

# ALBUMBLÄTTER III IN A FLAT MAJOR

OP. 99

Schumann turned to composition after a hand injury stopped his playing career. Although he was one of the greatest Romantic composers for piano, possibly his greatest gift to music was his Lieder (songs usually set to German poems). This short piece comprises 40 bars of the most inspired melody: imagine when you are playing that it is one of Schumann's Leier – your right hand is the singer and the left the accompaniment. (See *Piano Lessons Book 3 Chapter 5: Making the piano sing* for advice on *cantabile* playing.) Do play the repeat and consider how you can vary the interpretation and ideas.

Robert Schumann (1810–1856)

Ziemlich langsam, sehr gesangvoll

*p* *cantabile*

con Ped.

1-5 1-5

7

14

1. 3 2. 2 4 3

21

*p* *p*

28

35

*pp*

# MAZURKA IN A MINOR

## OP. 7 NO. 2

Chopin started composing mazurkas at the age of 15 and wrote at least 69 before his death aged 39. A mazurka is a traditional Polish folk dance and Chopin's contained many typical elements such as repetition and folk rhythmic patterns. But he also developed the style, adding chromaticism and classical techniques. Although traditionally a lively dance, this particular mazurka has a slightly morbid feel, full of longing and pathos. Capture this mood by paying close attention to the beautiful phrasing and rhythm.

Frederic François Chopin (1810–1839)

**Vivo, ma non troppo**

*p*

*senza Ped.*

*cresc.*

*f stretto*

*p*

*Ped.*

*cresc.*

*poco rall.*

*a tempo*

*Ped.*

## GRANDE VALSE BRILLANTE

## OP. 34 NO. 2

Unlike his earlier Viennese waltzes, Chopin's later examples were intended for concert performance rather than for dancing to. Unusually, this waltz is in a minor key and the feeling is one of resignation. It should be played with great longing and musicality – but don't miss the change of mood whenever the key changes. Allow the melody to float, undisturbed, over the slow accompanying rhythm (but avoid using the soft pedal or you will not achieve the beautiful sonority needed). This is an ideal choice for a school concert or recital.

Frederic François Chopin (1810–1849)

Lento

1  
5

2 1 2 1 2

1 2

tr

31 4

6

3 2 4 1

1 2 1 2

1 5

11

tr

17

1 2 5 1 3 2 1

4 3 3

Ped. Ped. simile ad lib.

22

5 3 3 2 1 1 7 7

3 5 1 - 1 5

4