

Préludes Tableaux

-I-

Andante con moto (♩ = 80)

Johannes Motschmann

The musical score is written for piano in 4/4 time, with a tempo of Andante con moto (♩ = 80). It consists of four systems of music, each with a treble and bass staff joined by a brace. The key signature has one sharp (F#), and the time signature is 4/4.

System 1: Starts with a piano (*p*) dynamic. The right hand features a series of chords and eighth notes, with a fingering of 10. The left hand plays a bass line with a fingering of 10. An 8va (octave) marking is present above the right hand.

System 2: Begins with a forte (*f*) dynamic. The right hand has a series of chords and eighth notes, with fingerings 10 and 11. The left hand plays a bass line with a fingering of 11. An 8va marking is present above the right hand.

System 3: Starts with a fortissimo (*ff*) dynamic. The right hand has a series of chords and eighth notes, with a fingering of 10. The left hand plays a bass line with a fingering of 10. An 8va marking is present above the right hand.

System 4: Ends with a *poco* marking. The right hand has a series of chords and eighth notes, with a fingering of 12. The left hand plays a bass line with a fingering of 12.

Die *Préludes Tableaux* sind Reflexionen über Préludes der Romantik und Spätromantik, die für die Entwicklung der KI-Software „AION“ im SWR-Experimentalstudio hilfreich waren, um sich charakteristische Merkmale unterschiedlicher Komponisten in extremer Verdichtung vergegenwärtigen zu können. In solchen Miniaturen – von Chopin bis zu den frühen Préludes von Skrjabin – ist es immer wieder faszinierend, Ähnlichkeiten und Unterschiede nicht zuletzt im Hinblick auf jene Strategien zu beobachten, mit denen es gelingt, durch mal intuitive, mal kalkulierte Balance zwischen Erwartung und Unvorhersehbarkeit in wenigen Takten eine musikalische Gedankenwelt zu evozieren, die trotz der kurzen Dauer dieser Stücke den Eindruck von Weite und Entgrenzung erfahrbar werden lässt.

Johannes Motschmann, Dezember 2025

The *Préludes Tableaux* are reflections on preludes from the Romantic and Late Romantic periods, that guided me when I helped develop the AI software ‘AION’ in the SWR’s experimental studio, enabling it to evoke the characteristic features of various composers in an extremely condensed form. In such miniatures – from Chopin to the early preludes by Scriabin – it is always fascinating to observe similarities and differences, not least with a view to the strategies used to evoke a musical world of ideas in just a few bars through a sometimes intuitive, sometimes calculated balance between expectation and unpredictability which, despite the short duration of these pieces, allows the listener to experience a sense of expansion and boundlessness.

Johannes Motschmann, December 2025

Duration: 10 minutes approx.

World premiere (performed by the composer):

Préludes Tableaux I+II: 19 September 2024, Elbphilharmonie, Hamburg

Préludes Tableaux III+IV: 20 November 2024, Ölbergkirche, Berlin