

Ballade

G. Minor, Opus 118, Nr. 3

Johannes Brahms

*arranged by Paul De Bra for
accordion quintet*

This “Ballade” is probably the best known one of the six compositions for piano, Opus 118, by Johannes Brahms.

As a piano solo piece this is quite difficult because of the many chord progressions that move between the two hands. In this arrangement for accordion quintet five hands work together to play all the notes of the solo piece, and that makes life quite a bit easier. What is trickier is to know when to play and when to rest... So this is a good exercise in playing perfectly in sync with each other!

The first voice plays the upper melody. The second voice plays the top two notes of each chord, the fourth voice plays the bottom two notes of each lefthand chord. The third voice fills in the missing notes: the bottom notes of the right hand and the top notes of the left hand. Together it should sound like a single player (albeit using different instruments at the same time).

A recording by Professor P is available on YouTube.

This arrangement is provided under the Creative Commons Attribution license (and so is the recording).

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G Minor, Op. 118, No. 3

Johannes Brahms

arr. Paul De Bra

Allegro energico ♩ = ca. 130

⊖ light tremolo, otherwise use ⊕

Acc. 1
Acc. 2
Acc. 3
Acc. 4
Bass

f
f
f
f
mf

(or alternatively ⊕)

Measures 1-4 of the score. The first system includes parts for Acc. 1, Acc. 2, Acc. 3, Acc. 4, and Bass. The key signature is G minor (two flats). The tempo is Allegro energico. Dynamics include *f* and *mf*. Performance instructions include a light tremolo symbol (⊖) and an alternative symbol (⊕).

I
II
III
IV
B

Measures 5-9 of the score. The second system includes parts for I, II, III, IV, and Bass. The key signature remains G minor. Dynamics include *f* and *mf*. Performance instructions include a light tremolo symbol (⊖) and an alternative symbol (⊕).

I
II
III
IV
B

10 rit. - - - a tempo

p
mp *p*
p
p
p

Measures 10-14 of the score. The third system includes parts for I, II, III, IV, and Bass. The key signature remains G minor. The tempo changes from *rit.* to *a tempo*. Dynamics include *p* and *mp*. Performance instructions include a light tremolo symbol (⊖) and an alternative symbol (⊕).

15

I
II
III
IV
B

20

I
II
III
IV
B

cresc. *f*

25

I
II
III
IV
B

mf *f*

30

36 *rit.* - - - - -

Meno mosso ♩ = ca. 105

41

46 *rit. --- a tempo*

51

56 *rit. -- a tempo*

61 rit. --- a tempo

66

71 rit. --- a tempo

75 poco a poco accel. tempo primo ♩ = ca. 130

Musical score for measures 75-79. The score is in G minor (one flat) and 3/4 time. It features five staves: I (Violin I), II (Violin II), III (Viola), IV (Violin III), and B (Cello/Double Bass). The music begins with a dynamic of *f* (forte) and a tempo marking of *tempo primo* with a quarter note equal to approximately 130 beats per minute. The tempo is marked as *poco a poco accel.* (poco a poco accelerando). The score includes various musical notations such as slurs, accents, and dynamic markings.

80

Musical score for measures 80-84. The score continues from the previous system. It features five staves: I (Violin I), II (Violin II), III (Viola), IV (Violin III), and B (Cello/Double Bass). The music continues with various musical notations and dynamic markings.

85

Musical score for measures 85-89. The score continues from the previous system. It features five staves: I (Violin I), II (Violin II), III (Viola), IV (Violin III), and B (Cello/Double Bass). The music continues with various musical notations and dynamic markings, including *p* (piano) and *mp* (mezzo-piano).

90

Measures 90-94 of the Ballade. The score is in B-flat major and 3/4 time. It features five staves: I (Melody), II (Piano accompaniment), III (Piano accompaniment), IV (Piano accompaniment), and B (Bass line). A long slur covers measures 90-94. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat).

95

Measures 95-99 of the Ballade. The score continues with five staves (I, II, III, IV, B). A long slur covers measures 95-99. Dynamic markings include *cresc.* (crescendo) and *f* (forte). The key signature remains B-flat major.

100

Measures 100-104 of the Ballade. The score continues with five staves (I, II, III, IV, B). A long slur covers measures 100-104. Dynamic markings include *mf* (mezzo-forte) and *f* (forte). The key signature remains B-flat major.

105

I
II
III
IV
B

111

I
II
III
IV
B

p

p

♩ = 110