

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).

Ballade

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

mf

f

(or alternatively ⊙)

5

I

II

III

IV

B

10

rit. - - - a tempo

I

II

III

IV

B

p

mp *p*

p

p

p

15

I
II
III
IV
B

20

I
II
III
IV
B

cresc.
cresc.
cresc.
cresc.
cresc.

f
f
f
f

25

I
II
III
IV
B

mf
mf
mf
mf

f
f
f
f

30

I
II
III
IV
B

36

rit. - - - - -

I
II
III
IV
B

p
p
p
pp < *p*
p

Meno mosso ♩ = ca. 105

41

I
II
III
IV
B

pp
pp
pp
pp
pp

46

rit. -- a tempo

I

II

III

IV

B

51

p

I

II

III

IV

B

56

rit. -- a tempo

pp

I

II

III

IV

B

61 rit. --- a tempo

I
II
III
IV
B

66

I
II
III
IV
B

omit low notes
on small acc.

71 rit. --- a tempo

I
II
III
IV
B

pp *p*

poco a poco accel. - - - - -

75

I

II

III

IV

B

f

f

f

mf

80

I

II

III

IV

B

85

I

II

III

IV

B

p

mp

p

p

p

90

I
II
III
IV
B

95

I
II
III
IV
B

cresc. *f*

100

I
II
III
IV
B

mf *f*

105

Measures 105-110 of the musical score. The score is for five parts: I, II, III, IV, and B. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The time signature is 3/4. Measure 105 starts with a treble clef and a key signature change to two flats. The music features various rhythmic patterns, including eighth and sixteenth notes, and rests. Dynamics include *p* (piano) in measures 108 and 110. The score ends with a double bar line.

111

Measures 111-116 of the musical score. The score is for five parts: I, II, III, IV, and B. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The time signature is 3/4. Measure 111 starts with a treble clef and a key signature change to two flats. The music features various rhythmic patterns, including eighth and sixteenth notes, and rests. Dynamics include *p* (piano) in measures 111, 112, and 113. The score ends with a double bar line. A tempo marking $\text{♩} = 110$ is present in measure 115.

PDB 3/6/25