

FRYDERYK CHOPIN'S MUSIC ON DOUBLE BASS:

FOUR ETUDES TRANSCRIBED FOR DOUBLE BASS AND PIANO

by

FRANCISCO GONÇALVES DE AZEVEDO

(Under the Direction of Milton Masciadri)

#### ABSTRACT

A significant part of the available double bass repertoire is composed of transcriptions from other instruments. Only a handful of those consist of works composed by the Polish pianist and composer Fryderyk Chopin (1810-1849). The purpose of this project is to add to the double bass repertoire through the transcriptions of the Etudes Op. 10 No. 3, Op. 10 No. 6, Op. 10 No. 9, and Op. 25 No. 7, for double bass and piano. The document provides a brief historical background of the practice of transcriptions, and of transcribing pieces for the double bass, pointing out pieces transcribed by important double bassists. It also presents a connection between the music of Chopin and Giovanni Bottesini (1821-1889), who shared influence from the bel canto style. The technical and stylistic choices made in the transcription of the etudes are

explored. Performance versions of the etudes, with piano parts for the use with double bass in orchestra and solo tunings, are presented in the appendices.

**INDEX WORDS:** double bass, Fryderyk Chopin, Etude Op.10 No.3, Etude Op.10 No.6, Etude Op.10 No.9, Etude Op.25 No.7, transcription for double bass, double bass repertoire, performance edition.

FRYDERYK CHOPIN'S MUSIC ON DOUBLE BASS:  
FOUR ETUDES TRANSCRIBED FOR DOUBLE BASS AND PIANO

by

FRANCISCO GONÇALVES DE AZEVEDO

B.M.Ed., Universidade Federal de Santa Maria, Brazil, 2004

M.M. University of Georgia, 2011

A Document Submitted to the Graduate Faculty of The University of Georgia in Partial  
Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree

DOCTOR OF MUSICAL ARTS

ATHENS, GEORGIA

2014

© 2014

Francisco Gonçalves de Azevedo

All Rights Reserved

FRYDERYK CHOPIN'S MUSIC ON DOUBLE BASS:

FOUR ETUDES TRANSCRIBED FOR DOUBLE BASS AND PIANO

by

FRANCISCO GONÇALVES DE AZEVEDO

Major Professor: Milton Masciadri  
Committee: David Haas  
Levon Ambartsumian

Electronic Version Approved:

Julie Coffield

Interim Dean of the Graduate School

The University of Georgia

August 2014

## **DEDICATION**

I dedicate this document to my better half Martina Kloss, who is always by my side; and to my parents Antonio Geraldo Gonçalves de Azevedo and Etelvina Clara Gonçalves de Azevedo, who always unconditionally supported me.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

First and foremost, I would like to thank my Major Professor Milton Walter Masciadri for giving me the opportunity to study with him at the UGA for the Master's and Doctoral degree, and to learn from his artistry and double bass playing.

I would like to thank Dr. David Haas for his thoughtful suggestions and critical guidance during the writing of this document. Consistently going beyond his graduate committee member duties, Dr. Haas invested time and interest in this document as if he were my Co-Major Professor. His orientation and invaluable commentaries helped extraordinarily in the production of this document into its final form. As my Minor Area Advisor, his teaching and wisdom are responsible for nurturing me a deeper interest in Musicology.

I would like to thank Professor Levon Ambartsumian and Professor Frederick Burchinal for funding my Teaching Assistantship through my DMA program, and to the Director of the Hugh Hodgson School of Music, Dr. Dale Monson.

Thanks to Dr. John Lynch and the UGA Wind Ensemble for help funding my Master's degree and for some of my most remarkable moments at the Hugh Hodgson School of Music.

Thanks to Leonard Ligon for the sheet music formatting help, and to Lucy Ralston and Kim Neidlinger for proofreading my texts.

Thanks to my double bass teachers and professors, in special to Eder Kinappe, Dr. Alexandre Ritter, and Milton Romay Masciadri, some of the best musicians I have ever met.

Thanks to all my friends, in special to Joseph Brent, Emily Laminack, Claudio Esteves and Carla Glienke, Rafael and Fabiane Ferronato, Ulisses and Katia Silva, and Oliver and Rubia Yatsugafu for being my family away from home, when I first arrived in Athens.

Thanks to Arnold Schoenberg and Theodora Eleonora.

And finally, to my family and all of you, who supported and encouraged me in this very arduous and important chapter of my life.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS .....	v
CHAPTER	
1 INTRODUCTION .....	1
Purpose of the Project .....	3
Literature Review.....	5
Organization of Chapters .....	6
2 THE PRACTICE OF TRANSCRIPTIONS.....	8
Brief History of Transcriptions .....	8
The Piano and its Role in the Transcription Tradition.....	9
Transcriptions for the Double Bass.....	11
3 FRYDERYK CHOPIN’S ETUDES: FUSIONS OF VIRTUOSITY AND BEL CANTO.....	16
Paths to Chopin’s Piano Etudes: The Necessity for Technical Development .....	18
The Edition Problem.....	21
4 THE TRANSCRIPTIONS OF THE ETUDES.....	23
Etude Op. 10 No. 3 .....	24
Transcription Changes .....	27
Etude Op. 10 No. 6 .....	30

Transcription Changes .....	31
Etude Op. 10 No. 9 .....	33
Transcription Changes .....	34
Etude Op. 25 No. 7 .....	37
Transcription Changes .....	39
Conclusion .....	41
REFERENCES .....	43
APPENDICES	
A Scores For the Use With Orchestra Tuning .....	48
Etude Op. 10 No. 3 .....	49
Etude Op. 10 No. 6 .....	54
Etude Op. 10 No.9 .....	58
Etude Op. 25 No. 7 .....	63
B Scores For the Use With Solo Tuning .....	68
Etude Op. 10 No. 3 .....	69
Etude Op. 10 No. 6 .....	74
Etude Op. 10 No.9 .....	78
Etude Op. 25 No. 7 .....	83
C Double Bass Parts .....	88
Etude Op. 10 No. 3 .....	89
Etude Op. 10 No. 6 .....	91

Etude Op. 10 No.9 .....	92
Etude Op. 25 No. 7 .....	94

## CHAPTER 1

### INTRODUCTION

A significant part of the available double bass repertoire is composed of transcriptions from other instruments, as shown in the *Comprehensive Catalog of Music, Books, Recordings and Videos for the Double Bass*,<sup>1</sup> compiled by Murray Grodner. In many cases, transcriptions are the only way of introducing the work of significant composers into the double bass repertoire, since the soloistic possibilities of the instrument, even at this late date, have too often been neglected by major composers. This practice of overlooking could also be connected with the 19<sup>th</sup> century role of the double bass as an orchestral instrument, usually providing accompaniment, which resulted in a the lack of double bass soloists. Transcriptions provide excellent instruction material for the double bass, and also help balance a recital program,<sup>2</sup> since the standardization of the modern double bass only happened in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, much later than with the other orchestral string instruments. The Classical period concerti composed by J.B. Vanhal, F.A. Hoffmeister, and K. Dittersdorf, are actually transcriptions of works written for the Viennese violone.

Even though publishing transcribed music for the double bass was not something common during the nineteenth century, double bassists did adapt pieces or musical thematic material for the use of the double bass as soloist or as a member of chamber groups. Examples of those adaptations are found in the performance records of such reputable double bassists as

---

<sup>1</sup> Murray Grodner, *Comprehensive Catalog of Music, Books, Recordings and Videos for the Double Bass*, Vol. 1 (Omnipress, 2008).

<sup>2</sup> Michael Morelli, "The Importance of Transcriptions," *International Society of Bassists* 16, no.2 (Winter 1990): 21.

Domenico Dragonetti (1763-1846), Giovanni Bottesini (1821-1889) and Serge Koussevitzky (1874-1951). Important 20<sup>th</sup>-century double bass players, such as Rodion Azarkhin, Gary Karr, Lucas Drew, Thomas Martin and Stuart Sankey transcribed and recorded pieces originally written for other instruments. From their transcriptions, one can find pieces by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Ludwig van Beethoven, Franz Schubert, Joseph Haydn, Johannes Brahms, César Franck, among others. Bottesini, probably the most important double bass composer and performer in history, used arias and thematic material from operas by Bellini, Rossini and Paisiello in his compositions and performances.

In at least one case, Bottesini adapted a work from Fryderyk Chopin. His *Tutto che il mondo serra*, a trio for double bass, high singing voice and piano, is based on Chopin's Etude, Op. 25, no. 7, with added words by an unknown author.<sup>2</sup> In his arrangement, Bottesini gave the melody of the piano left hand to the double bass and its counter melody to the voice, bringing the etude sonority closer to the aria "Dormono Entrambi", from Vincenzo Bellini's *Norma*. According to musicologist Jean-Jacques Eigeldinger in the documentary "*Chopin at the Opera*"<sup>1</sup>, Chopin told his close friend, the German pianist friend Ferdinand Hiller, that the etude was an homage to Bellini, who had passed about two years before the composition of the etude. Eigeldinger points out that the beginning of the etude's melody, after the cadenza-like intro, is a quotation of a moment in the opera where Norma contemplates killing her children in their sleep.

Although he was a dedicated admirer of opera and of the bel canto style, Fryderyk Chopin composed no arias in this style. Instead, his admiration and contact with bel canto *Prime Donne* seem to have funneled the singing style into his piano writing, the medium wherein he

---

<sup>1</sup> Jean-Jacques Eigeldinger, *Chopin at the Opera*, directed by Jan Schmidt-Garre, script by Georg-Albrecht Eckle (Halle: Arthaus Musik, 2010), DVD.

counts as one of the most important composers of the Romantic period. The acquaintance with the work of Donizetti, Rossini and Chopin's reciprocal admiration for Bellini are evident in the bel canto character of his melodies. While his individual keyboard style demands a high technical level from the performer, technique alone is insufficient: a sensitivity and lyricism reminiscent of Romantic arias and Lieder are no less important. Through the genres of ballades, sonatas, mazurkas, nocturnes, polonaises, waltzes, etudes, preludes, impromptus and scherzos, Chopin introduced innovations in the style, harmony, and form that would be influential in the Romantic period, especially for piano technique and idioms.

Since his focus was on solo piano music, Chopin composed only a handful of works for other instruments in combination with the piano. They include the following works for cello and piano: *Introduction and Polonaise Brillante in C major* Op.3, written in 1829-30, the *Grand Duo Concertant in E Major* B. 70, written jointly with composer-cellist Auguste Franchomme in 1832; the *Cello Sonata in G minor*, op. 65, written in 1845-46; and the *Trio for Violin, Cello and Piano* Op.8, from 1829. Chopin also composed 19 Polish songs, Op. 74, for voice and piano, set to original poems by his Polish contemporaries.

### **Purpose of the Project**

From Chopin's entire *oeuvre*, only a few compositions have been made available to other instruments through transcription. Of these, less than a dozen belong to the double bass repertoire, in printed music or as audio recording. Most of them are private unpublished scores of audio recorded renditions. The purpose of this project is to add to the current double bass repertoire through bass and piano transcriptions of the *Etudes* Op.10 No.3, No. 6 and No. 9, and

Op. 25 No. 7. These etudes were chosen for transcription on account of their suitability for adaptation for the double bass. Like Chopin's Nocturnes, the etudes chosen for this project demonstrate the connection between the technically challenging piano writing and the lyric vocal quality of their melodies. Chopin's admiration for Vincenzo Bellini's use of long melodic lines in the bel canto style and his refined use of *fioratura* are reflected in his vocal-like treatment of his own melodies. The etudes chosen for this project illustrate an influence of the bel canto style that also permeates the works for double bass solo by Giovanni Bottesini.

The piano writing in the etudes employs the entire usable register of the piano. One usually finds the use of both extremes of the keyboard in the same etude. Chopin's fondness for the bass (and even the contrabass!) register is evident. Moreover, his usage of the bass register is varied. In the Etude, Op. 10, no. 1, the lower registers are used to establish the harmonic structure and musical form. In the Etude, Op. 10, no. 9, ingenious accompanimental figures compete with the melody for the listener's attention. In the Etude, Op. 25, no. 7, the thematic material itself resides in the bass register. The combination of Chopin's fascination with the musical possibilities of the bass register and his fondness for bel canto melody make some of his etudes especially appealing to double bassists. In addition to providing opportunities for double bass players to perform Chopin, effective arrangements of these etudes can provide interesting challenges with respect to technique and interpretation.

