The MAYRON COLE PIANO METHOD



Vier Impromptus
Op. 90, No. III Andante

1. Andante means "Walking Speed."

2. This composition is in ____ (G♭ or A♭) Major. Clue: Look at the first notes being played in the composition. The LH is playing a G♭ and D♭ while the RH is playing a B♭. These three notes spell the _____(G♭ or A♭) major chord.

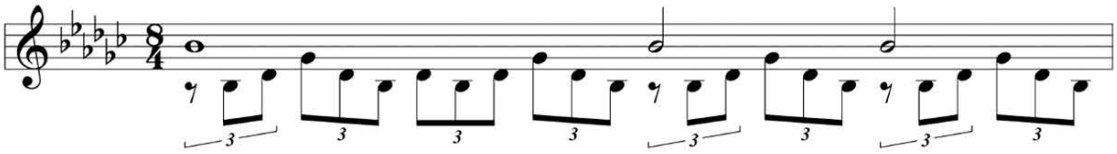
3. You know that G♭ Major has six flats. What are those six flats in order? __ __ __ __ __ __
   Do not be afraid of playing a composition with six flats in its key signature. It really is simple: ALL the keys will be flatted *except* for F. Yea!

4. Remember that C♭ is enharmonic (sounds the same) as _____ (G or B).

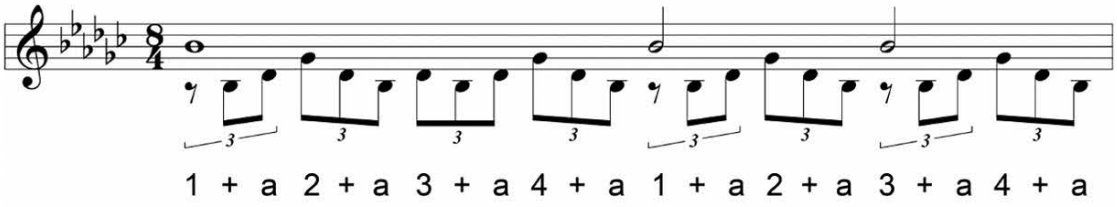
5. The time signature for **Op. 90, No. III Andante** is one that is rarely used. The time signature is _____ (6/8 or 8/4)

6. The time signature is telling you that there will be _____ (8 or 4) beats per measure and that the quarter note will equal _____ (1 beat or 4 beats).

7. Look at this measure below (M. 1):



You can see that the RH is playing 8th note triplets on every beat for the entire measure. To make your counting easier, count to four *twice* in each measure. Like this:



In order to hear the beautiful melody of this composition, play *softer* on the notes that comprise the triplets and a bit *louder* on the other RH notes. This ability takes a lot of hand control, but you can do it! Go to your piano or keyboard and play only the RH for the entire first page. Bring out the melody notes and subdue the other notes. Beautiful! Just simply beautiful!

scan for answers

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Vier Impromptus
Op. 90, No. III Andante

