

From the Third Symphonic Poem.

"LES PRÉLUDES"

This Symphonic Poem, probably the most popular of the entire set, was composed in 1854. It is a tonal commentary on the thoughts contained in a passage from Lamartine's "Meditations Poétiques."

L'istesso tempo.

1st Violin. *cresc.* *dim.* *smorz.* *espr. div.* *p* *cresc.* *più cresc.* *poco rall.* *ff* *ff* *poco rall.* *p* *espress.* *sf* *dimin.*

The first section of the score is for the 1st Violin. It begins in the key of A major (three sharps) and 3/8 time. The tempo is marked 'L'istesso tempo'. The music features a variety of rhythmic patterns, including eighth and sixteenth notes, and rests. Dynamics range from piano (*p*) to fortissimo (*ff*). Performance instructions include *espr. div.* (expressive and divided), *smorz.* (smorzando), *poco rall.* (poco rallentando), and *dimin.* (diminuendo). There are also markings for *cresc.* (crescendo) and *più cresc.* (più crescendo). The section concludes with a *poco rall.* marking.

Allegro marziale animato.

1st Violins *ff* *ff* *ff* *ff*
2nd Violins *ff* *ff* *ff* *ff*

The second section of the score is for the 1st and 2nd Violins. It is marked 'Allegro marziale animato'. The key signature changes to C major (no sharps or flats). The music is characterized by a strong, rhythmic march-like quality, primarily using eighth and sixteenth notes. The dynamics are consistently fortissimo (*ff*). The section is divided into four measures, each with a dynamic marking of *ff*.

2nd Violins & lower.

p *fp* *fp*
cresc. - - - *rinforz. molto* *molto cresc.*

ff

ff *fp* *fp*

fp *div.* *fp*

cresc. molto - - - *poco ritard.*

Andante maestoso.

1st Violin.
ff

2nd Violin.
ff

sempre stacc.