Transcribing music originally written for piano for any other instrument presents idiomatic challenges that must be addressed by both the arranger and the performer. One example of specific a difference to be addressed is the difference in the sound production. While bowed string instruments are able to produce long tones, in the piano the notes begin to decay from the instant of striking, with the higher harmonics tending to die out first so that the timbre

smooths out as the loudness diminishes.<sup>2</sup> On the other hand, the song-like legato that Chopin requires in his etudes is more easily obtained with instruments that do not share the sound decay quality of the piano. Another idiomatic difference to be considered in the transcription of piano music is that the piano can play more notes simultaneously than the bowed string instruments. Due to the limited ability of the bass to produce double and triple stops, the transcription of the multiple voice piano texture of the Romantic style writing in the etudes also presents issues to be considered, so as to preserve as much as possible of the instrumental technique and the musical style of the compositions. This project will help the performer of the etude transcriptions to identify and approach idiomatic issues when performing music written originally for other instruments.

Another issue to be addressed involves the existence of several editions of Chopin's etudes. The choice of an original text of Chopin's etudes creates a challenge in itself due to the composer's continuous alterations to his compositions, even after their publication. For this project the musical text presented in the Wiener Urtext Edition, mainly based on the French and German editions, is used.

## **Literature Review**

The secondary sources that were consulted for this document include articles, books, and dissertations. Background information related to the double bass repertoire and to transcriptions

---

<sup>2</sup> John Borwick "Acoustics", *The Oxford Companion to Music*, *Oxford Music Online*, Oxford University Press, <http://www.oxfordmusiconline.com.proxy-remote.galib.uga.edu/subscriber/article/opr/t114/e53> (accessed April 16, 2014).

for the double bass comes mainly from Paul Brun's book *A New History of the Double Bass*,<sup>3</sup> and from articles published in the *Bass World*, the journal of the International Society of Bassists.<sup>4</sup> The writings that were authored or edited by Jim Samson, in the books *Chopin Studies*, *Chopin Studies 2*, and *The Music of Chopin*,<sup>5</sup> together with the *Analytical Perspectives on the Music of Chopin*, edited by Artur Szklener,<sup>6</sup> were distinctly helpful as sources for Fryderyk Chopin's biographical and musical aspects, and for Chopin's etudes historical, analytical and performance aspects. Dissertations about the practice of transcriptions for double bass were also helpful in the making of this project.<sup>7</sup>

### **Organization of Chapters**

The second chapter of the document presents background information about the practice of transcription, and about the history of transcriptions for double bass. The third chapter provides information about the influence of the bel canto opera on Fryderyk Chopin and the composition of his piano etudes. Following the background information, the fourth chapter presents information about the chosen etudes, such as analytical and performance issues pertaining to the selected etudes, using secondary sources. After a brief introduction to each

---

<sup>3</sup> Paul Brun, *A New History of the Double Bass* (Villeneuve d'Ascq: Paul Brun Productions, 2000).

<sup>4</sup> *Bass World* 16, no.2 (Winter, 1990); 21, no.2 (Fall 1996); 26, no. 1 (2002); 54, no.4, (Spring 1979).

<sup>5</sup> *The Music of Chopin* (Boston: Routledge & Kegan Paul, 1985); *Chopin Studies*, edited by Jim Samson (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1988); *Chopin Studies 2*, edited by John Rink and Jim Samson (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1994); *The Cambridge Companion to Chopin*, edited by Jim Samson (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2000).

<sup>6</sup> *Analytical Perspectives on the Music of Chopin*, edited by Artur Szklener (Warsaw: Narodowy Instytut Fryderyka Chopina, 2004).

<sup>7</sup> Fausto Borém de Oliveira, "Henrique Oswald's Sonata, op.21: A Transcription and Edition for Double Bass and Piano" (DMA diss., University of Georgia, 1993); Stephen Sas, "A History of Double Bass Performance Practice: 1500 – 1900." (DMA diss., Juilliard School, 1999); Brian John Siemers, "The History and Development of the Double Bass" (DMA diss., University of Cincinnati, 2001); Thomas Patrick Hildreth, "Two Mozart Violin Sonatas Transcribed for the Double Bass" (DMA diss., University of Georgia, 2012).

etude, technical and stylistic choices made in the transcription of the etudes are explored. More than just a commentary on the transcriptions of the selected etudes, this chapter can be a useful tool for double bassists facing the challenges of transcribing pieces from other media to their own instrument. It also explores and compares the differences between the original musical text of the Etude Op. 25 No.7 and Bottesini's arrangement *Tutto che il Mondo Serra*, proposing a transcribed version closer to the piano original. Musical examples will be provided to illustrate the above mentioned musical choices.

The scores for the transcriptions of the etudes are found in Appendix A, with piano versions for the use with the orchestra tuning double bass. Parts for use with double bass in solo tuning are found in Appendix B. The double bass parts are presented in the appendix C. The transcriptions for the double bass presented in this project adhere to the musical text of the original works, as presented in the Wiener Urtext Edition.

## CHAPTER 2

### THE PRACTICE OF TRANSCRIPTIONS

#### Brief History of Transcriptions

Transcribing pieces for different instruments can be connected to the sixteenth-century practice of transcription of fragments, or entire pieces from the vocal repertoire to instrumental media. At that time, transcriptions varied in the level of fidelity to the original musical source. The flexibility of instrumentation is found in the publications following the advent of movable type, in arrangements for SATB without established instrumentation, to be played by any full or broken consorts, with or without a singing voice. The works of Josquin des Prez were favored for this kind of practice. His chanson *Mille Regretz* was transcribed for lute, with small adaptations, by Luys Narváes, and published in his collection of intabulations *Los Seis Lybros del Delphin*, in 1538. His third book also includes transcriptions and arrangements of chansons composed by Nicolas Gombert and Jean Richafort. Other composers, such as Obrecht, Willaert, Sermisy and Arcadelt, to name but a few, contributed thoroughly to the vast amount of intabulations produced in the Renaissance and Early Baroque eras.<sup>1</sup> In this context, one might also mention well-known Renaissance practice of adapting musical material from popular chansons into entire masses.

Antonio Vivaldi also made use of transcription, when adapting some of his concerti for a different soloist than in the original source. Versions of violin concertos are found for oboe and cello soloists. Musical material from movements of a concerto can also be found in other

---

<sup>1</sup> Daniel Wolff, "The Use of Renaissance Vocal Polyphonic Music in the Vihuela and Lute Repertoire" Daniel Wolff website. [http://www.danielwolff.com/arquivos/File/Lute\\_Vihuela\\_Eng.htm](http://www.danielwolff.com/arquivos/File/Lute_Vihuela_Eng.htm) (accessed January 20, 2014).

concerti, where sometimes the entire movement is used. Jean-Philippe Rameau shows similar instrumentation flexibility, with the possibility of playing his concerti with the flute, violin or cello as soloists.

The development of music printing, with the extensive commercial use of engraving in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, influenced the music publishing market.<sup>1</sup> People interested in music making, either in professional or amateur environments, could find music that would suit their taste and abilities. Due to the market competition, music publishers appealed to their public by arranging and transcribing works from large instrumentation to the ones that could be reproduced at social occasions and salons. Pieces such as the Largo from the opera *Xerxes* by George Frideric Handel, the *Air on the G string* by Johann Sebastian Bach, the minuet from Luigi Boccherini's String Quintet in E Major, operatic arias, Beethoven's "Moonlight" Sonata, and many other pieces have undergone transcription for various instruments,<sup>2</sup> resulting in ever increasing market demand.

### **The Piano and its Role in the Transcription Tradition**

The advent of the fortepiano increased the possibilities of transcribing and bringing home any musical material. One important figure in the popularization of the household piano was Muzio Clementi (1752-1832). More than just a performer and composer for the instrument, Clementi was also a partner in a company that made pianos and published music. In 1801, his

---

<sup>1</sup> Stanley Boorman, et al. "Printing and publishing of music." *Grove Music Online. Oxford Music Online*. Oxford University Press, <http://www.oxfordmusiconline.com.proxy-remote.galib.uga.edu/subscriber/article/grove/music/40101pg2>, (accessed May 8, 2014).

<sup>2</sup> Alexandre Cellier and Fred Rothwell, "Is Transcription Permissible?" *The Musical Times* Vol. 66, No. 992 (October 1, 1925): 900.

company published *Clementi's Introduction to the Art of Playing on the Piano Forte*, an introductory method for adults and children, introducing the piano to those who had never learned to play any keyboard, as well as converting the playing technique of those who had played harpsichord.<sup>3</sup> Clementi's method was not merely aimed at pedagogy, but also to creating a market for the new popular instrument. For that purpose, it included transcriptions and arrangements of popular theater songs, chamber music by Corelli, oratorios by Handel, as well as keyboard music by Scarlatti, J.S. and C.P.E. Bach, Mozart, and Beethoven. James Parakilas and Gretchen Wheelock point out that "the *Introduction*, in other words, shows piano students the full range of musical experiences that the piano can open to them, from the classic to the popular and from orchestral and vocal transcriptions to the natively pianistic."<sup>4</sup>

Clementi's *Introduction* is one of the several examples of publications available from the beginning of the nineteenth century that used arrangements and transcriptions to bring together the concert life and the domestic music-making, in an era where the musical entertaining industry revolved around the piano.<sup>5</sup>

The rise in number and prosperity of the European and American middle class, driven from the beginning of the nineteenth century, was matched by the rise in the domestic importance of the piano. The instrument had become more available due to its increased production and decreased price. Thus, the piano became a cultural symbol that was present in public institutions like schools and hotels, and above all, at home. The orchestral possibilities embodied in a single instrument became the center of household cultural gatherings, being the

---

<sup>3</sup> James Parakilas and Gretchen A. Wheelock, "1700s to 1800s: The Piano Revolution in the Age of Revolutions", in *Piano Roles: Three Hundred Years of Life With the Piano*, ed. James Parakilas (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1999): 84.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid*, 86.

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid*, 93.

major source of music making in domestic environments. It is important to note that, in the domestic environment, the music was made by ordinary people, amateur musicians usually with limited or no formal musical training. Other than folk songs, their repertoire was now increased to the popular tunes from major cultural events, to be reproduced to the best of their musical abilities. The domestic keyboard “became the vehicle of an almost new art.”<sup>6</sup>

Transcriptions for the piano played a major role in popularizing a wide array of music. Franz Liszt’s transcriptions of symphonies by Ludwig van Beethoven and Hector Berlioz, songs by Franz Schubert and Robert Schumann, and his operatic fantasies of works by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Vincenzo Bellini, and Gaetano Donizetti, totaling roughly two hundred pieces of same nature had an important role in the piano’s golden era. Liszt’s transcriptions fall into four categories: marches and rhapsodies; arrangements varying the degree of fidelity with the original pieces, such as the Six Preludes and Fugues by J.S. Bach; note-by-note reductions of symphonic works; song and lieder transcriptions, where he managed to maintain the importance of vocal melodies inside the piano texture; and his fantasies and paraphrases of opera and other themes, where he expanded the piano possibilities to accommodate the operatic forces.<sup>7</sup>

### **Transcriptions for the Double Bass**

In an article for *The Musical Times*, published in 1925, Alexandre Cellier and Fred Rothwell comment on the situation that certain performers find when looking into the repertoire for their own instruments:

---

<sup>6</sup> Evelyn Howard-Jones. “Arrangements and Transcriptions,” *Music and Letters* Vol. 16, No. 4 (October, 1935): 308.

<sup>7</sup> James F. Penrose, “The Piano Transcriptions of Franz Liszt,” *The American Scholar* 64, No. 2 (Spring 1995): 274.

Certain instruments, such as the viola, so deserving of admiration, are catered for so poorly as regards repertoire, that they are compelled to borrow from those more richly endowed. What is less comprehensible, however, is to find the latter borrowing from the former.<sup>8</sup>

As mentioned before, transcriptions from other instruments constitute an important part of the available repertoire for the double bass.<sup>9</sup> Through transcriptions, double bassists are able to play concerts written for a string bass instrument before the standardization of the modern double bass, in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century.

