

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Fantasy in D minor

K. 397



About

Mozart's D minor Fantasy is an incredibly rewarding piece to play. In terms of technique, it is a work that can be mastered by intermediate or moderately advanced pianists - the improvisational character of the music makes it shift a lot from page to page, but within the different sections, there are many recurring, relatively easy patterns. However, in terms of musical interpretation, it is a considerable challenge even to the most advanced and experienced musician.

The Fantasy was only published after Mozart's death, and the manuscript is lost. In the first edition, the piece ended at the fermata in bar 97. Whether Mozart had intended to continue the Fantasy or attach it to a Sonata or Fugue remains unclear. In the Breitkopf & Härtel edition that appeared a few years later, ten concluding bars in D major, probably composed by the editor, appeared. This ending has been republished in practically every edition ever since, and are included in the vast majority of recordings of the piece. Mitsuko Uchida was probably the first recording artist to provide an alternative ending, returning to D minor and the arpeggiated chords of the beginning. The Piano Street Edition offers a shorter version based on that same idea.

About the pedal: Many performers make quite generous use of the sustaining pedal in the slow section, and the Piano Street Edition has pedal markings throughout the score. The pedal creates richer and more colorful sounds, but it is perfectly possible to play the Fantasia with much less or even entirely without pedal. Do all preparatory exercises without the pedal, and continue practicing like that now and then even when you have learnt the piece. This is applicable to all Classical repertoire, where careful articulation is of the essence.

🔗 Preparatory Questions

1. There are five different tempo markings in the score (such as Andante, Presto, Tempo Primo). Can you find all five and translate them?
2. In which bar is the first "forte" marked in the score?
3. The Fantasy's unique mood is created partly by Mozart's use of chromaticism - half tone steps are among the most expressive intervals. On the first page, can you name a few bars which feature chromatic steps?
4. The fantasy-character is underlined by the many silences and fermatas. On the first two pages:
 - a) How many fermatas can you find?
 - b) How many silences of one quarter rest or more (include the fermatas)?.....
5. Listen to recordings of the Fantasy while studying the score. Try to think of words which describe the character of each part of the work. Write them into your score where you think there is a change of mood. Suggested bars: 1, 12, 16, 20, 23 and so on.



Mastering the Piece

- Clear articulation (execution of slurs - 'sighs')
- Balance and voicing
- Contrast of moods and dynamics
- Even and controlled scales in presto passages
- Flowing left hand Alberti accompaniment



Practice Plan

- ☐ Session 1: Exercises 1-3, bars 1-19
- ☐ Session 2: Exercises 4-6, bars 20-33 & 35-43
- ☐ Session 3: Exercise 7, bars 34-54
- ☐ Session 4: Exercise 8-9, bars 55-85
- ☐ Session 5: Exercise 10, bars 86-107 (110)

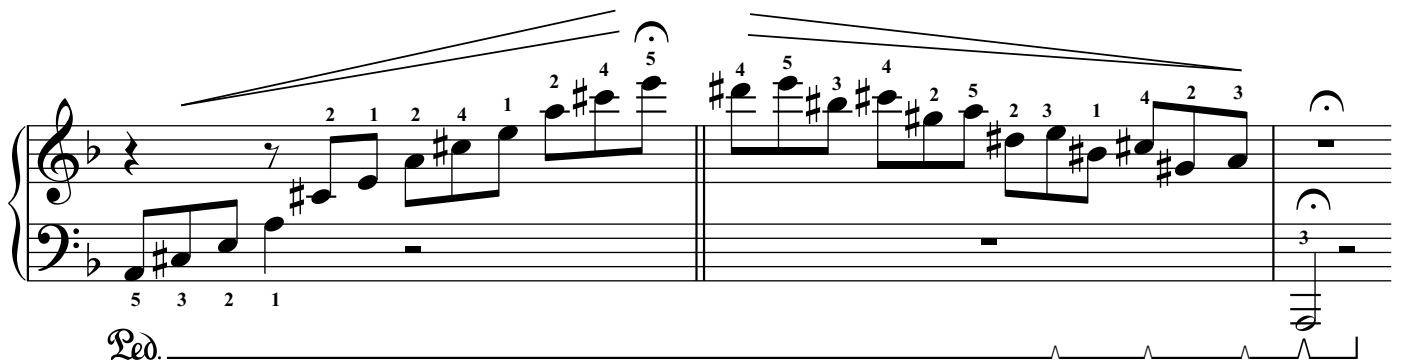


Preparatory Exercises

1. Introduction, bars 1-6: Practice one chord at a time without pedal, repeating each arpeggio at least four times. Play calmly and flowingly. Make sure you hold the D's in the left hand with your fifth finger and thumb.



