

Funeral March

Marche funèbre

Frédéric Chopin
(1810-1849)

Grave

Musical notation for measures 1-3. The piece is in 4/4 time. The melody consists of quarter notes with a descending interval. The bass line features a simple accompaniment of quarter notes. A dynamic marking of *p* (piano) is present at the beginning.

Musical notation for measures 4-6. The melody continues with quarter notes. A dynamic marking of *mp* (mezzo-piano) is present. A circled '2' indicates a second ending or a specific fingering.

Musical notation for measures 7-9. The melody features some eighth notes and quarter notes. A dynamic marking of *p* (piano) is present.

Musical notation for measures 10-12. The melody continues with quarter notes. A dynamic marking of *mf* (mezzo-forte) is present.

Musical notation for measures 13-15. The melody continues with quarter notes. A dynamic marking of *p* (piano) is present at the start, and a dynamic marking of *f* (forte) is present at the end of the section.

Musical notation for measures 16-18. The melody continues with quarter notes. A circled '1' indicates a first ending or a specific fingering. The piece concludes with a final chord.

19

mf *mp*

21 *rit.*

p

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Am F Am F Am F Am F Am F Am F

p

T
A
B

4 Am F Am F Am F Am F Am F Am F

mp

T
A
B

7 Am F Am F Am F Am F Am F Am F

p

T
A
B

10 Am F Am F Am F Am F Am F Am F

mf

T
A
B

13 Am F Am F Am F Am G C

p *f*

TAB: 2 2 2 2 1 0 | 0 2 2 2 0 | 1 0 1 | 0 2 3 3 3 3

16 G⁶ G⁷ Am A⁰⁷ E

TAB: 0 0 0 0 1 | 0 0 2 4 5 7 8 | 8 7 8 7 0 0 0

19 G⁷ C E⁷ F

mf *mp*

TAB: 0 0 3 1 | 0 3 2 0 | 1 1 0 2 | 0 3 3 1 1

rit.
21 Am F Am F Am F Am

p

TAB: 2 2 2 2 1 0 | 1 0 2 2 2 2

Practice Tip Sheet

The Big 5:

1. Reduce work with posture and high dynamic energy
2. Troubleshoot - Everything should be easy
3. Breathe
4. Trust yourself to play accurately and musically inspired (instead of judging)
5. Always play as a gift to yourself and others

The Main Practice Areas:

1. Technique - Abilities, Movements, Chords, Scales, Patterns, Exercises, etc.
2. New Notes - One new piece of music at a time
3. Tricky Spots - Detailing small sections of pieces
4. Repertoire Maintenance - Pieces you already know
5. Sight-Reading practice - note recognition/playing; clapping/counting rhythms

The 7 Steps to Learn Any Piece:

1. Make small sections
2. Know all the notes and musical markings
3. Clap and count the rhythm aloud
4. Play the right hand alone, counting aloud
5. Play the left hand alone, counting aloud
6. Play hands together, taking corrective pauses (no mistakes!)
7. Play hands together in rhythm, with slow metronome

Musical Starting Points:

1. Know which notes are melody (probably stems up), and play the others quieter
2. Connect all melody notes smoothly (no gaps)
3. When a musical line or melody goes up in pitch, get quieter
4. When a musical line or melody goes down in pitch, get louder
5. Don't let the high notes stand out (any note higher than those before and after)

Practice Tips:

1. Before slowing down or speeding up (rubato) master it at a steady pace.
2. For tricky spots, state out loud exactly what the problem is, in every detail.
3. Memorize every piece (even if you don't, you'll learn it faster if you try)
4. Have a purpose behind each repetition (blind repetitions are lazy practice).
5. Video yourself for performance practice and to hear what is and is not working.

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