The Classical period concerti performed on the double bass were, generally, composed for its 18<sup>th</sup> century predecessor, the Viennese violone. With its similar construction and register, the Viennese violone diverges from the modern double bass in the number of strings and their tuning, and in the use of movable frets. Its five strings were usually tuned F A d f# a, but scordatura was used to facilitate the playing of chords and arpeggiation in keys away from its D major tuning.<sup>10</sup>

The Viennese violone reached its golden age through the concerti composed by K. D. Dittersdorf, J. B. Vanhal, F. A. Hoffmeister, J. Sperger. Sperger, being the chief travelling virtuoso for the instrument, had contact with several courts and composers. J. Haydn, while in Esterháza, had contact with violone players such as Johann Georg Schwenda, Carl Schiringer, and used violone in solo passages of his Symphonies No.6, 7, 8, 31, and 72.<sup>11</sup> Haydn also composed a concerto for the instrument that was lost in a fire, but still included in his thematic catalog. W.A. Mozart also used the violone for composition. The concert aria *Per Questa Bella*

---

<sup>8</sup> Cellier and Rothwell, "Is Transcription Permissible?," 900.

<sup>9</sup> Murray Grodner, *Comprehensive Catalog of Music, Books, Recordings and Videos for the Double Bass*, Vol. 1 (Omnipress, 2008).

<sup>10</sup> Alfred Planyavsky, *The Baroque Double Bass Violone* (1989: Edited and Translated by James Barket, Metuchen, NJ: Scarecrow Press, 1998).

<sup>11</sup> Paul Brun, *A New History of the Double Bass* (Villeneuve d'Ascq: Paul Brun Productions, 2000): 103.

*Mano*, for bass and violone obligato, was premiered in Vienna, in 1791, by Friderich Pischelberger on the violone and Franz Xaver Gerl, Mozart's first Sarastro.

The first internationally celebrated player of the double bass, Domenico Dragonetti (1763-1846), was known for playing from parts composed for other instruments when he performed chamber music with friends.<sup>12</sup> His virtuosic technique allowed him to perform the violin parts in J. Haydn quartets, and to premiere some of G. B. Viotti's violin duos, alternating first and second violin parts with the composer.<sup>13</sup> In his encounter with Beethoven, Dragonetti played the cello part of the Sonata for Violoncello and Piano, Op.5, No.2, delighting the composer, who played the piano part. Georges Onslow (1784-1853) was even more impressed with Dragonetti's technique and rescored some of his thirty-four string quintets to include the double bass, after watching the cello parts being played by the Italian virtuoso.<sup>14</sup> Dragonetti's own transcriptions of Mozart's *Grand Waltz*, *Two Celebrated Pollacas* by J. Jäger and Friedrich Himmel, and arrangements of some organ fugues by J.S. Bach stand out among the few late Classical period transcriptions for double bass that were published at that time.

Giovanni Bottesini (1821-1889), possibly the most influential double bass soloist in history, used his experience with the bel canto style of the Italian operas that he conducted as a direct influence in his compositions, which consisted mainly of operatic paraphrases and fantasies. A recognized opera conductor, he also often performed his arias transcriptions during the intermissions of operas he conducted.<sup>15</sup> His transcriptions are based on operatic material from Vincenzo Bellini, as found in his fantasies on *La Sonnambula*, *Beatrice di Tenda*, *Norma*, and

---

<sup>12</sup> Fausto Borém de Oliveira, *Henrique Oswald's...*, 30.

<sup>13</sup> *Ibid*, 31.

<sup>14</sup> Fausto Borém de Oliveira, "A Brief History of Double Bass Transcription," *Bass World: The Journal of the International Society of Bassists* 21 (2) (Fall 1996): 15.

<sup>15</sup> Thomas Martin, "In Search of Bottesini", *International Society of Bassists* 10, no.1 (1983): 6.

the *Duo Concertante on Themes From "I Puritani"*; on thematic material from Gioacchino Rossini, in the *Fantasia on Rossini's Canzonette*; from Gaetano Donizetti, in the *Fantasia "Lucia di Lamermoor"*, and *"Una Furtiva Lagrima"*; and from Giovanni Paisiello, in *Variazione sulla "Nel cor più non mi sento"*. Bottesini also transcribed musical material from J.S. Bach, in his *Meditazione (Aria di Bach)*, a transcription from Bach's Air from the Orchestral Suite No.3, and rearranged his *Gran Duo Concertante* for double bass and violin after the original composition for two double basses. Bottesini was one of the most prolific composers for the double bass. However, most of his music was not published during his lifetime.

In the twentieth century, the composer and double bassist Serge Koussevitzky (1874-1951) was the first double bass soloist to give entire recitals.<sup>16</sup> Some of them featured a program compiled only from his own transcriptions. The following transcriptions were at the heart of his repertoire: Mozart's bassoon concerto, Max Bruch's *Kol Nidrei* Op. 47, Henry Eccles's gamba sonatas, John Galliard's cello sonata, two preludes from Scriabin's Op. 74, and Ravel's *Pièce en Forme de Habanera*. Ukrainian double bassist Rodion Azarkhin (1931-2007) pushed the limits of the double bass transcriptions when he began touring as soloist with orchestra, performing his transcription of Antonin Dvorak's Cello Concerto in B minor Op. 104. He was the first double bassist to transcribe, perform and record P. Sarasate's *Zigeunerweisen* Op.20 No.1, Paganini's violin caprices, and J.S. Bach's partitas and the Chaconne in D Minor, BWV1004.<sup>17</sup> Azarkhin was the principal bass player of the State Symphony Orchestra of Moscow, a position he held from 1975 until 1989.<sup>18</sup> He also included in his recital repertoire transcriptions of works by Mendelssohn, Rossini, Massenet, Rachmaninoff, and Tchaikovsky.

---

<sup>16</sup> Thomas Martin, "In Search of Bottesini", 11.

<sup>17</sup> Donovan Stokes, "In Memory of Rodion Azarkhin," *Bass World* 31, No. 1, (2007): 18.

<sup>18</sup> Donovan Stokes, "Passion and Survival", *Double Bassist*, (Autumn 2007): 54.

Azarkhin's interest in expanding the double bass repertoire is shared by important double bassists such as Stuart Sankey, Lucas Drew, Thomas Martin, and Gary Karr, to name but a few. They are responsible not only for recordings of transcriptions, but also for editing and publishing music from significant composers, transcribed for the double bass. Through the transcriptions and editions by bass players as the mentioned above, pieces like J.S. Bach's Cello Suites, F. Schubert's *Arpeggione Sonata*, J. Brahms' Cello Sonata in E Minor, No. 1, Op. 38, C. Franck's Violin Sonata, and R. Schumann's *Adagio and Allegro Op.70* are transcriptions established as standards in today's double bass repertoire.

Michael J. Morelli, in his article "The Importance of Transcriptions", points out that transcriptions for double bass are historically acceptable, are a source of excellent instructional material, raise the performance standard, and as mentioned before they could help in balancing a recital program.<sup>19</sup> Double bass professor Fausto Borém de Oliveira also defends transcriptions as stimulus for innovative techniques.

Another important aspect of double bass transcriptions is the dynamic interaction between the innovative techniques stemming from the performance of transcribed music and the evolution of original writing for the instrument. Practices such as artificial harmonics and unusual double-stops of seconds, sixths, sevenths, and octaves, etc., are becoming part of the common double bass solo vocabulary.<sup>20</sup>

---

<sup>19</sup> Michael Morelli, "The Importance of Transcriptions," *International Society of Bassists* 16, no.2 (Winter 1990): 21.

<sup>20</sup> Fausto Borém de Oliveira, "Henrique Oswald's Sonata, op.21: A Transcription and Edition for Double Bass and Piano." DMA diss., University of Georgia, 1993: 42.

### CHAPTER 3

#### **FRYDERYK CHOPIN'S ETUDES: FUSIONS OF VIRTUOSITY AND BEL CANTO**

The light and facile action of the Viennese pianos inspired the composition of virtuosic music, with rapid ornament-like figures, creating a stylistic trait that permeated the end of the Classical Period and the first half of the Romantic period. The *stile brillante*, with its variety of nuances, clarity of articulation, sharpness of contrast, and rapid execution found in the piano writing of Johann Nepomuk Hummel (1778-1837) and Carl Czerny (1791-1857), among other composers, influenced the young Chopin from his early compositions. It is not the intention of this project to provide a biography of Fryderyk Chopin and his influence from the *stile brillante*, subjects already explored by a significant number of musicologists, theorists, and performers. However, due to the nature of this project, a brief biographical background of the composer's connection with the bel canto style is necessary.

As mentioned in the introduction, Fryderyk Chopin was not only an opera goer, but a devotee. His interest in the genre put him in contact with his important contemporary composers, in particular with Vincenzo Bellini. Commentary on their mutual admiration is found in all of Chopin's biographies. While in Paris, Chopin made contact with opera singers. His contact with the main *prime donne* of the time may be a heavier influence in his composition style than the actual contact with composers. Emily Gretsck, one of his favorite pupil in the early 1840, described her lessons in a letter to her father saying that "his playing is entirely based on the

vocal style of Rubini, Malibran and Grisi, etc.: he says so himself.”<sup>1</sup> In Chopin’s letters, he would compare singer's performances, with special attention to female roles, with comments about their singing ranges and ornamentation styles. Chopin left letters commenting on his fascination with the opera environment. Other than just talking about the music, his letters mention opinions about the looks, costumes and fees of the opera stars.<sup>2</sup> From early age, in his native Poland, Chopin was already familiar with the style of ornamentation and interpretation of opera singers. When he first heard Henriette Sonntag, he noted an “entirely original and effective ornamentation style, but in a different way from Paganini.”<sup>3</sup> From Chopin’s letters, one can find comments about the major opera performers he had contact:

“only here can one discover what singing really is.” He hears and admires many singers: Laura Damoreau-Cinti (“she sings such as cannot be excelled [...] she seems to puff on the audiences”), Giulia Grisi, Giuditta Pasta (“I have never seen anything more sublime”), Maria Felicia Malibran-Garcia (“wonderful! wonderful!”), Wilhelmine Schröder-Devrient (“she does not cause such a furor as in Germany”), Luigi Lablache (“You could not imagine what it is!”), Nicolas-Prosper Levasseur, Adolphe Nourrit (“astounding in his feeling”) and Giovanni Battista Rubini (“his *mezza voce* is beyond compare”)...<sup>4</sup>

The 1830’s saturated Paris with the opera in the best possible way. As one of the main cultural centers in Europe, it received some of the most important productions of the time. Living in that Paris, Chopin had contact with Laure Cinti-Demoreau, Rossini’s leading singer in Paris at the time; Giuditta Pasta, Donizetti’s first *Anna Bolena* and Bellini’s first *Norma*; and also with Giulia Grisi, Maria Malibran and her sister Pauline Viardot, and Luigi Lablache. Although bel

---

<sup>1</sup> Will Crutchfield, “Music; Chopin, the Day After the Opera,” *The New York Times*, <http://www.nytimes.com/1999/06/20/arts/music-chopin-the-day-after-the-opera.html?pagewanted=all> (accessed May 1, 2014).

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> “Biography,” *The Fryderyk Chopin Institute Website*, <http://en.chopin.nifc.pl/chopin/life/calendar/year/1831> (accessed May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014).

canto-like melodies on the piano were already present in John Field's nocturnes (1782-1837),<sup>5</sup> Chopin's admiration for the style was reinforced by the some of the best available performers and would be reflected in his piano writing.

### **Paths to Chopin's Piano Etudes: The Necessity For Technical Development**

The popularization of the piano as a household instrument for amateur music making, and the development of the increasingly difficult piano writing, along with the musical aesthetics from the beginning of the Romantic Style period, led to the necessity of technical development for the amateur player, especially the young one. It is no coincidence that this was the great age of etude writing, resulting in celebrated collections by Cramer, Clementi, Chopin, Czerny, and Hummel, among others. The purpose of such etude collections was to teach the performer to maintain an even touch while carrying a given figuration through the most awkward dispositions and dramatic transformations on the keyboard.<sup>6</sup>

From those books, the least purely mechanical, and thus more musically significant etudes are found in the ones composed by Fryderyk Chopin.<sup>7</sup> In his etudes, Chopin gets closer to the Romantic pedagogical idea supported by Robert Schumann, where learning the keyboard should be of a general education in musicianship, and that children should not be drilled to become virtuosos so as to impress adults, but should play music that would awaken their own, distinctly childish imaginations.<sup>8</sup> The connection between the visits of Niccolò Paganini to the teenager Chopin's Warsaw and the increase of his interest in piano technique development seem

---

<sup>5</sup> Jim Samson, *The Music of Chopin* (Boston: Routledge & Kegan Paul, 1985): 81.