2. Introduction, bars 9-11: Play the first bar with the sustaining pedal fully down, and make a crescendo to the top. Stay there and listen to the rich A major chord. Keep holding the pedal down when you play the next bar, making a diminuendo. Half pedal changes on E, C sharp and A in the last half of the second bar: raise the pedal enough to avoid a complete blur, but try to keep something of the chordal sound.



3. Adagio, bars 12-15 etc: Start by practicing the left hand on its own, very slowly. Use a light arm for the repeated thirds, making sure they are exactly simultaneous and very soft.



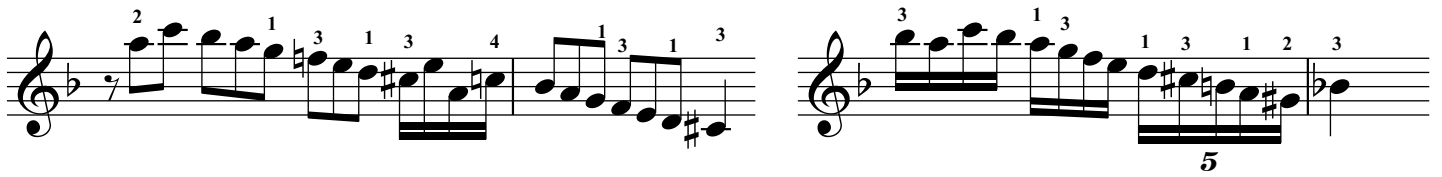
Then practice the right hand. There are no articulation marks in the score, which means that Mozart probably intended a detached style. But practicing them legato at first could help you find the right singing sound and to give the phrase a forward direction. Then change into playing portato, lifting a tiny bit between notes but giving each note an expressive 'legato' quality.



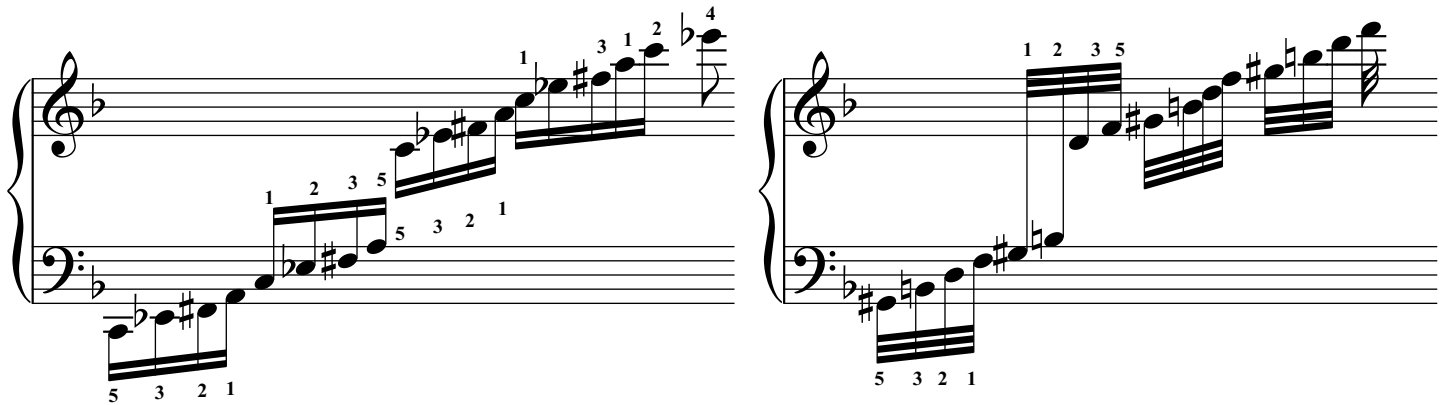
Now play the first phrase hands together. Balance the different layers - bass, melody and chords - by giving them different touches and dynamics. Emphasize the expressive D sharp in the second bar.



