

Nocturne in F minor

This is a piece of composition created as part of my International Baccalaureate diploma. I have included my commentary of the piece below.

Commentary:

My Nocturne in F minor is a solo piano piece inspired by the Nocturnes of the Romantic Era – Chopin's Nocturne in E Flat in particular. As with any Nocturne, my intention was to compose a piece that is reminiscent of a nocturnal ambience, which was established by the minor key and arpeggios on the left hand that accompanies the slow, moving melodic line on the right. The piece starts in the key of F minor, but the accidentals and chromatic ornaments temporarily modulate the key up and down for expressiveness, before a full key change to B Flat minor. The key then modulates back to the original key of F minor, which follows the trends of a Romantic Era piece. In the final version, I also included a run of 32nd notes, which was inspired by multiple Romantic Era pieces and aids the transition between keys. The dynamics vary across the but is limited between piano and forte, so that it adds to the expression of the nocturnal atmosphere but is not overwhelming. This is aided by the ritardandi that slow the piece down between transitional moments. I decided to end the piece with a Picardy third cadence, as was the norm for many of Chopin's nocturnes, since the major chord in the minor key contributes to the ambience of the piece that is inspired by the night.

Nocturne in F minor

♩ = 120

Measures 1-5 of the Nocturne in F minor. The piece begins with a piano introduction in the right hand, followed by a steady eighth-note accompaniment in the left hand. The melody in the right hand features a series of eighth-note runs and a trill in measure 4. The dynamic marking *mp* is present in the first measure of the left hand.

Measures 6-11 of the Nocturne in F minor. The melody continues with a series of eighth-note runs and a trill in measure 7. The dynamic marking *mf* is present in the second measure of the left hand. The piece concludes with a final chord in the right hand.

Measures 12-16 of the Nocturne in F minor. The melody continues with a series of eighth-note runs and a trill in measure 13. The dynamic marking *rit.* is present in the fourth measure of the right hand. The piece concludes with a final chord in the right hand.

Measures 17-21 of the Nocturne in F minor. The melody continues with a series of eighth-note runs and a trill in measure 18. The dynamic marking *mp* is present in the fourth measure of the right hand. The piece concludes with a final chord in the right hand.

Measures 22-25 of the Nocturne in F minor. The melody continues with a series of eighth-note runs and a trill in measure 23. The dynamic marking *f* is present in the first measure of the right hand, and *p* is present in the second measure of the right hand. The piece concludes with a final chord in the right hand.

25

rit.

mf

29

mp

34

rit.

40

mf

f

46

rit.

mp

51

f

mp

57

musical score for measures 57-60. The key signature has three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). The melody in the treble clef consists of eighth and quarter notes, ending with a half note. The bass line in the bass clef consists of eighth and quarter notes, ending with a half note. The tempo marking *rit.* is placed above the final measure. The piece concludes with a double bar line.