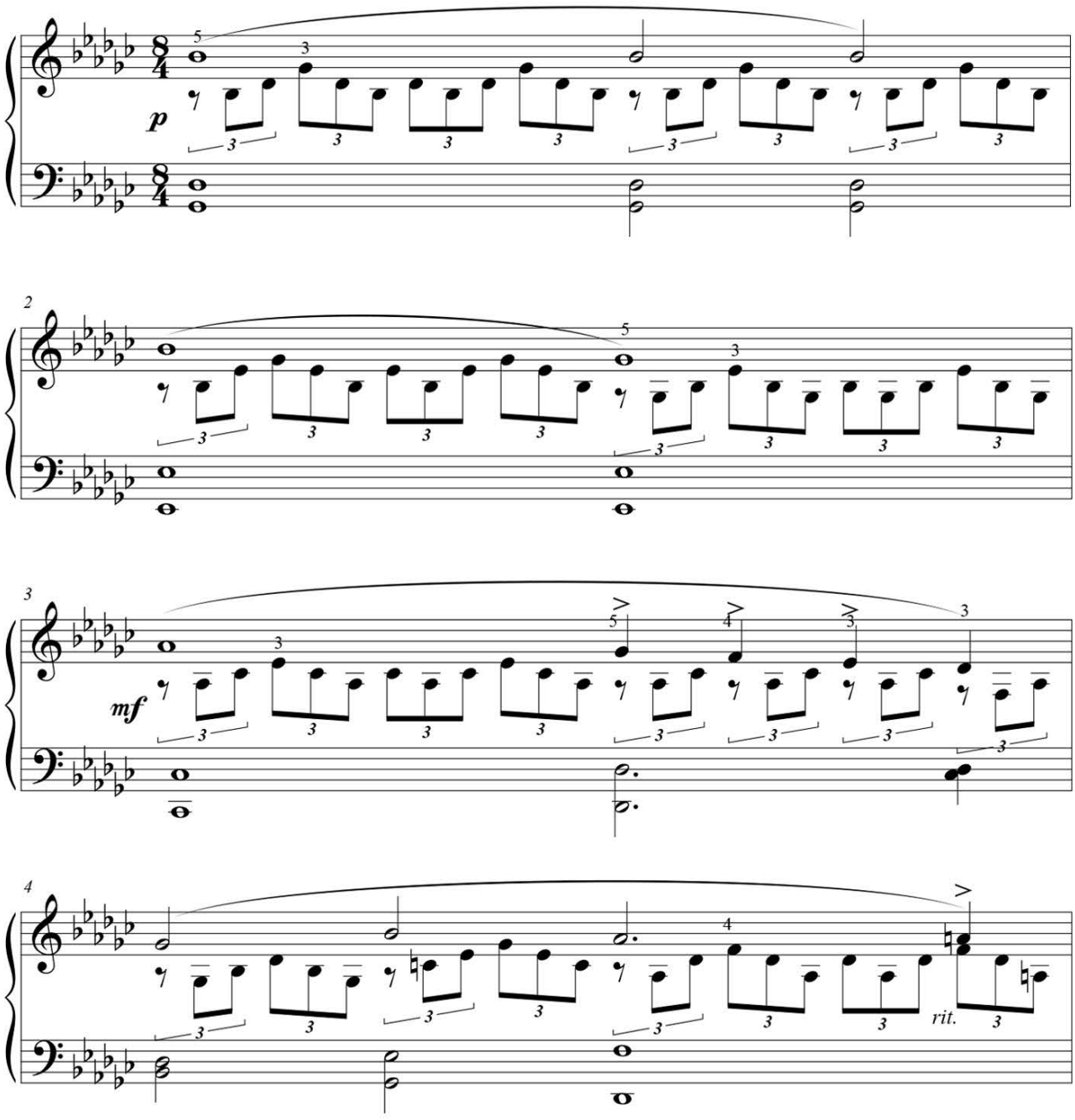
Abridged

(orchestrated accompaniment has a 2 measure count-in)