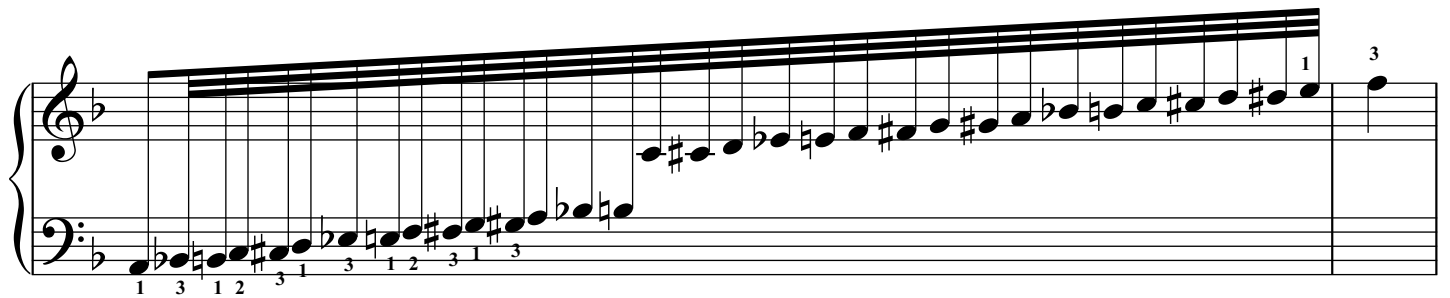
7. Presto runs and arpeggios, bars 34, 44 & 53: Practice the runs in bars 34 and 44 slowly, with a light arm. Begin with the portions selected below, which are then repeated in lower registers when you play the complete section. The added rhythmicizations are only to make the shape of the run clearer. They don't imply any accents, and don't have to be followed slavishly.



In the diminished chord arpeggios, the left hand travels over the right and the right hand goes under the left. When a hand has finished its four notes, move it immediately to the next position.

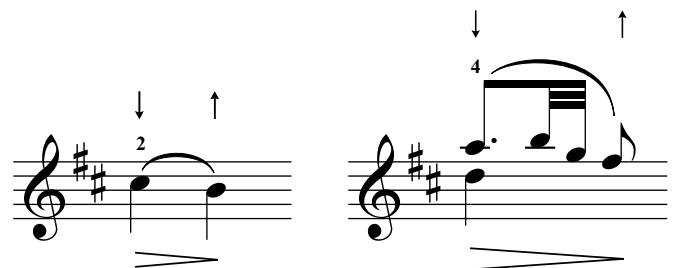


Practice the chromatic scale in bar 44 slowly. When you begin, lean to the left and make sure there is space between your right arm and your body. Play with a light arm and keep the elbow out as you move to an upright position.



8. Allegretto, bars 55-69: In Mozart's time, it was unusual to write slurs across barlines. This doesn't necessarily mean that you have to make a noticeable lift at the end of every bar.

But Mozart's slurs also give clues about which notes are emphasized, which is why it still makes sense practicing bar by bar observing Mozart's articulation markings. Begin by practicing the right hand of bars 56 and 58 using the same "sighing" or "drop-and-float" technique as in exercise 5.



Original slurs:



Suggested articulation:



In the examples below, **pay special attention to the left hand and practice it separately**. Note the fingerings carefully and make sure you hold quarter notes and half notes for their full duration (arrows).

9. Left hand accompaniment, bars 70-83: Practice the left hand on its own. Begin slowly, letting the hand move freely in all directions. When you increase the speed, remain loose at the wrist but use smaller movements.

Add some finger pedal by holding on to the G's and F-sharp's, prolonging them to quarter notes where possible.

10. Cadenza, bar 86: Divide the cadenza into three parts. Practice each part slowly at least four times before adding them together and increasing the speed.

rallentando

K. 397

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
PS Practice Score

Andante

In the introduction, feel free to use some rubato to establish the Fantasy character.

