

2nd Movement - *Sonatine* - 'Mouvement de Menuet' - Ravel

What does the title mean?

Tempo/style of a minuet. A minuet is a graceful French dance in 3 from the Baroque period which became a standard movement in a sonata/symphony. The rhythm of a minuet is structured over 2-bar phrases. The style of Ravel includes elements of neo-Classicism such as this.

A sonatine is a little sonata. Sonata means 'to sound' (opposite of cantata 'to sing') and so is a piece for instrument.

Background:

Sonatine - 1st movement was composed for a magazine competition in 1903. The second and third movements were composed two years later and this was published by Durand in 1905. The sonatina was dedicated to Ida and Cipa Godebski and premiered in 1906. The work became popular and Ravel regularly performed the first 2 movements in his recitals.

Form:

The second movement is in the enharmonic dominant key of the entire sonatina. There is no trio that accompanies the minuet.

Section A bars 1 to 12 - Db major to F minor

- opens with using the 1st movement descending P4 but inverted and placed on the 1st beat
- parallel harmonic movement

Transition bars 13 to 22 - F minor to Bb major to Eb minor

- theme heard in F Dorian
- pedal point
- similar rhythm to Section A
- higher register

Section B bars 23 to 38 - Eb minor to Ab major to Db major

- theme returns in a minor key
- new ascending theme in the bass, moves through the octaves to a climax

Transition bars 39 to 52 - C# minor (enharmonic minor)

- paired melodies - LH augmentation of RH

Section A1 bars 53 to 64 - Db major

- return of theme but with descending LH

Transition bars 65 to 78 - C# minor to F# major/F# minor

- same material as 1st transition

Coda bars 79 to end - Db major

- related to Section B climax

Style and period:

Neo-classicism - reference to Minuet

Impressionist - parallel movement, pedalling techniques, use of modes, wider range of register

Composer and genres:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maurice_Ravel

Ballet music, 2 piano concertos, 2 operas, 8 song cycles, chamber music, piano

No symphonies, no religious works

Notation:

Mouvt de Menuet - movement of minuet

p - piano - soft

staccato with a slur - semi-detached

accent (marcato) - stress the note by playing louder

tenuto with a staccato - portato technique

dim. - gradually getting softer

cresc. - gradually getting louder

pp - pianissimo - very soft
ornaments - grace notes, arpeggiatas
tie - hold the note for their combined values
Bar 27 ppp en dehors - pianopianissimo r.h. with l.h. 'in front'
ff - fortissimo - very loud
rall. - gradually getting slower
plus lent - more slow
reprenez peu a peu - return to original speed little by little
le mouvt - original speed
sans ralentir - without slowing
un peu plus lent qu'au debut - a little more slow than at the first
ralentissez beaucoup - much slowing down
tres lent - very slow
fermata - pause