WEDDING MUSIC

Franz Schubert

Quarter Note = 60 mm



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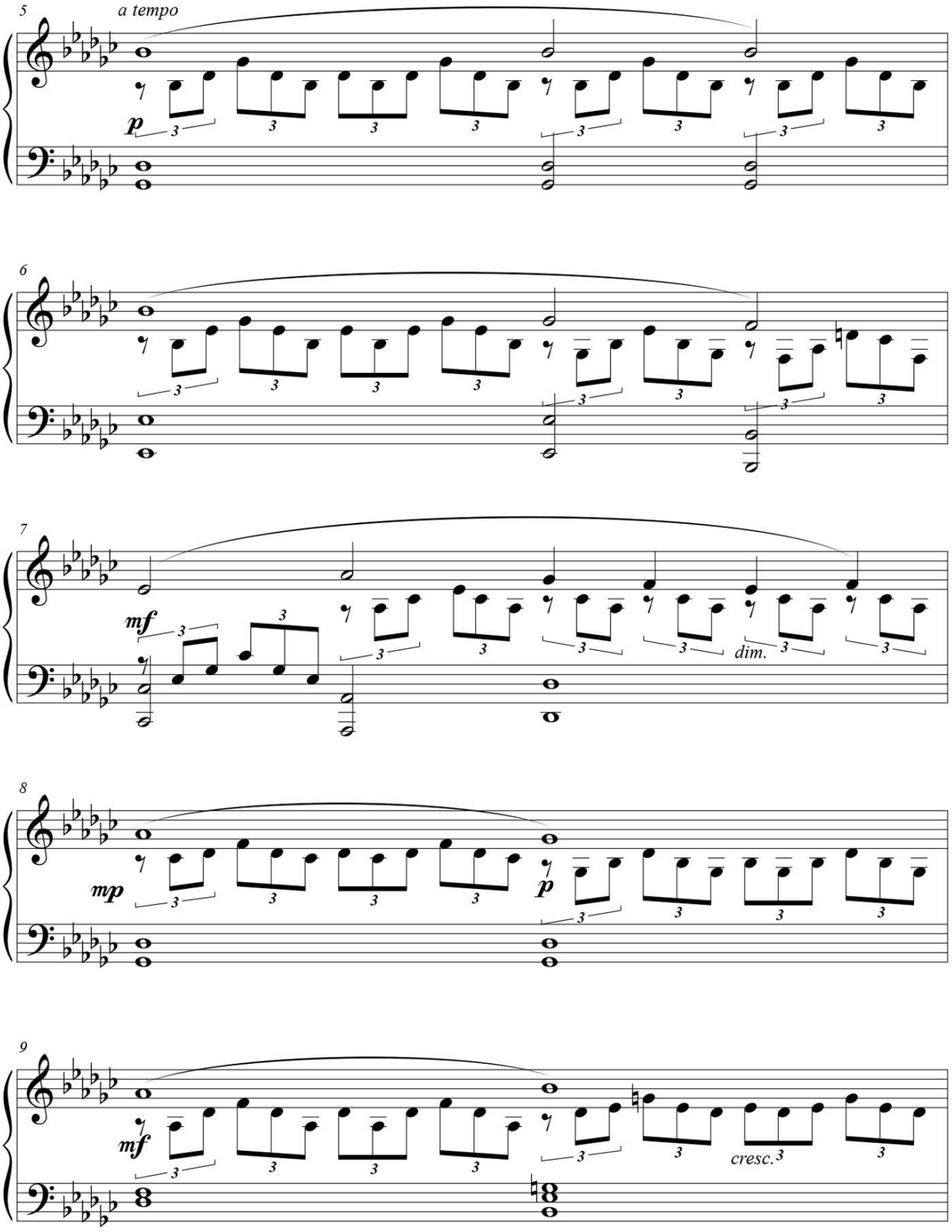