The musical score for 'The Rose Tree' is presented in a two-staff format. The treble staff contains the melody, which is a simple, repetitive tune. The bass staff contains the accompaniment, featuring a steady bass line and a melody that mirrors the treble staff. The score is divided into three measures, each corresponding to a line of the lyrics. The first measure is marked with a piano (*p*) dynamic. The second measure is marked with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. The third measure is marked with a forte (*f*) dynamic. The score includes fingerings for both hands, with numbers 1 through 5 indicating the fingers to be used. A note in the first measure of the bass staff is marked with a '3', indicating a triplet. The score is written in a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a common time signature (C). The tempo is marked as 'Allegretto'.

Many performers make quite generous use of the sustaining pedal in the slow section, and therefore this Practice Score includes pedal markings. The sustaining pedal creates richer and more colorful sounds, but it is perfectly possible to play the Fantasia with much less or even entirely without pedal.

[illegible]

8

1 4 2 1 2 4 1 3 4 2 5 2 3 1 4 2 3

Note the extra pedal change.

Half pedal changes.

Slower than the Andante section, but still in Alla breve (two slow beats in each bar). Play this section in strict time. Use a heavy touch in the right hand to make the top voice sing.

Emphasize the expressive D sharp.

12 **Adagio**

Calm 32nds.

p Extremely soft.

Play the sixteenth-note in exact time (don't delay).

Listen to how this 2-bar phrase answers the previous one.

Expressive D-sharp.

15

Always play the rests! Release both key and pedal in places such as these.

f Softer in the left hand.

p

Play the 32nds calmly and with a diminuendo, but save the real *p* until the next phrase.

19

Firm and confident touch, but don't overdo the *f*. Focus on heavy left hand octaves.

Use a lighter touch here. You may also want to play slightly faster, to bring out the restless character of the music.

23

26

Try for a sudden *p* on the very last 16th.

Stop abruptly, releasing the hands simultaneously.

crescendo *f* *p* crescendo *f* Long pause. *p*

This phrase intensifies the anguished feeling - listen to the expressive diminished chord, and to the clash between G and G-sharp.

Don't start the crescendo until bar 33 - it should be short but intense!

30

crescendo *f* Note the quarter rest - don't start the Presto too early.

Presto

34

The Presto bars must of course be played quite fast, but if they sound hurried the piece loses some of its seriousness and weight. Try varying speed and dynamics within the run. For example: start slower and make an accelerando.

Note the fermata on the eighth-note rest. Don't rush past the silence.

35 **Tempo primo**

f *p*

39

crescendo *f* *p*

42

crescendo *f* *p*

Compare bar 33. This time, keep the pedal down almost until you start the run.

Presto

44

44

45 **Tempo primo**

p

"Allegretto" suggests a moderately fast tempo. Focus on lightness and grace and keep the speed comfortable.

These are Mozart's original slurs, but most pianists continue the legato across barlines. See Practice Guide, exercise 8 for tips on articulation.

Allegretto

75

mf

80

sf

86

f

86

p

rallentando

Mozart obviously wants a marked slowing down before returning to the D major theme - he both writes longer notes and marks them rallentando.

a tempo

88

f

92

p

f

p

Traditional ending: Probably composed by August Eberhard Müller, first printed by Breitkopf & Härtel 1804.

Measures 98-103 of the Traditional ending. The key signature is D major (two sharps). Measure 98 starts with a piano (*pp*) dynamic. The right hand plays a melody with eighth and quarter notes, while the left hand provides a simple harmonic accompaniment. Measure 99 features a long, sustained chord in the left hand. Measure 100 has a forte (*f*) dynamic. Measure 101 includes a fortissimo (*ff*) dynamic. Measure 102 shows a triplet of eighth notes in the right hand. Measure 103 concludes with a final chord. Fingering numbers (1, 2, 3, 4) are indicated above the notes.

Alternative ending: Several pianists and scholars have suggested ending the Fantasy by returning to D minor and the arpeggiated chords of the beginning. This example shows how to do this in a very simple fashion. Feel free to add more notes or to compose your own version!

