

The Polish composer Frédéric Chopin was born near Warsaw. He traveled to Vienna when he was 19, and performed two concerts with great success. When he returned a year later, he wasn't received with the same excitement, and Chopin decided to move to Paris where he lived the rest of his life. This *Ballade*, composed during the autumn of 1835, is said to be a musical portrait of Maria Wodzinska, a woman with whom Chopin was in love.

First Ballade Theme

Frédéric Chopin (1810–1849)

Op. 23

Arr. Allan Small

Moderato

The musical score is presented in four systems, each with a measure number in a box at the beginning of the first staff:

- System 1:** Measure 2. Treble clef, key signature of two sharps (D major), 3/4 time. The first staff has a piano (*p*) dynamic marking. The bass staff has a finger number '1' under the first note.
- System 2:** Measure 5. Treble clef. The first staff has finger numbers '4', '3', and '1' above notes. The bass staff has finger numbers '3', '5', '2', '1', and '3' below notes.
- System 3:** Measure 9. Treble clef. The first staff has finger numbers '1', '4', and '5' below notes. The bass staff has a '1/2' and '3' marking above a chord.
- System 4:** Measure 13. Treble clef. The first staff has finger numbers '4', '4', '1', '2', '1', and '4' above notes. The bass staff has a '3' below a note.