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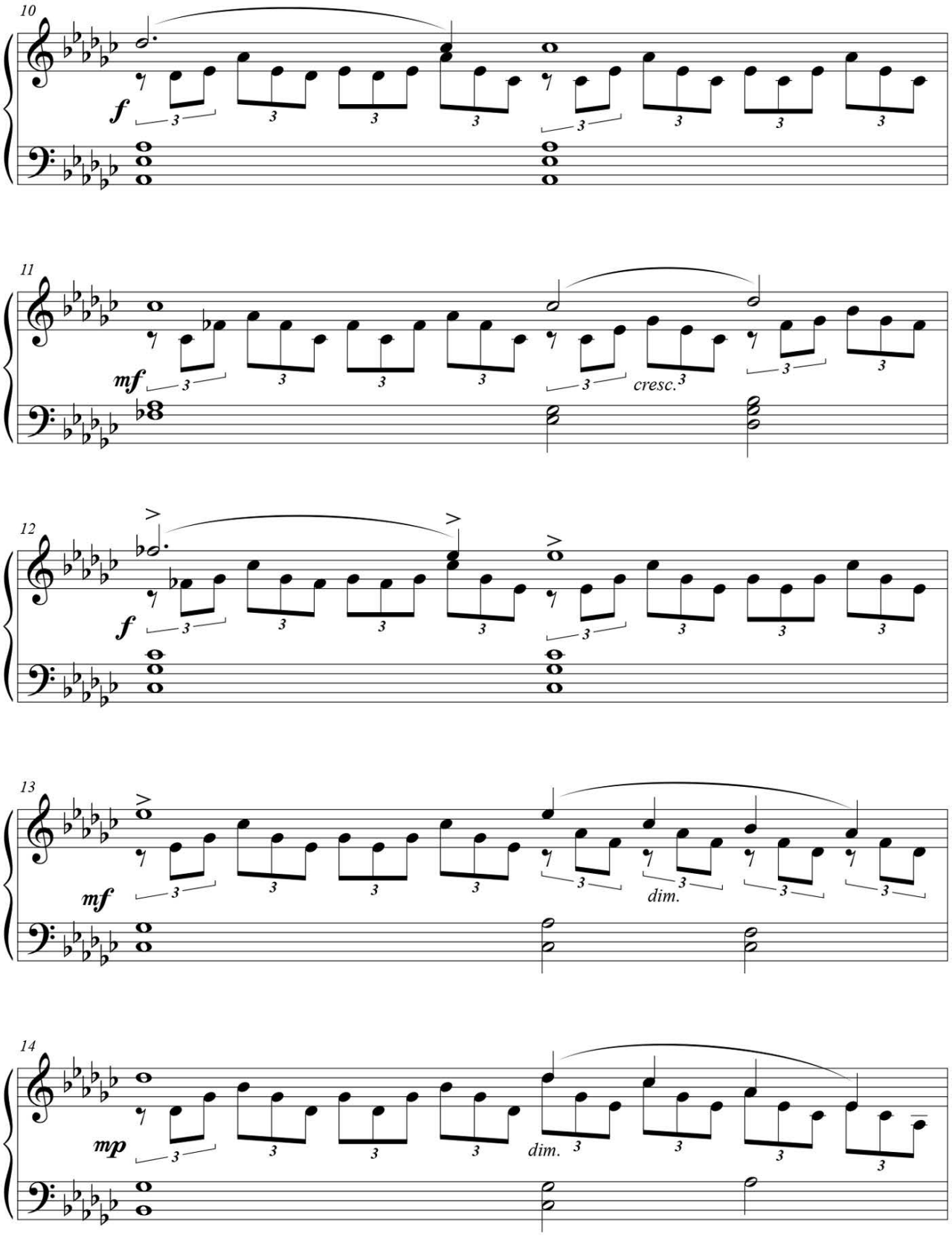

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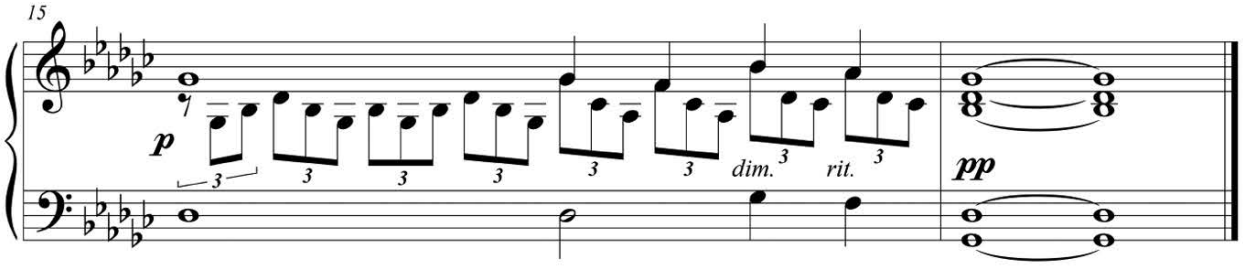

The MAYRON COLE PIANO METHOD

Vier Impromptus Op. 90, No. III Andante

Franz Schubert 1797 – 1828



Franz Schubert (pronounced SHOE-bert) lived only thirty-two years, but very few composers can boast the number of compositions that he wrote during that short lifespan. Schubert lived in the early-Romantic era (1800 – 1850) and wrote over six-hundred songs, ten symphonies, several operas, and many solo piano compositions. Even though Schubert claimed to be agnostic, his Ave Maria (in Level 7B of The Mayron Cole Piano Method) is one of the most beautiful of sacred compositions. So who was this composer who could write music day after day without tiring? And what was driving his creative muse?

Schubert lived in Vienna, Austria which was the center of fine arts in Europe. But during his lifetime, only a small group of his friends knew of his beautiful music. Schubert didn't perform on large concert tours and little of his music was being published. It wasn't until after his death that Felix Mendelssohn, Robert Schumann, famous concert pianist Clara Wieck, Franz Liszt and Johannes Brahms re-discovered Franz Schubert's great works. Due to these composers' enthusiasm for Schubert's compositions, Franz Schubert is now considered one of the greatest of all composers. Schubert's music is some of the most performed of all concert music.