Measures 98-107 of the Alternative ending. The key signature changes to D minor (no sharps or flats). Measure 98 is marked **Andante**. The right hand plays a melody with eighth and quarter notes, while the left hand provides a simple harmonic accompaniment. Measure 99 features a long, sustained chord in the left hand. Measure 100 has a forte (*f*) dynamic. Measure 101 includes a fortissimo (*ff*) dynamic. Measure 102 shows a triplet of eighth notes in the right hand. Measure 103 concludes with a final chord. Fingering numbers (1, 2, 3, 4) are indicated above the notes.

FANTASIA

K. 397

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Piano Street Edition

Andante

Measures 1-3 of the Andante section. The music is in B-flat major, 3/4 time. The right hand features a melody with eighth and sixteenth notes, while the left hand provides a steady accompaniment of eighth notes. Fingerings are indicated with numbers 1-5. A piano (*p*) dynamic is marked at the beginning. A red line is drawn below the first staff.

Measures 4-7 of the Andante section. The right hand continues the melodic line with various intervals and slurs. The left hand maintains the eighth-note accompaniment. A red line is drawn below the first staff.

Measures 8-11 of the Andante section. The right hand features a more complex melodic line with many accidentals and slurs. The left hand continues the eighth-note accompaniment. A red line is drawn below the first staff.

Measures 12-14 of the Adagio section. The tempo changes to Adagio. The right hand has a melody with slurs and ties. The left hand has a steady accompaniment of eighth notes. A piano (*p*) dynamic is marked. A red line is drawn below the first staff.

Measures 15-18 of the Adagio section. The right hand features a melody with slurs and ties. The left hand has a steady accompaniment of eighth notes. Dynamics of *f* (forte) and *p* (piano) are marked. A red line is drawn below the first staff.

19

pp

f

p

Ped.

23

Musical score for 'The Rose Tree' in 3/4 time, featuring a treble and bass staff with a piano accompaniment. The treble staff contains a melody with various ornaments and fingerings (1-4). The bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords and single notes. A 'Ped.' (pedal) section is indicated at the bottom, showing a sequence of notes for the left foot.

30

1

3

2

1

1

crescendo f

4

4

4

Presto

34

2 4 1 3 1 3 5 1 4 1 3 1 3

1 2 3 1 2 4

5 3 2 1

Ped.

35 **Tempo primo**

f *p*

Ped.

39

crescendo *f* *p*

Ped.

42

crescendo *f*

Ped.

Presto

44

Ped.

44

Ped.

45 **Tempo primo**

p

Ped.

Measures 47-52. The piece is in B-flat major (two flats). Measures 47-50 are in 3/4 time, and measures 51-52 are in 2/4 time. The score features a treble and bass staff. Dynamics include *f* (forte) and *p* (piano). Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1-5. Pedal markings (Ped.) are present under measures 48, 49, 50, 51, and 52. A repeat sign is at the end of measure 52.

Measures 53-54. Measure 53 is in 3/4 time, and measure 54 is in 2/4 time. The key signature changes to D major (two sharps) in measure 54. Dynamics include *f* (forte) and *p* (piano). Pedal markings (Ped.) are present under measures 53 and 54.

Measures 55-62. The tempo is marked **Allegretto**. The key signature is D major (two sharps) and the time signature is 2/4. The score features a treble and bass staff. Dynamics include *p dolce* (piano dolce). Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1-5. Pedal markings (Ped.) are present under measures 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, and 62.

Measures 63-69. The key signature is D major (two sharps) and the time signature is 2/4. The score features a treble and bass staff. Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1-5. Pedal markings (Ped.) are present under measures 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, and 69.

Measures 70-75. The key signature is D major (two sharps) and the time signature is 2/4. The score features a treble and bass staff. Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1-5. Pedal markings (Ped.) are present under measures 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, and 75.

Sheet music for a piano piece, measures 75-92. The music is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The score is written for piano (p) and includes various musical notations such as triplets, slurs, and dynamic markings.

Measures 75-79: The right hand features a triplet of eighth notes (5, 1, 3) and a half note (1). The left hand has a triplet of eighth notes (3, 1) and a half note (5). A crescendo hairpin is present.

Measures 80-85: The right hand has a half note (4) and a half note (1). The left hand has a half note (3) and a half note (1). A *crescendo* marking is present. Pedal markings (Ped.) are shown.

Measures 86-91: The right hand has a half note (1) and a half note (4). The left hand has a half note (4) and a half note (3). A *f* (forte) marking is present. Pedal markings (Ped.) are shown.