<sup>6</sup> James Parakilas, "A History of Lessons and Practicing", in *Piano Roles: Three Hundred Years of Life With the Piano*, ed. James Parakilas (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2001): 140.

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid*, 140.

<sup>8</sup> *Ibid*, 141.

to be a justification for some of the Op. 10 etudes, even though there is evidence that they have ever met.<sup>9</sup> More than exercises to develop one's technique, the Chopin etudes from Op. 10 and from Op. 25 present a high level of musical refinement, bringing them closer to the character pieces well established on the Romantic period.

Most of Chopin's 27 etudes rank with the most difficult piano pieces ever written. But many of their difficulties are often hidden from the non-pianist. Some - many - are clearly virtuoso pieces, which are hard even to play badly. In others, the difficulties may be more subtle. These aren't just studies in speed, endurance, leaps, trills, octaves and so on. Several are studies in rhythm, others in articulation, but the great majority are also studies in sound, in the control, variation and uses of tone color.<sup>10</sup>

Chopin's Etudes, Op. 10 act like a bridge between the brillante style of the young composer and the emergence of his musical maturity. Although just a few of the etudes have been precisely dated,<sup>11</sup> Chopin composed his Op.10 between 1829 and 1833, the period in which he probably already worked on the material for his Etudes Op. 25. In both collections, Chopin focuses not only on the pure technical quality present in several other short piano etudes of his era, like the exercises by Czerny and Thalberg. Instead, his etudes reveal musicianship never presented in pedagogical material up to his date.

To a degree barely approached in earlier piano studies he gave substance and poetry to the genre, conquering virtuosity on its home ground, and doing so lifting himself clear of the surrounding lowland of mediocrity. Later flirtations with the stile brillante were no more than the calculated concessions to public taste of a composer secure in his own aims and skills.<sup>12</sup>

Chopin still remained true to the didactic idea, addressing one principal technical problem in each piece, approaching them through the use of motivic elements. Individual etudes

---

<sup>9</sup> Jeremy Siepmann, "The First Etudes", in Jeremy Siepmann *Life and Works: Frédéric Chopin*, Naxos Educational, 8.558001-04, CD.

<sup>10</sup> Jeremy Siepmann, Liner note to Jeremy Siepmann *Life and Works: Frédéric Chopin*, Naxos Educational, 8.558001-04, CD.

<sup>11</sup> Jim Samson, *The Music of Chopin*, (London: Routledge & Kegan Paul, 1985), 59.

<sup>12</sup> *Ibid*, 59.

from Op. 10 and Op. 25 became the first pieces by Chopin to appear in many pianists' concert programs, the most important of those pianists being Franz Liszt.<sup>13</sup>

French pianist Alfred Cortot (1877-1962) published his editions of Chopin's etudes with instructions and technical comments about each etude. Following the commentaries, Cortot provides a series of technical exercises to help in the learning of the etudes. The technical issues addressed by Cortot aim to enhance the development of a flexible wrist and a supple hand, where the wrist and not the arm is in motion. However, the main technical issues addressed by Cortot are the independence and imbalance of the fingers. To approach the post-Beethovenian piano polyphony found in the etudes, his exercises develop the dexterity of playing different dynamic levels and articulations with each finger. This multi-tasking technique is necessary to bring out the Bachian polyphony balanced with the vocal inflexions of the etudes' melodies, thus providing a different character to each polyphonic line. As one example, Cortot introduces the Etude Op. 10 No. 3 as follows:

The Student should concentrate on: Improving both the polyphonic (individual tone-value of the fingers) and legato playing – Expressive merging of the rubato tempo with the musical phrasing – Development of Extension – Melodic Use of the Pedal.

Difficulties to overcome: Intense expressiveness imparted by the weaker fingers and the particular position of the hand arising therefrom. Legato by portamento (finger-substitution). Firmness of attack in striking the double notes when these are widely spaced.<sup>14</sup>

---

<sup>13</sup> Janet Ritterman, "Piano Music and the Public Concert, 1800-1850", in *Cambridge Companion to Chopin*, ed. Jim Samson (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2000): 30.

<sup>14</sup> Alfred Cortot. Foreword to the *Etude Op.10 No.3 Student Edition*, (Paris: Editions Salabert, 1930): 21.

In Chopin's etudes, one also finds examples of the composer's interest in the development of pedal control and in the development of the fluidity of movement and evenness of tone, to be achieved through Chopin's unorthodox proposed fingerings.<sup>15</sup>

### **The Edition Problem**

In accordance with a publisher's agreement in force at the time, many of Chopin's works were published almost simultaneously in Leipzig and in Paris.<sup>16</sup> For the making of most of the German editions, a very careful and precise copy was sent to the publishers as the engravers copy. Many of those were made by his pupil Julian Fontana and revised by the composer himself. In the case of Op.25 the composer sent his own autograph to the French editors. That would create two different original sets for the same work, with several small detail differences, but no major textual changes. For the etudes of Op. 10, it seems that either a set of proofs or an earlier print from the French edition served as source for the German edition, since the disposition of staves and notes in Etudes, No.1 to No.11 are exactly the same. However, there are several discrepancies, mostly concerning the use of accidentals, between the two editions. The German edition conforms to corrections made by the composer, found in the French copy of his pupil Camille O'Meara (Dubois).<sup>17</sup>

Most of the dissimilarities between the different editions involve modified notes, mainly in arpeggiations or in the use of accidentals. Inconsistencies in the use of slurs and articulation

---

<sup>15</sup> Kornel Michalowsky and Jim Samson, "Chopin: Fryderyk Franciszek", *The New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians*, ed. Stanley Sadie (London: Macmillan): 715.

<sup>16</sup> Paul Badura-Skoda, Preface to the "*Etudes Op.10*" *Wiener Urtext Edition*, edited by Paul Badura-Skoda, (Vienna: Universal Edition, 1973): V.

<sup>17</sup> *Ibid.*

symbols are also found in the different editions of the etudes. Chopin's hand-written accent symbols are longer than expected, a fact that created uncertainty in the use of accents or of small diminuendo symbols.

## CHAPTER 4

### THE TRANSCRIPTION OF THE ETUDES

This project presents the transcriptions of four selected etudes with one accompaniment part each for use with double bass in orchestra or solo tuning.<sup>1</sup> Thus there are a single double bass part and two different piano accompaniment parts for each etude. The process of transcription of etudes such as these presents several challenges to the arranger. The challenges and choices made for each transcription are discussed below. The transcriptions still offer some technical challenges to the performer learning them. It is also important to pay attention to the interpretation of style and expression for each etude, since the transcriptions are character pieces, no less than the piano originals.

The original versions of the etudes present an elaborate polyphonic texture. Since the double bass material was created out of lines in a piano texture, its part should blend with the remaining layers of that texture. The indication of a continuous legato on the melody, from the piano originals, should also be respected. The double bassist should use dynamic contrast, tone color, articulation, and vibrato to expose the character changes, especially the changes that coincide with formal sections. Concerning the tempo of the etudes, one should not be concerned about a strict metronomic pulse. The melodic contour and peaks of the phrases should be the main factors influencing the expressive rubato. In keeping with stylistic conventions of the

---

<sup>1</sup> The double bass in solo scordatura becomes a transposing instrument, sounding a whole step higher than the written pitch.

Romantic period, Chopin's appoggiaturas (whether they consist of one or more notes) are not played before the beat, but on it, and usually unaccented;<sup>1</sup>

The fingerings and bowings in this edition of the double bass part are presented merely as authorial suggestions.

### **Etude Op. 10 No. 3**

Composed in August 1832 as one of the last composed etudes of the collection that would become Op.10, the Etude in E Major, op. 10/3 is a piece intended for the technical development of the pianist's *legato*. The earliest autograph has the tempo marking of *vivace*. This was later changed to *vivace ma non troppo*, and changed again in the first edition to *lento ma non troppo*. Like the first of Chopin's Op.15 Nocturnes, this etude opens and closes with a lyrical melody that frames a contrasting middle section. In the melody of the A sections, Chopin displays a development and refinement of the early nineteenth-century traditions of lyrical pianism influenced by the so called "London School".<sup>2</sup> Another typical aspect of Chopin's melodies emerges in the transformations of the opening motive, building the shape of the melody on a bar-by-bar basis, bringing the melody to its peak in m. 17 and back to its initial register in m. 21.

In the dance-like beginning of the B section of the etude, Chopin inverts the material from the motive of the accompaniment and from a motivic fragment of the melody, found in mm. 6 and 8, to present a new technical challenge. Through motivic sequence, Chopin leads the

---

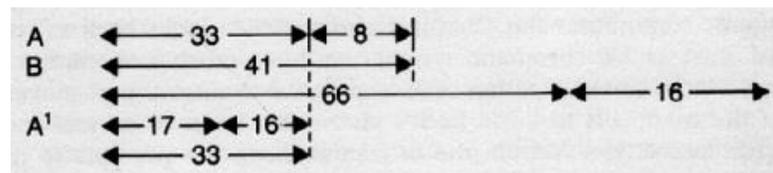
<sup>1</sup> Paul Badura-Skoda, Preface to the "*Etudes Op.10*" *Wiener Urtext Edition*, edited by Paul Badura-Skoda, (Vienna: Universal Edition, 1973): V.

<sup>2</sup> Jim Samson, *The Music of Chopin*, (London: Routledge & Kegan Paul, 1985), 63.

melodic line to a point where the melody itself sacrifices its primary role of importance to the harmonic qualities of each of its sequential appearances, changing the homophonic texture into a chordal one without a distinctive melody.

The contrasting section could be approached as an etude itself. The parallel sixths and tritones of this section are not unseen in the etude repertoire to the date, but here Chopin gives the section structural importance through harmonic prolongation. The sophistication of the harmony of this section announces the composer's attainment of his stylistic maturity. The parallelism of the passage in chordal texture creates a sense of harmony dissolving into tone color due to the suppression of diatonic functions, through the use of heavy chromaticism.<sup>3</sup>

In *The Music of Chopin*, Jim Samson pointed out the importance of the proportional distribution of the musical material in the etude.<sup>4</sup> Referencing the rhythmic division of the piece, Samson demonstrated that the A section is formed by 33+8 beats of quarter notes, while the B first section has 66 quarter note beats, and its second section has 16 quarter note beats. Also, the major structural point of the B section, i.e., the downbeat of m. 42, is 41 quarter note beats away from the beginning of the B section, the same amount of quarter beats as the entire A section. The A' section can be divided into 17 + 16 quarter note beats, adding to the total of bars of the first part of the A section.



**Figure 1 - Jim Samson's formal scheme for the Etude Op. 10 No. 3.**

<sup>3</sup> Samson, *The Music of Chopin*, 64.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid*, 65.

In his essay about the rhythmic structure of the Etude Op.10/3,<sup>5</sup> John Rink expanded on Samson's idea of proportional balance, suggesting that it develops from the material of the first measure of the piece. Rink claims that the 1:2:1 ratio found in the overall structure is rooted in the syncopation of the sixteenth-eighth-sixteenth figure of the bass voice. This rhythm clearly shows the balanced ratio of the overall form and could also be used to explain the character changes found in the piece.

Chopin is clear when marking accents on the eighth note of each figuration of the bass line, in the first bars of the melody accompaniment. While there is disagreement on how to interpret Chopin's accents,<sup>6</sup> there can be no doubt that they are presented so as to emphasize the syncopation on the longest note of the rhythm, which is surrounded by two short notes. The emphasis on the central rhythm of the figure is reflected in the overall dynamic plan. The main dynamic of the A section of the etude is piano, with crescendos and diminuendos, while the overall dynamic of the B section is forte, containing the peak of intensity of the piece, before the return of the A material. Thus, the shape of the structural form also presents the ratio of 1:2:1, in the manner of a formally syncopated climax.<sup>7</sup> Texturally, one can find connections between the relationship of the light accompanied melody texture of the A section with the heavy chordal texture of B.

