Chopin developed preludes into independent pieces. B minor is the key.

What is the key of this piece?

B minor

Key changes:

There are chromatic shifts eg bar 6

Modulation to C major in bar 11 to 14. Back to B minor bar 15.

There is a lot of use of diminished sevenths and diminished triads.

Notation:

Op 28 No 6 - opus means 'work' (work 28 piece number 6)

Lento assai - always slow

Metronome marking - c = circa = 44 crotchets a minute

sotto voce - under voice (whispering)

p - piano - soft

> - accent - stress the note

ped. sim. - similar pedalling throughout

pedal - damper pedal

crescendo - gradually getting louder

diminuendo - gradually getting softer

bar 7 little crush note - acciaccatura - play it quickly before the main note

espress. - expressively

sostenuto - sustained

pp - pianissimo - very soft

ties, slurs, names of notes