Measures 92-97: The right hand has a half note (2) and a half note (1). The left hand has a half note (2) and a half note (1). A *p* (piano) marking is present. A *rallentando* marking is present. Pedal markings (Ped.) are shown.

Measures 98-103: The right hand has a half note (3) and a half note (1). The left hand has a half note (3) and a half note (1). A *f* (forte) marking is present. Pedal markings (Ped.) are shown.

Measures 104-109: The right hand has a half note (5) and a half note (4). The left hand has a half note (5) and a half note (4). A *p* (piano) marking is present. Pedal markings (Ped.) are shown.

Probably by August Eberhard Müller, first printed by Breitkopf & Härtel 1804

103

1 2 1 1 4

pp *f* *ff*

Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped.

In recent years, a number of pianists and scholars have suggested ending the Fantasy by returning to D minor and the arpeggiated chords of the beginning. Our version shows how to do this in the simplest way possible. Feel free to add more notes or to compose your own ending!

98 Andante

101

104

107

Ped.

FANTASIA

K. 397

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

*Piano Street Urtext***Andante**

Measures 1-3 of the Andante section. The music is in B-flat major (two flats) and 3/4 time. The right hand features a melody with eighth and sixteenth notes, while the left hand provides a bass line with triplets and eighth notes.

Measures 4-7 of the Andante section. The right hand continues the melodic line, and the left hand maintains the bass line with triplets.

Measures 8-11 of the Andante section. The right hand has a more active melodic line with many accidentals, while the left hand continues the bass line.

Adagio

Measures 12-14 of the Adagio section. The tempo changes to Adagio. The right hand has a more melodic line, and the left hand features a steady eighth-note accompaniment.

Measures 15-18 of the Adagio section. The right hand has a melodic line with a triplet in measure 16. The left hand has a bass line with chords. Dynamics *f* and *p* are indicated.

Measures 19-22 of the Adagio section. The right hand has a melodic line with a triplet in measure 19. The left hand has a bass line with chords. Dynamics *f* and *p* are indicated.

23

26

26

cresc. **f** *p* *cresc.* **f** *p*

30

Presto

34

Tempo primo

35

f *p*

39

cresc. **f** *p*

42

cresc. *f*

Presto

44

44

45 **Tempo primo**

49

53

Allegretto

55

dolce

63

1.

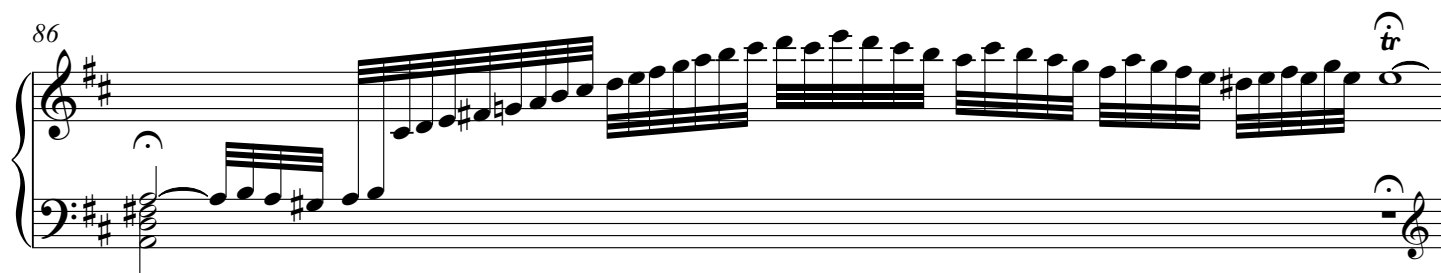
70

2.