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Schubert was born to Franz Theodor Schubert and Elizabeth Vietz Schubert. Franz Theodor was a parish schoolmaster, and his popular school was filled to capacity. When young Franz was only six, he was enrolled in his father's school. He most probably started his education in music around that same time with his older brother teaching young Franz piano and his father teaching him the violin. Little Franz was a member of a family that enjoyed creating music. With two older brothers playing violin, and his father playing cello, Franz learned to play the viola. For this family string quartet, young Franz wrote some of his early music for stringed instruments.


Joseph von Spaun

When Franz Schubert was eleven, he auditioned for Antonio Salieri for a scholarship in voice. Salieri, Vienna's leading musical authority, was much impressed with the young man's vocal talent. Shortly thereafter, probably due to Salieri's influence, Schubert won a choir scholarship to the Imperial Seminary. While a student at the Seminary, Franz attended operas and was exposed to the music of earlier composers such as Mozart and Haydn.

While still a student at the Imperial Seminary, Schubert became friends with Joseph von Spaun. Spaun, who was wealthy, furnished Schubert, who was impoverished, with staff paper upon which Schubert could write his music. Staff paper was too expensive for a young scholarship student to afford, and Spaun had no idea how much this small courtesy meant to Franz Schubert. Schubert and Spaun remained friends for the rest of Schubert's short life.

Schubert's genius began to show, and he was allowed to lead the Seminary's orchestra. It was at this time that Antonio Salieri began to teach Schubert privately in music theory and composition. Schubert wrote his first symphony for the Seminary's orchestra. In addition, the young Schubert composed chamber music, songs, and piano solos as well as some choral works while a student at the Seminary.


Antonio Salieri

When Schubert was only sixteen he left the seminary and returned to live at home to begin training to be a school teacher; a year later Franz began teaching in his father's school. Franz was relegated to teaching the youngest children which was not the most desirable teaching position in the school. With only one year of teacher training, Franz was not well-enough prepared for teaching beginner students to be successful. And he *hated* the job!

He stayed on at his father's school for two years while dragging himself through each day. Franz Schubert is often referred to as "the little school teacher," but that is a joke! He never wanted to be identified as a school teacher. But something good was happening during this stagnant period of Schubert's life: Salieri was continuing to privately teach him composition and theory, and Schubert was excelling with Salieri's tutelage and encouragement.

In 1814, when Schubert was seventeen, he met a young soprano named Therese Grob. Schubert wanted to marry Therese, but strict marriage-consent laws stopped that dream. The marriage-consent laws required the potential bridegroom to show that he had the income to support a family. And Schubert, as a school teacher, had very little money. So there was no marriage.

But Schubert gave a collection of songs to Therese's brother that he had written for her. Therese's family kept that collection of songs into the 1900s. Where are those songs now, we ask?

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The next year, when Schubert was only eighteen, was one of his most productive years. According to records, Schubert composed over 20,000 measures of music. That year Schubert decided that he could no longer be a teacher at his father's school so he quit and applied for a job as chapel music master at Laibach. He did not get the job. But life was about to become better for Franz Schubert because that same year he met Franz von Schober; Schober would become a lifelong friend of Schubert's.


Franz von Schober

Schober invited Franz Schubert to live at Schober's mother's house rent-free. What a wonderful opportunity for Schubert. He accepted Schober's generosity and immediately moved in. While living there, Schubert tried his hand at teaching some piano students, but again teaching was not his forte. He was meant to compose! And Schubert was prolific! He once said, "The moment I finish one composition I start another".

What was driving this young composer to push himself every day to create music? The fear of poverty most likely; Schubert lived in constant fear of becoming penniless. In 1817, Schubert's father took a new job in a school in Rossau. It must have been Schubert's fear of having no money that caused him to once again move with his father and take a job as a school teacher. But at this time, a public performance in Vienna of one of his compositions received praise-filled comments in the Vienna newspapers and abroad. This acceptance of his music greatly encouraged Schubert to continue with his compositions.