---

<sup>5</sup> John Rink, "Analyzing Rhythmic Shape in Chopin's 'E Major'", in *Analytical Perspectives on the Music of Chopin*, edited by Artur Szklener, (Warsaw: Narodowy Instytut Fryderyka Chopina, 2004): 125-38.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid, 131.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid, 132.

## Transcription Changes

The first choice made in the transcription of the Etude Op. 10/3 concerns the key. Chopin's original piano version is in the key of E Major. For this etude, the choice was made to keep the original key for the piano in the solo tuning version, making the D Major double bass parts more comfortable for the performer. With the orchestra tuning, the double bass will still perform in D Major, the sounding key of the piano version.

In the first bar of the etude, Chopin gives the indication of legato. Since the double bass is capable of producing different legato articulations, the transcription presents the same indication as the original version, but it also uses bowing slurs to articulate legato.

As shown in figure 1, the group of 16<sup>th</sup> notes, slurred in groups of two and then in four notes, was transcribed as two separated notes and then two groups of two slurred notes. This choice was made to help in the crescendo dynamic of the phrase.

The main melodic voice of the etude is clearly presented in the first section of the etude and is the voice presented in the double bass with a few adaptations. One subtle change in the voice choice is found in the last 16<sup>th</sup> note of m. 22, which is considered there as a pickup to the motive in the following measure. The repetition of the motive presents the same idea.



Figure 2 - Etude Op.10 No. 3 Urtext, mm. 21-23.



Figure 3 - Etude Op.10 No.3 Transcription, mm. 21-23.

For the next voice changes, occurring in mm. 30-31 and 34-35, the stepwise motion was given to the double bass, instead of holding the double bass in one written top voice of the piano original. This choice is explained by the fact that the top voice does not sound stationary, even though the piano writing suggests it.



Figure 4 - Etude Op. 10 No. 3 Urtext, mm. 30-33.

Figure 5 - Etude Op. 10 No. 3 Transcription, mm. 30-33.

On the last full beat of m. 29, the double bass material was transposed one octave lower to accommodate the following arpeggio in a register which would be comfortable for the instrument.

In mm. 42 and 44, the double bass is silent, creating a dialogue between the two instruments. The same idea was used in the passage from mm. 54 to 61, where the repeated motives of the bottom and top voices are exchanged between the piano and the double bass.

Figure 6 - Etude Op. 10 No. 3 Transcription, mm. 41-45.

To avoid chord inversion problems due to the sounding quality of the double bass,<sup>8</sup> the passage from mm. 46 to 54 has the double bass playing the lowest voice of the written original, keeping the original intervals.

The right hand of the original piano version had presented the material transcribed for the double bass. Therefore, in the transcribed version, the remaining voices were split into both hands of the piano.

### **Etude Op.10 No. 6**

In the Etude in E-flat Minor op. 10 no.6, the superimposition of a simple melodic line and a chromatic, yet repetitious, accompaniment results in a surprisingly complex and melancholy sonority. The lower voice plays its structural and harmonic role, reserving changes in its slow rhythm only when necessary. The dual nature of the inner voices creates harmonic complexity. The delicate chromatic fluctuations make it expressive, while preserving the simplicity of the ostinato rhythm. The top voice is the most responsible for equally simple, but highly expressive melody, producing an operatic duet with the semi-melodic tenor voice. In his practice instructions for this etude, Alfred Cortot mentioned that the expressive power of the melodic part, in the upper voice, must predominate throughout the whole etude.<sup>9</sup> The gloomy mood of the Eb minor key builds momentum until the harmony is led to the distant key of E Major. The careful voice leading, along with the new major mode sonority, creates the sensation of relief when the piece reaches the B section, where the drama is intensified.<sup>10</sup> After a weak attempt at

---

<sup>8</sup> According to standard writing, double bass music is usually written one octave higher than the sounding pitch.

<sup>9</sup> Alfred Cortot. Foreword to the *Etude Op.10 No.6 Student Edition*, (Paris: Editions Salabert, 1930): 40.

<sup>10</sup> James Huneker, *Chopin: The Man and His Music* (New York: Charles Scribner's Son, 1918): 86.

relief in the E Major section, the melancholy Eb minor mood returns, with its passionate lament. However, the Picardy third at the end of the etude somehow resolves its built-up tension.

### Transcription Changes

Like the Etude in E Major, the Etude No. 6 in E-Flat Minor presents its voices in a clear way in the original piano version. In this project, the melodic top voice was transcribed for the double bass. Again, necessary changes were made. One example of voice change is found in the last 16<sup>th</sup> note of the second bar where the F is written as a sustained inner voice in the texture. It is very difficult to not hear it as part of the top voice, because of its first appearance happens in the top and in the tenor voice simultaneously. Also, the long rhythmic value and sustain of the note requires a stronger stroke from the player, resulting in the most prominent sound in the texture, followed by the return of the top melody.

Figure 7 - Etude Op. 10 No. 6 Urtext, mm. 1-5.

The image shows a musical score for the first four measures of Etude Op. 10 No. 6. It is written for Double Bass and Piano. The tempo is 'Andante con molto espressione'. The key signature is one flat (Bb minor for piano, D minor for double bass). The time signature is 8/8. The piano part features a complex rhythmic pattern in the right hand and a simpler bass line in the left hand. The double bass part features a melodic line with some leaps.

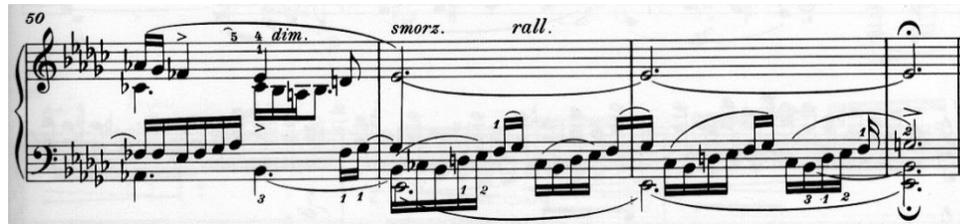
**Figure 8 - Etude Op. 10 No. 6 Transcription, mm. 1-4.**

The original key of the etude, Eb minor, is not a common key in the realm of the double bass repertoire. In order to make the etude less awkward for double bassists, I decided to transpose it one half step lower. The D minor key appears far more frequently in the double bass solo repertoire. It facilitates the performance of leaps, such as the D octave in the pickup to m. 6. Since the double bass part is transposed to D minor, the solo tuning accompaniment part is presented in E minor.

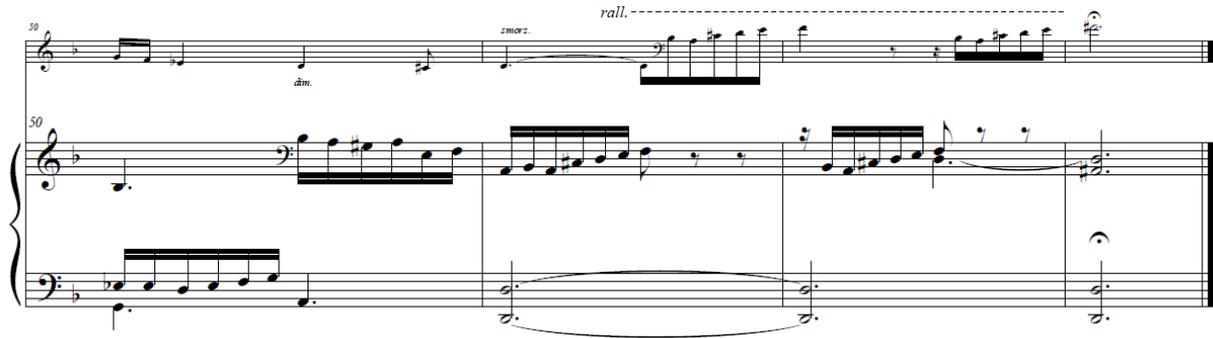
After comparing several recorded performances of the etude on piano, I concluded that a tempo slower than the original Andante would enhance the lyrical quality of its melody, in the particular configuration of double bass and piano. The tempo marking chosen for the transcription was the Larghetto.

Another change from the piano original is the omission of some accents, such as the one in the octave mentioned above. The change in the bow direction combined with the string and register change would be sufficient for articulating the top note. Preserving the original accents would break the goal of a flowing legato line.

The repeated motive at the end of the etude allows for a rescoring of the voices. At this point, the moving inner voice shifts back and forth from the piano left hand to the double bass. The third and last repetition is presented by the double bass, with the piano reinforcing the arrival of the Picardy third.



**Figure 9 - Etude Op.10 No. 6 Urtext, mm. 50-53.**



**Figure 10 - Etude Op. 10 No. 6 Transcription, mm. 50-53.**

### **Etude Op.10 No.9**

The texture of the Etude in F Minor, op. 10 no.9 resembles that of the Etude in E-flat in E-flat Minor, op. 10/6, with an upper voice in the right hand and an agile arpeggiated accompaniment in the left hand. At first sight, one could say that the two lines are the only voices of the etude. However, the arpeggiated voice contains in itself an inner voice in counterpoint to the upper melody. As in the Etude Op. 10/6, the left hand's perpetual motion accompaniment resembles the spinning wheel sonority found in F. Schubert's *Gretchen am Spinnrade*. It requires significant endurance from the pianist to maintain the character of the line

throughout the entire piece. The intensity of the right hand melody, and the fortissimo repeated note passages and their sudden echoes, as found in mm. 29-36, give a dramatic pathos to the etude and make it a piano miniature version of a tone-poem, with a very delicate conclusion.<sup>11</sup>

### **Transcription Changes**

Once again, the original key of etude, F minor, is not advantageous for double bassists. As in the previous transcription, the double bass part was transposed one half step down, resulting in a piano accompaniment part in F# minor for the solo tuning, and E minor for the orchestra tuning. Again, the higher of the two etude voices was transcribed for the double bass part. The musical material from the left hand was split into both hands in the transcription accompaniment.

Due to idiomatic limitations, the octaves in the melody of mm. 25-28 were reduced to the bottom note and placed one octave lower, so that the melody would arrive in the proper register for the next section. The octaves in mm. 29, 31, 33 were reduced to a single-note line consisting only of the upper notes.

---

<sup>11</sup> Malcom MacDonald, Liner notes to Luiza Borac's *Chopin Etudes, Six Polish Songs (transcribed Liszt)*" CD, Avie Records, AV2161, 2009, CD.

The image shows the original manuscript for the first system of Etude Op. 10 No. 9, measures 25-30. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The key signature is two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 3/4. The manuscript includes various performance markings: *forte* at the beginning, *accel.* (accelerando) in measure 27, and *cresc.* (crescendo) in measure 28. There are also dynamic markings of *p* (piano) and *pp* (pianissimo) in measures 27 and 29. The notation includes slurs, accents, and fingerings (e.g., 2, 4, 3, 2, 1). There are asterisks (\*) under some notes in the bass staff, likely indicating specific performance techniques or corrections.

Figure 11 - Etude Op. 10 No.9 Urtext, mm. 25-30.

The image shows a transcription of the first system of Etude Op. 10 No. 9, measures 25-30. It consists of two staves: a bass clef staff and a treble clef staff. The key signature is two sharps (F# and C#), and the time signature is 3/4. The transcription includes performance markings: *f* (forte) at the beginning, *accel.* (accelerando) in measure 27, and *cresc.* (crescendo) in measure 28. There are also dynamic markings of *ff* (fortissimo) in measure 29 and *pp* (pianissimo) in measure 30. The notation includes slurs and accents, but lacks the detailed fingerings and asterisks found in the original manuscript.

Figure 12 - Etude Op. 10 No. 9 Transcription, mm. 25-30.

The repetition of motivic material, at different dynamics, created the possibility of dialogue between the piano and the double bass. The double bass plays mm. 29, 31, 33, and 35 at fortissimo, and the piano alone responds in mm. 30, 32, 34, and 36 at pianissimo. The accented notes of this section were preserved in order to maintain the original phrase gesture.

At the return of the A section, the mordent of the third 8<sup>th</sup> note of mm. 38-39 was. The octave leaps in mm. 57, 59, 61 were also reduced to a line derived from the original uppermost notes. As in its first appearance in the piece, the echoed material of mm. 57 to 64 is presented only in the piano.

The last three bars of the piece present the double bass doubling the moving line of the piano's right hand in harmonics. Due to the extreme high register of the last harmonic, and the resulting difficulties in intonation, the alternative of playing the last note in octave lower has been offered in the transcription.