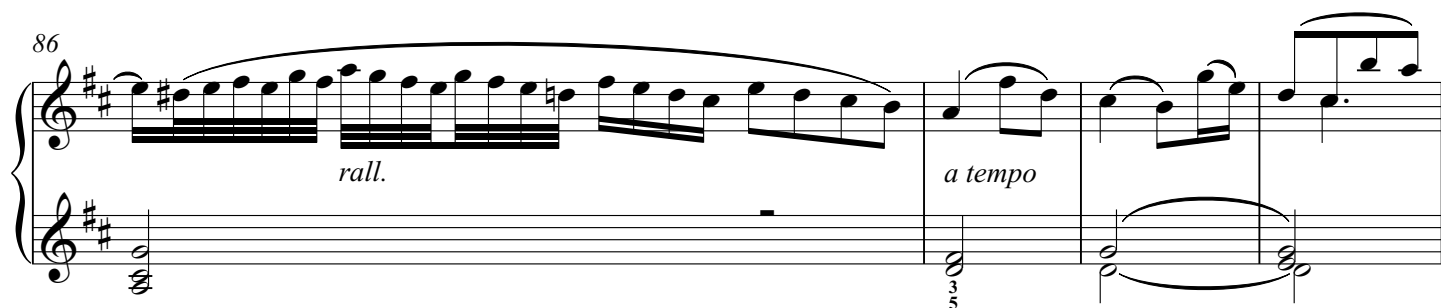
75

80

86



86



rall.

a tempo

90

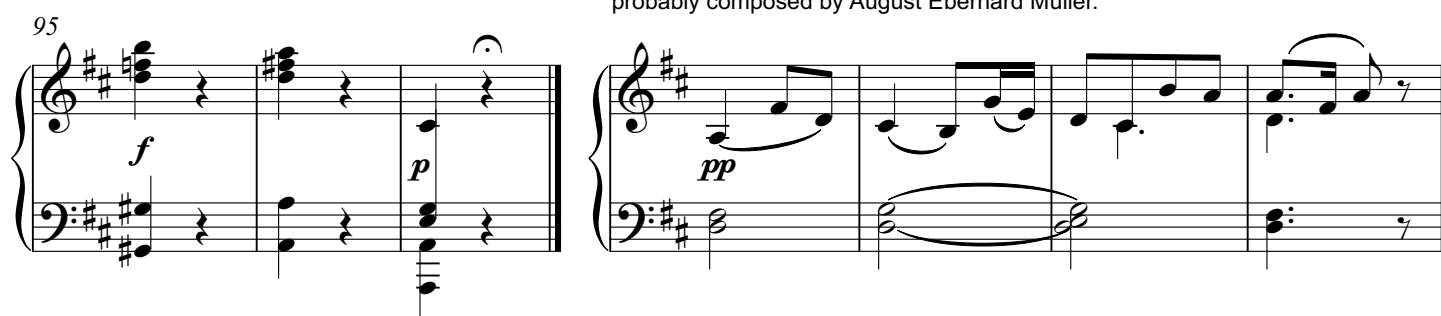


f

p

Ending added in Breitkopf & Härtel's 1804 edition,
probably composed by August Eberhard Müller.

95

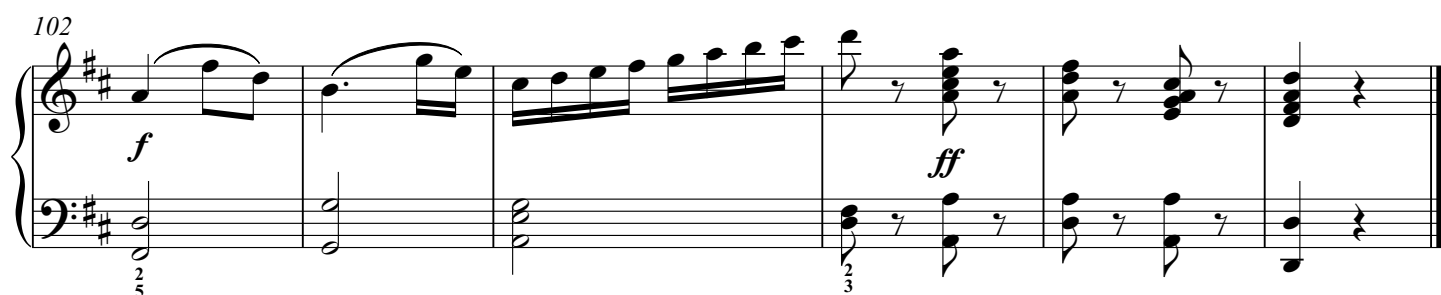


f

p

pp

102



f

ff