The summer of 1818 Schubert took a temporary job of teaching piano and voice to the two daughters of Count Esterhazy at their summer chateau. The pay was good, and Schubert continued to compose during his spare time. He wrote his now-famous *March Militaire No. 1 in D Major* as a duet for the two daughters to perform.

1820 found Schubert back in Vienna. He was very social and, being slightly less than five-feet tall, he was nicknamed "The Little Mushroom."

Schubert was part of a group of musicians, artists and students who enjoyed sitting in coffee houses and voicing their negative political views while insulted the Austrian police and the officials of their city. The French Revolution had just ended, and the police of Vienna were on guard against any suspicious gatherings of youths or students and immediately zeroed in on Schubert's coffee group. The police acted quickly to put an end to Schubert's coffeehouse gatherings by arresting Schubert and four of his friends. One of Schubert's coffeehouse friends, Johann Senn, was put on trial and imprisoned for over a year. Then, when he was released Senn was forever forbidden to return to Vienna, Austria. Although Schubert never saw Senn again, Schubert did set some of Senn's poems to music.

Franz Schubert and the other three people were "severely reprimanded" for speaking against public officials with insulting language, but they were not jailed. This horrific experience probably frightened Schubert a great deal more than it is recorded!

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Schubert's music was not widely published, and he was receiving a mere pittance from the publishing houses for a few of his compositions. Money for Schubert was always scarce, so Schubert decided to focus on writing stage productions such as operas. He produced seventeen stage works, and each of them failed. For a man who always feared being destitute, these times were not good for Franz Schubert.

But he would *not* quit. He felt driven to compose music! By 1822 Schubert began *The Unfinished Symphony in B minor*. He wrote only two movements and never finished the third movement. He never mentioned this great symphony to any of his friends; it was discovered after his death.

In the year 1823, the first symptoms of syphilis appeared. But Schubert continued composing music at a frantic pace. The last two years of Franz Schubert's life reflected a darker mood in his music. Although an agnostic, Schubert was experiencing a deeper sense of spiritual awareness and conceptions of "the beyond." But Schubert's health was quickly deteriorating. He confided in some of his friends that he feared he was close to death. Schubert saw a doctor who verified that Schubert's symptoms were beyond a cure and that he was likely to soon die.

From 1826 through 1828 Schubert lived in Vienna. And in the spring of 1828, Schubert gave the only public concert of his works. This concert was very well received which greatly pleased a composer who had received very little acclaim for his talents. But Schubert was coming to the end of his life, and he sensed it. He literally had only months to live.

By November, Franz Schubert had become fatally ill. While living in his brother's apartment, Schubert died at the age of thirty-one on November 19, 1828. The last music he requested to hear was Beethoven's *String Quartet No 14 in C Sharp Minor* which was played for him by violinist Karl Holz. Schubert had always admired Beethoven and requested that he be buried next to Beethoven's grave in the village cemetery of Wahring, Austria. His and Beethoven's graves were later moved to another cemetery: The Central Cemetery of Vienna, Austria. Now his grave and Beethoven's grave are next to Johann Strauss II's and Johannes Brahms' graves.

Franz Schubert wrote over 1000 different compositions during his short life, and many of these musical masterpieces were tucked away in boxes, trunks, attics, and piano benches of Schubert's family members and friends. In 1867, Sir George Grove *(author of Groves Dictionary of Music*) and Arthur Sullivan *(half of the Gilbert and Sullivan composer team)* journeyed to Vienna. There, the two men found seven symphonies hidden away in boxes. Also found were operas, chamber music, miscellaneous compositions and songs. The story of finding this horde of music was publicized and led to widespread public interest of Schubert's works.

Another proponent of Schubert's talent was Franz Liszt who worked for forty years transcribing and arranging a large number of Schubert's compositions, especially the songs. Liszt was a great force in spreading Schubert's work after Schubert's death. Liszt once said that Schubert was "the most poetic musician who ever lived." In 1897, an edition of Franz Schubert's compositions that was edited by Johannes Brahms was released to critical acclaim.

Felix Mendelssohn spent a great deal of his massive fortune searching for and preserving Franz Schubert's manuscripts. And the great concert pianist, Clara Wieck Schumann included Franz Schubert's compositions at almost every one of her many performances. For Clara's sixteenth birthday, Robert Schumann gifted her with an original manuscript of Franz Schubert's.

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