Figure 13 - Etude Op. 10 No. 9 Urtext, mm. 64-67.

Figure 14 - Etude Op. 10 No. 9 Transcription, mm. 64-67.

### Etude Op.25 No.7

In this etude, the influence of Romantic-period bel canto prevails more than in any other of Chopin's 24 etudes. After the brief introductory recitative, a descending lament-like melody focuses the interest on the material presented in the left hand. As was found in the Etude in E Major, Op. 10/3, the main pianistic focus of the Etude in C-sharp minor, Op. 25, No. 7 is the control of the legato and the phrasing of the pianist's left hand, while the right hand supplements the harmony and the accompaniment.

For this etude, Chopin echoed the mournful motive and sonority in Vincenzo Bellini's aria "Dormono Entrambi," from the beginning of the second act of *Norma*. In this scene Norma is contemplating the murder her children, in order to spare them from living with their stepmother. The transcription of musical motives and, above all, the psychological state of Norma is soberly transferred to the piano. The imitation of the bass melody by the soprano line creates the sensation of a fugal texture, carefully crafted in counterpoint. In the B section, the composer inverts the roles of the voices, with an arpeggiated accompaniment in the left hand, while the right hand contrasts the initial melodic idea with a light upward motion.

The Etude, Op. 25/7 was used by Giovanni Bottesini as musical material for a trio for piano, high voice and double bass. The title *Tutto che il Mondo Serra* comes from the first words of the text, probably authored by the composer himself. In his manuscript Bottesini did not attach a title to the piece, nor did he specify the type of voice required for it. However, due to its range, one can conclude that it is suitable to both high types of male and female voices. The original manuscript is found in the same book that presents Bottesini's *Elegia in Re*.

Bottesini was very cautious in his adaptation of the piano original. He rescored the parts, with the double bass playing the musical material of the left hand of the piano part, and the voice part presenting the counter melody found in the right hand of the piano part. However Bottesini also altered some passages, such as the runs in mm. 27 and 28, due to idiomatic differences of the two instruments. Some other differences seem to be just small personal interpretive choices.

In the initial cadenza, Bottesini adds four octaves of the note G# in the first beat of the piano part, with the duration of a half note. Then he changes the duration of the first, fourth and fifth note, so that the whole passage would become four bars with a 4/4 time signature. In general, the other dozen or so other differences between Chopin's original piano part and Bottesini's arrangement involve the reading of ornamentations and rhythmic subdivisions. Although there is no substantial change to the original musical text of the etude in the arrangement, the small discrepancies along with the nonexistence of a piano part for the accompaniment of the double bass without the singer, in either orchestra or solo tuning, gave a reason to include the Etude Op. 25/7 in this project.

The image shows a musical score for three parts: String Bass, High Voice, and Piano. The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and the time signature is 3/4. The String Bass part begins with a half note G# (marked *f*), followed by a quarter note A, a quarter note B, and a half note C. A slur covers the notes from the second measure to the end of the third measure, which contains a sixteenth-note run. The High Voice and Piano parts are mostly silent, with the Piano part starting with a half note G# (marked *sf*) in the first measure. The score ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

Figure 15 - Giovanni Bottesini's *Tutto Che il Mondo Serra*, mm. 1-3.



with its departing and arrival notes in m. 27. For the next bar, the first downward motion was used to bring the line to a lower register. Then, the line ascends to its highest note and then descends to its final point of arrival. As a solution to the rhythmic alignment problem, the number of notes in the bar was reduced, limiting them to a maximum subdivision of 32<sup>nd</sup> notes, aligning each four 32<sup>nd</sup>s of the melody with one 8<sup>th</sup> note of the accompaniment. The reduction in the number of notes is reflected in the final range of the passage. The original version presents the passage of m. 27 spanning three octaves and a third, while the passage in the transcription spans one octave and a seventh. However, since the previous bar uses the upward motion to push the start of the descending movement to a higher octave, the range of almost three octaves is reached over the course of the consecutive bars. The same treatment, aligning the 32<sup>nd</sup>s with the 8<sup>th</sup>s of the accompaniment, was used in the chromatic scale of m. 53. At this point the range was reduced from two octaves and a seventh to one octave and a seventh.

Figure 17- Etude Op. 25 No. 7 Urtext, mm. 26-28.

The image shows a musical score for Etude Op. 25 No. 7, measures 26-28. The score is in G major and 4/4 time. It features a complex melodic line in the right hand with many slurs and a double bass accompaniment in the left hand. Dynamics include 'cresc.', 'fff', 'dim.', and 'pp'.

**Figure 18 - Etude Op. 25 No. 7 Transcription, mm. 26 - 28.**

## **Conclusion**

Unlike the piano originals, the double bass transcriptions of the etudes do not present an advanced set of specific technical issues for the double bass. The difference in sound production of the piano and of the double bass, and thus their particular articulation possibilities, are the main issues for the transcriber and for the performer. While the piano articulations depend on the beginning and on the end of the produced sound, the bowed string instruments are capable of governing not only the duration of the attack or decay of a note, but also certain aspects of its internal shape. Since there seems to be no available literature with precise instructions on how to transcribe music from the piano to the double bass, I have chosen to find a way that could connect double bass playing traditions to the selected Chopin etudes. The etudes transcribed in this project present examples of the bel canto style influence over Fryderyk Chopin's melodies. The same style influence is found in the compositions of Giovanni Bottesini. With that in mind, the performer learning the pieces should pay attention to the technical and interpretational tools that could bring a singing-like quality to the melodies of the etudes.

If Chopin's pianistic challenges are lacking, other technical challenges are found in the double bass parts. Examples of those challenges can be found in the Etude Op. 10/3, where the

development of a solid hand position and smooth string changes are called for the passage in mm. 45-51; in the Etude Op. 25/7 register changes are at issue. Other than occasional technical challenges, the transcribed etudes present musical aspects that would help develop one's interpretive skills. All four etudes have at least one change in the expressive character. The performer is encouraged to use technical parameters such as tone color and vibrato variations to enhance each of the proposed characters. The musical character of the long melodic gesture in the beginning of the Etude Op. 10/3 should be contrasted with the character that emerges during the string crossings of mm. 45-51. The character of the melodic material of Etude Op.25/7 should not be the same in the accompaniment in mm. 29-36. Moreover, the character that brings the melody to its climax should not be the character created as the melody is brought back to the initial material in Etude Op. 10/6.

It is my hope that the double bass performer will benefit from the opportunity of having this transcriptions of Fryderyk Chopin's music to enhance technical skills and expressive gestures using the works from one of the most important composers of the Romantic period.

## REFERENCES

### Bibliography

- Borém de Oliveira, Fausto. "A Brief History of Double Bass Transcription." In *Bass World: The Journal of the International Society of Bassists*. 21 (2) (Fall 1996): 11-12, 15-16.
- Brun, Paul. *A New History of the Double Bass*. Villeneuve d'Ascq: Paul Brun Productions, 2000.
- Boyd, Malcolm. "Arrangement." In *The New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians*. Edited by Stanley Sadie and John Tyrrell. 2d ed., 2:65-71. London: Macmillan, 2001.
- Borwick, John. "Acoustics." In *The Oxford Companion to Music*. Oxford Music Online, Oxford University Press. <http://www.oxfordmusiconline.com.proxy-remote.galib.uga.edu/subscriber/article/opr/t114/e53>. (accessed April 16, 2014).
- Brown, Chris. "Bass Bows: Consistently Inconsistent." In *Bass World: The Journal of the International Society of Bassists* 26, No. 1 (2002): 38.
- Cellier, Alexandre and Fred Rothwell. "Is Transcription Permissible?" In *The Musical Times* Vol. 66, No. 992. (October 1, 1925): 900-902.
- Chechłinska, Zofia. "The Nocturnes and Studies: Selected Problems of Piano Texture." In *Chopin Studies*, edited by Jim Samson, 143-66. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1988.
- Chew, Geoffrey. "Articulation and Phrasing." In *The Oxford Companion to Music*. Oxford Music Online, Oxford University Press. [http://www.oxfordmusiconline.com.proxy-remote.galib.uga.edu/subscriber/article/grove/music/40952?q=articulation&search=quick&pos=2&\\_start=1#firsthit](http://www.oxfordmusiconline.com.proxy-remote.galib.uga.edu/subscriber/article/grove/music/40952?q=articulation&search=quick&pos=2&_start=1#firsthit). (accessed May 16, 2014).
- Cone, Edward T. "Ambiguity and Reinterpretation in Chopin." In *Chopin Studies 2*, edited by John Rink and Jim Samson, 140-60. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1994.

- Crutchfield, Will. "Music; Chopin, the Day After the Opera". In *The New York Times*.  
<http://www.nytimes.com/1999/06/20/arts/music-chopin-the-day-after-the-opera.html?pagewanted=all> (accessed May 1, 2014).
- Echlin, F. A. "The Double Bass: Its Music and Players." In *The Musical Times* 81, No. 1169 (July 1940): 302-303.
- Elgar, Raymond. *Introduction to the Double Bass*. Princeton: Stephen W. Fillo, 1960.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *Looking at the Double Bass*. Princeton: Stephen W. Fillo, 1967.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *More About the Double Bass*. Princeton: Stephen W. Fillo, 1963.
- Ellingson, Ter. "Transcription." In *The New Grove Online, Oxford Music Online*. Oxford University Press. [http://www.oxfordmusiconline.com.proxy-remote.galib.uga.edu/subscriber/article/grove/music/28268?q=transcription&search=quick&source=omo\\_gmo&pos=2&\\_start=1#firsthit](http://www.oxfordmusiconline.com.proxy-remote.galib.uga.edu/subscriber/article/grove/music/28268?q=transcription&search=quick&source=omo_gmo&pos=2&_start=1#firsthit) (Accessed April 14, 2014).
- Finlow, Simon. "The Twenty-seven Etudes and Their Antecedents." In *The Cambridge Companion to Chopin*, edited by Jim Samson, 20-77. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1992.
- Higgins, Thomas. "Tempo and Character in Chopin." In *The Musical Quarterly* 59, No. 1 (Jan., 1973): 106-120.
- Howard-Jones, Evlyn. "Arrangements and Transcriptions." In *Music and Letters* 16, No. 4 (October, 1935): 305-11.
- MacDonald, Malcom. Liner notes to Luiza Borac's *Chopin Etudes, Six Polish Songs (transcribed Liszt)*" CD, Avie Records, AV2161, 2009, CD.
- Michalowsky, Kornel, and Jim Samson. "Chopin, Fryderyk Franciszek." In *The New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians*, edited by Stanley Sadie, 5:706-36. London: Macmillan, 2001
- Morelli, Michael. "The Importance of Transcriptions." In *International Society of Bassists* 16, no.2 (Winter, 1990): 21-2.

- Narmour, Eugene. "Melodic Structuring of Harmonic Dissonances: a Method for Analyzing Chopin's Contribution to the Development of Harmony." In *Chopin Studies*, edited by Jim Samson, 77-114. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1988.
- Newton, Raymond. "Serge Koussevitsky The Artist – The Musician." In *International Society of Bassists Newsletter* 54, No.4, (Spring 1979): 529.
- Parakilas, James et al. "A History of Lessons and Practicing." In *Piano Roles: Three Hundred Years of Life With the Piano*, ed. James Parakilas (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1999): 140.
- Parakilas, James and Gretchen A. Wheelock, "1700s to 1800s: The Piano Revolution in the Age of Revolutions." In *Piano Roles: Three Hundred Years of Life With the Piano*, edited by James Parakilas, 64-109. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1999.
- Penrose, James F. "The Piano Transcriptions of Franz Liszt." In *The American Scholar* 64, No. 2 (Spring 1995): 272-276.
- Planyavsky, Alfred. *The Baroque Double Bass Violone*. Edited and Translated by James Barket. Metuchen, NJ: Scarecrow Press, 1998.
- Rawlins, Joseph T. "The Arrangement and Its Role in the Performer's Repertoire." In *The American Music Teacher* 33 (1984): 26-8.
- Rink, John. "Authentic Chopin: History, Analysis, and Intuition in Performance." In *Chopin Studies* 2, edited by John Rink and Jim Samson, 214-244. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1994.
- \_\_\_\_\_. "Analyzing Rhythmic Shape in Chopin's 'E Major Etude'." In *Analytical Perspectives on the Music of Chopin*, edited by Artur Szklener, 125-38. Warsaw: Narodowy Instytut Fryderyka Chopina, 2004.
- Ritterman, Janet. "Piano Music and the Public Concert, 1800-1850." In *The Cambridge Companion to Chopin*, edited by Jim Samson, 11-31. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2000.

