Sibelius ‘Jouer de harpe’ op 34 No 8

What does the title mean? ‘The harpist’. The composition imitates a harpist playing the harp. It’s based on arpeggios, has natural phrasing and the speed of arpeggios changes throughout.

What key is this in?
Bb minor but often in inversion. Basically no key changes.

What form is this?
A B A B2 - sort of a compound binary but second B section has different melody.

What period is this from?
Romantic

Style:
Harp is romantic instrument. Uses rubato, extended chords, wider range of dynamics, expressive techniques such as using pedal, changes in tempo and time.

Notation:
3/2 - 3 minim beats/bar - triple time
Fermata - pause - hold note longer than written
Stretto - push speed forward
Lento e dolce - slow and sweet
Piu dolce - a little sweet
Senza sord. - senza sordino- without the mute pedal
Con ped - with pedal (damper)