

Mazurka by Chopin (A minor)

Title: a mazurka is a Polish dance in 3 with an accent on the 2nd or 3rd beat, in a lively tempo.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mazurka>

Op - opus - work

Keys/Form: Ternary form (da capo). Section A is in A minor. Bar 21 goes to C major (relative major) then back to A minor in bar 25. Section B is in A major from bar 34 (tonic major, parallel major). Bar 38 goes to C# minor which is the mediant minor, bar 42 basically back in A major (hints of D major). Then Section A returns, in A minor.

Notation: Allegretto - a little faster than allegro - a little fast and lively

Mordent (bar 1) - short trill, rapidly moving between two notes.

Dal segno al Fine - go back to the sign and play to Fine

Fine - finish

Accent - stress the note

dolce - sweetly

triplets - 3 notes in the time of 2

p - piano - soft

crescendo - gradually getting louder

diminuendo - gradually getting softer

X - double sharp - raise the note by 2 semitones

fermata (end of bar 47) - pause - hold longer than written

Little note bar 48 - acciaccatura - crush note

bar 43 - arpeggiata - arpeggio - break the notes from lowest to highest

Period/Style - Romantic.

Style - Romantic style - melody has long phrases, melody very important. Harmonic shifts chromatically or to unrelated keys. Accent of dissonance. Homophonic texture (melody in foreground). Epic or small pieces, character pieces typical. Piano development influenced music greatly, many piano pieces written at this time. Romantic style (from 'About Music') - expansive singing melodies; wide ranging melodies, varied with chromatic inflections; rhythmic diversity and elasticity; tempo rubato; increasing chromaticism; expanded concepts of tonality; homophony, turning to increased polyphony in later years of era; genres included symphonic poems, art songs, solo piano works; expansion of forms and interest in continuous as well as miniature programmatic forms; mainly secular works for paying audiences (not sacred for church); wide ranging dynamics for expressive purposes; new instruments; increased virtuosity with more direction from composers in scores; expression concerned with individual emotion, mood, atmosphere; interest in the bizarre and macabre.

Composer:

Genres – mainly piano works – preludes, mazurkas, polonaises, etudes, ballades, vales, piano concertos.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fr%C3%A9d%C3%A9ric_Chopin