Samson, Jim. *The Music of Chopin*. Boston: Routledge & Kegan Paul, 1985.

Siepmann, Jeremy. "The First Etudes." Jeremy Siepmann *Life and Works: Frédéric Chopin*, Naxos Educational, 8.558001-04, CD.

Slatford, Rodney. "Virtuoso Double Bass." In *The Musical Times* 127, No. 1720 (Aug., 1986): 446.

\_\_\_\_\_. "Double Bass: Repertory and Performers." In *Grove Music Online, Oxford Music Online*. (<http://www.oxfordmusiconline.com.libezp.lib.lsu.edu/subscriber/article/grove/music/46437> (accessed March 20, 2014)).

White, A. C. "The Double Bass." In *Proceedings of the Musical Association* 13th Session (1886-1887): 99-112.

Turner, E.O. "The Composer and the Performer." In *The Musical Times* 78, No. 1134 (Aug. 1937): 689-693.

Wolff, Daniel, "The Use of Renaissance Vocal Polyphonic Music in the Vihuela and Lute Repertoire." The Daniel Wolff Website.  
[http://www.danielwolff.com/arquivos/File/Lute\\_Vihuela\\_Eng.htm](http://www.danielwolff.com/arquivos/File/Lute_Vihuela_Eng.htm) (accessed January 20, 2014)

### **Dissertations**

Acerb Jr., Sergio. "An Arrangement of Franz Schubert's Cycle of Songs *Die Schöne Müllerin* for Double Bass and Piano." DMA diss., Florida State University, 2008.

Borém de Oliveira, Fausto. "Henrique Oswald's Sonata, op.21: A Transcription and Edition for Double Bass and Piano." DMA diss., University of Georgia, 1993.

Chao, Min-Tzu. "Interpretation and Expressive Imagery in *The Butterfly Lovers* Violin Concerto on Double Bass: Transcribed by Yung-Chiao Wei." DMA diss., Louisiana State University, 2011.

Cho, Han Han. "Double Bass: Transcribed and Contemporary Repertoire." DMA diss., University of California San Diego, 2010.

Hildreth, Thomas Patrick. "Two Mozart Violin Sonatas Transcribed for the Double Bass" DMA diss., University of Georgia, 2012.

Kelley, Maurice "Performance Practice Issues in the Solo Works of Serge Koussevitzky." DMA diss., University of Nebraska-Lincoln, 2006.

Sas, Stephen. "A History of Double Bass Performance Practice: 1500 – 1900." DMA diss., Juilliard School, 1999.

Siemers, Brian John, *The History and Development of the Double Bass*. D.M.A., University of Cincinnati, 2001.

### **CD-ROM's**

Grodner, Murray. *Comprehensive Catalog of Music, Books, Recordings and Videos for the Double Bass*, Volumes I and II. Omnipress, 2008.

### **DVD**

Eigeldinger, Jean-Jacques. *Chopin at the Opera*. Directed by Jan Schmidt-Garre, Script by Georg-Albrecht Eckle. Halle: Arthaus Musik, 2010. DVD.

### **Music Scores**

Chopin, Frédéric. *Etudes Op.10*. Edited by Paul Badura-Skoda. Wiener Urtext Edition. Vienna: Universal Edition, 1973.

\_\_\_\_\_. *Etudes Op.25, Trois Nouvelles Etudes*. Edited by Paul Badura-Skoda. Wiener Urtext Edition. Vienna: Universal Edition, 1973.

Bottesini, Giovanni. "Tutto Che il Mondo Serra". *Une Bouche Aimée; Tutto Che il Mondo Serra*, edited by Gergely Járdányi. Hungary: Akkord Music Publishers, 2002.

\_\_\_\_\_. "Tutto il Mondo". *Two Songs for High Voice, String Bass and Piano*, edited by Thomas Martin. New York: International Music Company, 1997.

\_\_\_\_\_. "Chopin Terzetto". Digital copy of original manuscript of "*Tutto Che il Mondo Serra*".

## **APPENDIX A**

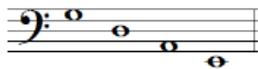
### **SCORES FOR THE USE WITH ORCHESTRA TUNING**

In this Appendix A the reader will find the musical scores for the performance of the Etudes number 3, 6, and 9 from Op. 10, and Op. 25 No. 7. The following scores are presented for the accompaniment of double bass in orchestra tuning.

Piano

# Etude Op. 10 No. 3

For the use with Orchestra Tuning:



for Double Bass and Piano

Fryderyk Chopin  
trans. F.Azevedo

## Adagietto

Double Bass

Piano

*mp* *cresc.*

*p*

*stretto*

*rit.* *a tempo* *cresc.*

*p*

F. Azevedo

Etude Op.10 No. 3

The musical score for Etude Op.10 No. 3, measures 13-29, is presented in two systems. The first system covers measures 13-16, and the second system covers measures 17-29. The score is written for a single melodic line and a piano accompaniment. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/4. The score includes various performance instructions such as *stretto*, *cresc.*, *con forza*, *rit.*, *ff*, *dim.*, *mp*, *cresc.*, *pp*, *p*, *sempre legato*, *poco più animato*, *mf*, and *f*. The piano part features complex rhythmic patterns, including sixteenth-note runs and chords. The melodic line is characterized by slurs and dynamic markings that indicate phrasing and intensity. The score concludes with a *f* dynamic marking in measure 29.

Etude Op.10 No. 3

3

32 *mf* *cresc. molto* *f* *p*

32 *cresc.* *f* *p*

36 *mf* *cresc.* *f* *cresc.* *p*

39 *f*

42 *ff* *con forza* *con fuoco*

42 *ff* *con forza* *con fuoco*

The image displays a musical score for Etude Op.10 No. 3, covering measures 45 through 54. The score is written for a single melodic line and a piano accompaniment. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/4. The score is divided into three systems. The first system (measures 45-49) features a melodic line starting with a fermata and the instruction *con bravura*, and a piano accompaniment starting with a fermata and the instruction *f con bravura*. The second system (measures 50-53) includes dynamic markings *cresc.* and *stretto* in both parts, and a *rit.* marking in the piano part. The third system (measures 54) is marked *a tempo* and includes dynamic markings *f p legatissimo* and *sempre p* in both parts. The piano part in the final system features a triplet of eighth notes.

Etude Op.10 No. 3

5

50 *smorz. rall.* *a tempo*  
*pp*

59 *a tempo*  
*P*

63 *stretto*  
*cresc.* *f* *dim.*

69 *cresc.* *stretto* *f* *dim.*

72 *rall.*  
*pp*

79 *pp* *rall.* *smorz.* *rall.*

Piano

For the use with Orchestra Tuning:



# Etude Op.10 No.6

for Double Bass and Piano

Fryderyk Chopin  
trans. F. Azevedo

**Larghetto**

*con molto espressione*

Double Bass

*mp*

Piano

*con molto espressione  
sempre legatissimo*

*p*

5

*f*

*dim*

5

*mf*

*sempre legato*

9

*mf*

9

F. Azevedo 2014

13 *f* *dim*

13 *pesante*

17 *mf* *poco a poco cresc.*

17 *cresc.* *cresc.*

21 *fp*

21 *fp* *p*

25

25

Detailed description: This page contains the musical score for measures 13 through 25 of Etude Op.10 No.6. The score is written for piano and is divided into five systems. Each system consists of a single treble clef staff and a grand staff (treble and bass clefs). Measure numbers 13, 17, 21, and 25 are indicated at the beginning of their respective systems. The first system (measures 13-16) features a melody in the treble clef starting with a forte (*f*) dynamic and a decrescendo (*dim*) marking, and a complex accompaniment in the grand staff. The second system (measures 17-20) shows the melody with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic and a 'poco a poco cresc.' marking, while the accompaniment includes 'cresc.' markings. The third system (measures 21-24) begins with a fortissimo (*fp*) dynamic in both the melody and the grand staff, followed by a piano (*p*) dynamic in the final measure. The fourth system (measures 25-28) continues the piano accompaniment with a piano (*p*) dynamic. The piece concludes with a double bar line at the end of measure 28.

Etude Op.10 No.6

3

29 *poco a poco cresc.* *stretto* *f*

29 *cresc.* *stretto* *cresc.* *f*

33 *poco a poco dim.*

37 *smorz.* *smorz.* *poco riten.*

41 *p* *a tempo* *p*

The image displays a musical score for Etude Op.10 No.6, covering measures 43 through 49. The score is written for piano and is divided into two systems. The first system contains measures 43-45, and the second system contains measures 46-49. The music is in a minor key, indicated by one flat in the key signature. The notation includes treble and bass clefs, with dynamic markings such as *dim.*, *sf*, *sostenuto*, *smorz.*, *rall.*, and *dim.*. The piano part features a complex rhythmic pattern of sixteenth notes, while the right hand has a more melodic line with some slurs and ties. The score concludes with a double bar line and repeat dots.



11 *mf*

13

17 *p* *f* *f* *mf*

17

21 *cresc.* *sempre più stretto*

21

25 *f* *accel.* *cresc.* *ff*

25



The image displays a musical score for the fourth system of Etude Op.10 No 9. It consists of five systems of music, each with a single treble clef staff and a grand staff (left and right bass clefs). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/4. The systems are numbered 42, 46, 50, and 54. The notation includes various musical symbols such as slurs, accents, and dynamic markings. The first system (measures 42-45) features a treble staff with a melodic line and a grand staff with a rhythmic accompaniment. The second system (measures 46-49) continues the accompaniment and includes a treble staff with a melodic line. The third system (measures 50-53) shows the accompaniment and a treble staff with a melodic line. The fourth system (measures 54-57) concludes the system with the accompaniment and a treble staff with a melodic line. The score includes dynamic markings such as *con forza*, *fz*, *cresc.*, *f*, and *mf*. There are also slurs and accents throughout the piece.

58

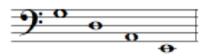
*p* *f* *sfz* *pp*

62

*rit.* *f* *p*

64

*mp* *pp* (1st)

Piano  
For the use with Orchestra Tuning:  


# Etude Op.25 No.7

for Double Bass and Piano

Fryderyk Chopin  
trans. F.Azevedo

*A piacere* *Lento*

Double Bass *mf*

Piano *pp*



14 *pp*

18 *pp* *mf*

22 *cresc.* *mf*

25 *f* *f*

*tr*

Etude Op.25 No.7

3

27 *rit.*

*cresc.* *fff*

29 *dolce* *mp*

*dolce* *dim.* *mp*

*dim.* *mp*

33 *smorz.*

*smorz.*

37 *mf* *dim.* *ppp*

*mf* *dim.* *ppp*

Musical score for measures 41-45. The system consists of a bass clef staff and a grand staff (treble and bass clefs). The bass clef staff contains a melodic line with slurs and accents, marked with *pp* (pianissimo) at measures 41 and 45. The grand staff contains a piano accompaniment with chords and a steady eighth-note pattern in the bass line, also marked with *pp* at measure 42.

Musical score for measures 46-50. The system consists of a treble clef staff and a grand staff. The treble clef staff contains a melodic line with slurs and accents, marked with *p* (piano) at measure 46. The grand staff contains a piano accompaniment with chords and a steady eighth-note pattern in the bass line, also marked with *p* at measure 46.

Musical score for measures 51-55. The system consists of a bass clef staff and a grand staff. The bass clef staff contains a melodic line with slurs and accents, marked with *f* (forte) at measure 55. The grand staff contains a piano accompaniment with chords and a steady eighth-note pattern in the bass line, also marked with *f* at measure 55.

53

53

59

59

60

*f* *dim.*

65

65

65

*smorz.* *pp*

## **APPENDIX B**

### **SCORES FOR THE USE WITH SOLO TUNING**

In this Appendix B the reader will find the musical scores for the performance of the Etudes number 3, 6, and 9 from Op. 10, and Op. 25 No. 7. The following scores are presented for the accompaniment of double bass in solo tuning. Since the double bass in solo tuning becomes a transposing in D instrument<sup>1</sup>, sounding a major second above the written pitch, the piano part for the solo tuning accompaniment was transposed up a major second.

---

<sup>1</sup> The solo tuning double bass is still transposed at the octave, meaning that it will sound one octave lower than the written pitch.

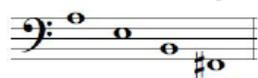
Piano

# Etude Op. 10 No. 3

For the use with Solo Tuning:

for Double Bass and Piano

Fryderyk Chopin  
trans. F. Azevedo



## Adagietto

F. Azevedo



Etude Op. 10 No. 3

3

32 *mf* *cresc. molto* *f* *p*

32 *cresc.* *f* *p*

36 *mf* *cresc.* *f* *cresc.* *p*

39 *mf* *sf*

44 *ff* *con forza* *con fuoco*

44 *ff* *con forza* *con fuoco*

45 *con bravura*

46 *f con bravura*

50 *stretto* *rit.*

*cresc.* *cresc.*

50 *stretto*

*cresc.* *rit.* *cresc.*

54 *a tempo*

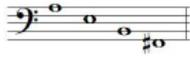
*f p legatissimo* *sempre p*

54 *f p legatissimo* *sempre p*



Piano

For the use with Solo Tuning:



# Etude Op.10 No.6

for Double Bass and Piano

Fryderyk Chopin  
trans. F. Azevedo

**Larghetto**

*con molto espressione*

Double Bass

Piano

F. Azevedo 2014

11 *f* *dim.*

13 *pesante*

17 *mf* *poco a poco cresc.*

17 *cresc.* *cresc.*

21 *fp*

21 *fp* *p*

25

Etude Op.10 No.6

3

29 *poco a poco cres.* *stretto* *f*

29 *cresc.* *stretto* *cresc.* *f*

33 *poco a poco dim.*

37 *smorz.* *smorz.* *poco riten.*

41 *a tempo* *p*

The image displays a musical score for Etude Op.10 No.6, covering measures 43 through 50. The score is written for piano and is divided into two systems. The first system contains measures 43-48, and the second system contains measures 49-50. The music is in the key of D major and 3/4 time. The right hand (RH) features a melodic line with various dynamics and articulations, while the left hand (LH) provides a rhythmic accompaniment with sixteenth-note patterns. Performance instructions include *dim.*, *sf*, *sostenuto*, *smorz.*, *rall.*, *sostenuto*, *rit.*, and *rall.*. The score concludes with a double bar line and repeat dots.

Piano  
For the use with Solo Tuning

# Etude Op.10 No. 9 for Double Bass and Piano

Fryderyk Chopin  
trans. F. Azevedo

**Andante**

Double Bass

Piano

*mf* *cresc.* *con forza*

*legatissimo*

*p* *cresc.*

*rit.*

*a tempo*  
*sotto voce*  
*mp*

*sempre legatissimo*

*segue*

Etude Op.10 No 9

The image displays a musical score for Etude Op.10 No 9, consisting of six systems of music. Each system includes a piano (p) staff and a bass (b) staff. The key signature is two sharps (F# and C#), and the time signature is 3/4. The score is marked with various dynamics and performance instructions:

- System 1 (Measures 13-16):** The piano staff begins with a *mf* dynamic. The bass staff features a continuous eighth-note accompaniment.
- System 2 (Measures 17-20):** The piano staff starts with a *p* dynamic, followed by *f*, *sf*, and *mp*. The bass staff continues with the eighth-note accompaniment.
- System 3 (Measures 21-24):** The piano staff includes a *cresc.* marking and the instruction *sempre più stretto*. The bass staff continues with the eighth-note accompaniment.
- System 4 (Measures 25-28):** The piano staff features an *accel.* marking, a *f* dynamic, and a *cresc.* leading to a *ff* dynamic. The bass staff continues with the eighth-note accompaniment.

Etude Op.10 No 9

The image displays a musical score for Etude Op.10 No 9, measures 29 through 38. The score is written in treble and bass clefs with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). The piece is in 3/4 time. The notation includes various dynamics such as *f* (forte), *sfz* (sforzando), and *p* (piano). Performance instructions include *sempre agitato*, *poco rall.* (poco rallentando), and *a tempo*. The score features complex rhythmic patterns, including triplets and sixteenth-note runs. The right hand (treble clef) and left hand (bass clef) are clearly delineated, with the left hand often playing a steady accompaniment of eighth notes.

Etude Op.10 No 9

The image displays a musical score for Etude Op.10 No 9, covering measures 42 to 54. The score is written in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. It consists of a single melodic line in the right hand and a complex accompaniment in the left hand. The right hand features a series of eighth-note patterns, often beamed together, with some measures containing slurs and dynamic markings. The left hand plays a steady eighth-note accompaniment, with some measures featuring chords and dynamic markings. The score is divided into systems, with measure numbers 42, 46, 50, and 54 marking the beginning of each system. Dynamic markings include *con forza*, *fz*, *cresc.*, *f*, and *mf*. The piece concludes with a final chord in the right hand.

Etude Op.10 No 9

58

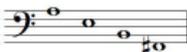
*p* *f* *sfz*

62

*rit.* *f* *pp*

65

*mp* *8va* *smorz.* *(8vb)*

Piano  
For the use with Solo Tuning:  


# Etude Op.25 No.7

for Double Bass and Piano

Fryderyk Chopin  
trans. F.Azevedo

*A piacere* *Lento*

Double Bass *mf*

Piano *pp*

F.Azevedo 2014

14

14

18

18

22

22

26

26

30

30

*pp*

*pp*

*mf*

*cresc.*

*mf*

*f*

*f*

Etude Op.25 No.7

3

Measures 27-28. The right hand features a complex, rapid sixteenth-note passage with a *rit.* marking. The left hand provides a harmonic accompaniment, starting with a *cresc.* marking and reaching a *fff* dynamic.

Measures 29-32. The right hand continues with a melodic line marked *dolce* and *mp*. The left hand accompaniment is marked *dim.* and *mp*.

Measures 33-36. The right hand features a melodic line with a *smorz.* marking. The left hand accompaniment consists of chords and moving bass lines.

Measures 37-40. The right hand has a melodic line with a *tr* marking. The left hand accompaniment is marked *mf*, *dim.*, and *ppp*.

Measures 41-45 of the score. The bass clef staff (top) contains a melodic line with slurs and accents, marked *pp*. The treble clef staff (bottom) contains a piano accompaniment with chords and a melodic line, also marked *pp*. The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#).

Measures 46-50 of the score. The bass clef staff (top) contains a melodic line with slurs and accents. The treble clef staff (bottom) contains a piano accompaniment with chords and a melodic line, marked *p*. The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#).

Measures 51-55 of the score. The bass clef staff (top) contains a melodic line with slurs and accents, marked *f*. The treble clef staff (bottom) contains a piano accompaniment with chords and a melodic line. The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#).

55

55

60

60

*f* *dim.*

65

65

*smorz.* *pp*

## **APPENDIX C**

### **DOUBLE BASS PARTS**

In this Appendix C the reader will find the double bass parts for the performance of the Etudes number 3, 6, and 9 from Op. 10, and Op. 25 No. 7. The writing for the double bass respects the transposition at the octave standard. The double bass sounds one octave lower than the written pitch. The double bass in solo tuning becomes a transposing in D instrument, without changing in the written pitch. The double bass parts presented below are to be used with orchestra or solo tuning accompaniment.

# Etude Op. 10 No. 3

Double Bass

for Double Bass and Piano

Fryderyk Chopin  
trans. F.Azevedo

## Adagietto

*mp* *cresc.*

6 *stretto* *3 1 1* *3 1 + 2 rit.* *a tempo*  
*dim.* *mp* *cresc.*

12 *cresc.* *stretto* *rit.* *1 3 + 1 1 3 + 1* *con forza*

17 *3* *a tempo* *rall.* *poco più animato* *3 2 3 + 3 1 3 + 2 1 3 + 3 1 +*  
*ff* *dim.* *mp* *cresc.* *mp* *cresc.*

24 *3 1 3 + 2 1 2 + 2 1 3 + 3 1 +*  
*mp* *cresc.* *mf* *cresc.*

29 *o 4 1 1 3 4*  
*f* *p* *mf* *cresc. molto*

34 *1 4 1 1 4 1 2 1 4 2 1 1 2 2 1 4 2 2 1*  
*f* *p* *mf* *cresc.* II II I II

F. Azevedo 2014



Double Bass

# Etude Op.10 No.6

for Double Bass and Piano

Fryderyk Chopin  
trans. F. Azevedo

**Larghetto**  
*con molto espressione*

1 2 3 2 1 2

*p* *f* *dim.*

6 *mf*

12 *f* *dim.* *mf* *poco a poco cresc.*

19 *fp*

26 *poco a poco cresc.* *stretto* *f*

33 *poco a poco dim.* *poco riten.* *smorz.*

40 *a tempo* *p*

48 *sfz* *sfz* *dim.* *smorz.* *rall.* *sostenuto*

F. Azevedo 2014

# Etude Op.10 No. 9

Double Bass

for Double Bass and Piano

Fryderyk Chopin  
trans. F. Azevedo

**Andante**

*mf* II *cresc.* I *con forza*

4 II I

8 *rit.* *a tempo sotto voce* *mp*

12 *mf*

17 *p* *f* *sf* *mp* *cresc.*

22 *cresc.* *sempre più stretto* *f* *ossia (8<sup>va</sup>)*

26 *accel.* 1 3 1 3 1 3 1 3 1 3 1 2 3 *cresc.* *ff*)

29 *f* *sfz* *f* *f* *sfz*

F. Azevedo 2014

Etude Op.10 No 9

34 *f* *V* *s* *poco rall.* *a tempo sempre agitato*

38 *V*

43 *con forza* *V*

47 *fz* *cresc.*

51

54 *sf* *mf*

57 *p*

60 *V* *ff* *s* *sfz*

63 *rit.* *f* *2 +* *1 2* *3*  
II I II III II  
(ossia 8<sup>vb</sup>)  
III

Detailed description: This is a page of a musical score for Etude Op.10 No 9. It contains nine staves of music, numbered 34 to 63. The music is written in G major and 2/4 time. The first staff (34) starts with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a dynamic marking of *f*. It features a five-note scale-like figure with a *V* (vibrato) and *s* (sforzando) marking. The tempo changes to *poco rall.* and then *a tempo sempre agitato*. The second staff (38) is in bass clef and continues the melodic line with a *V* marking. The third staff (43) is in bass clef, marked *con forza*, and includes a *V* marking. The fourth staff (47) is in treble clef, marked *fz* and *cresc.*. The fifth staff (51) is in treble clef. The sixth staff (54) is in treble clef, marked *sf* and *mf*. The seventh staff (57) is in bass clef, marked *p*. The eighth staff (60) is in bass clef, marked *ff*, *s*, and *sfz*. The ninth staff (63) is in bass clef, marked *rit.* and *f*. It features a complex rhythmic pattern with fingerings (2, 1, 2, 3) and articulation marks (+, o). The piece concludes with a double bar line and the instruction (ossia 8<sup>vb</sup>) III.

# Etude Op.25 No.7

Double Bass

for Double Bass and Piano

Fryderyk Chopin  
trans. F.Azevedo

*A piacere* **Lento**

2 1 + 1 2 1 2 + 1 2 4 2 4 1 4 4 1 4 + 3

3 2 1 + 1 2 + 1 4 1 1 3 1

8 V tr 1 1 2 3 1 +

12 1 1 4 1 3 V V 1 4 + 1 2 + 1 2 3 + 1 2 3

pp III II

16 2 3 1 2 + 2 + 3 1 2 1 + 3 1 4 2 +

pp II II

20 1 4 2 4 1 2 + 1 3 6 + 1 2

II II I

24 3 1 2 4 1 2 1 2 1 2 1 2 1 2

3 6

26 3 1 tr V + 1 3 2 1 2 1 3 2 1 + 1 + 4 2 4 1 4 2 4 2 1 4 2

f

28 V 3 1

F.Azevedo 2014

30 *+ 1 3* *V*  
II III— IV III II

34

38 *tr* *pp*

43 *pp* II *1+3*

47 *V* 3 3

52 *tr* 1 *+ 1 2 3 + 1 2*

54 *sf* *tr*

58 1 III II I

62 1 2 1 4 II

66 III III