

PERFORMANCE COMMENTARY

Notes on the musical text

The variants marked as *ossia* were given this label by Chopin or were added in his hand to pupils' copies; variants without this designation are the result of discrepancies in the texts of authentic versions or an inability to establish an unambiguous reading of the text.

Minor authentic alternatives (single notes, ornaments, slurs, accents, pedal indications, etc.) that can be regarded as variants are enclosed in round brackets (), whilst editorial additions are written in square brackets [].

Pianists who are not interested in editorial questions, and want to base their performance on a single text, unhampered by variants, are recommended to use the music printed in the principal staves, including all the markings in brackets.

Chopin's original fingering is indicated in large bold-type numerals, **1 2 3 4 5**, in contrast to the editors' fingering which is written in small italic numerals, *1 2 3 4 5*. Wherever authentic fingering is enclosed in parentheses this means that it was not present in the primary sources, but added by Chopin to his pupils' copies. The dashed signs indicating the distribution of parts between the hands come from the editors.

A general discussion on the interpretation of Chopin's works is to be contained in a separate volume: *The Introduction to the National Edition*, in the section entitled *Problems of Performance*.

Abbreviations: R.H. — right hand, L.H. — left hand.

1. Prelude in C major, Op. 28 no. 1

p. 13 The basic R.H. rhythmical figure composed of two triplets of semiquavers seems to suggest an accent on the first note of the second triplet in each bar, while a variant of the grouping (quintuplet) in bars 18-20, 23 and 25-26 would rather suggest melodic stress on the first note of the quintuplet. The subtle, but discernible interplay between these two accents may be an important element in the expression of the entire prelude.

2. Prelude in A minor, Op. 28 no. 2

p. 14 L.H. Two voices, as indicated by Chopin in the first two bars, are continued through the entire prelude. This should be realized via *legatissimo* and a slight detachment of the inner voice (B-A#-B-G), and *legato possibile* of the outer.


Chopin wrote pedal signs only for bars 18-19 but this does not mean that the pedal is to be used here for the very first time. The editors believe that it can be added from the beginning:

— in bars 1-12 on every quaver (facilitating *legato* for the L.H.); at the beginning of bar 6 the pedal can be kept down over the first crotchet;

— in bars 13-16 for longer, on every crotchet;

— in bars 18-19 as indicated on the score.

Bars 5, 10, 17 & 20 R.H. The editors propose the following rhyth-

mical solution of quaver with grace-note  (in bars 5 and 10 the grace-note should be played simultaneously with the fourth L.H. quaver). Cf. *Source Commentary*.

Bar 22 R.H. The first note of the arpeggio (*d*) should be struck together with the L.H. octave.

3. Prelude in G major, Op. 28 no. 3



Chopin omitted to put in any pedal marks but that does not indicate that the pedal is forbidden altogether. The editors believe it is most natural to add the pedal at the beginning of each bar and release it gradually, "gently", more or less in mid-bar. In bar 30 it is best to pedal


the first and third beat. The pedal depressed at the beginning of bar 31 can be lifted after the figuration ends on the first note of bar 32.

p. 15 Bars 8, 10, 18 & 24 R.H. The lower note of the arpeggiated chord should be struck together with the first semiquaver played by the L.H.

p. 16 Bars 32-33 It is better to play the arpeggios in a continuous fashion, i.e. *b* with the R.H. after *g* with the L.H.

4. Prelude in E minor, Op. 28 no. 4


p. 17 Bars 11 & 19 R.H. The signs written most probably by Chopin on one of his pupils' copies indicate that the grace-note should be played simultaneously with the penultimate L.H. chord. However, it is not clear what rhythmical value it should have (cf. *Source Commentary*). The editors believe that it should not be shorter than a semiquaver () and not longer than a quaver () and the best version would be a quaver in the tri-

plet () (Cf. note to *Prelude in A minor*, Op. 28 no. 2, bars 5, 10, 17 & 20).

5. Prelude in D major, Op. 28 no. 5

p. 18 Bars 10-11 & 26-27. A facilitated version of the L.H. part:



Bars 13-16 & 29-32 R.H. On contemporary pianos (in Chopin's time the keys were slightly slenderer) the figurations of these bars are easier to play holding down *b*¹ in bars 13-16 and *g*¹ in 29-32 only for the duration of 3 semiquavers (as )

6. Prelude in B minor, Op. 28 no. 6

R.H. In bar 1, the articulation and expression markings given by Chopin over the upper voice are exemplar and so they should be applied to all analogous motifs throughout the *Prelude*. Repeating them on the third beat of bar 22 will give a special emphasis to the seventh *a*¹.

p. 19 Bar 7 R.H. It seems more in style to play the grace-note together with *f*^{#1} from the lower voice and the L.H. *d*. Choosing the arpeggio which figures in parentheses, it should be played thus:



In this case, it would seem more in character to strike *f*^{#1} with the *d*.

p. 20 Bars 23-26 L.H. The original pedaling—one pedal through the four final bars—sounds just as good on contemporary pianos. However, wishing to avoid the sound of the semitone *d-c*[#] in the final harmony one can play as follows:



7. Prelude in A major, Op. 28 no. 7

p. 21 *Bar 12* This simplified version for a smaller hand was written by

Chopin on a pupil's copy:

8. Prelude in F sharp minor, Op. 28 no. 8

p. 24 *Final bar* Arpeggio with grace-note solutions:

9. Prelude in E major, Op. 28 no. 9

p. 25 Throughout the *Prelude*: , and .

Cf. *Source Commentary*.

Bars 3 & 4 L.H. The trill beginning in bar 3:

A#, simultaneously with the R.H. chord on the fourth beat. Analogously in bar 4.

10. Prelude in C sharp minor, Op. 28 no. 10

p. 26 *Bar 7* L.H. Trill beginning:

C# simultaneously with f##-a# in the R.H.

11. Prelude in B major, Op. 28 no. 11

p. 27 *Bar 21* The execution of the grace-note:

Bars 25-27 Chopin wanted the three final bars to be played on one pedal which may sound too heavy on contemporary pianos. The editors suggest the following solution:

With a gentle change of pedal in the last bar this gives a sound which closely resembles that intended by Chopin.

12. Prelude G sharp minor, Op. 28 no. 12

Fingering:

In bars 1-4 and in analogous ones it is possible to use different fingering:

bars 1-4

bars 11-13

bars 51-52

To simplify the R.H. part, the original division of chords between the two hands can be altered in several places, switching the lowermost of notes placed on the upper staff (e.g. on the third beat of bar 7) to L.H. It is particularly comfortable to do this in bars 54, 56 and 57.

13. Prelude in F sharp major, Op. 28 no. 13

p. 31 *Bar 1 ff.* L.H. The *legato* description under the bottom staff probably means "harmonic legato" (holding down components of a harmony with the fingers). Its precise execution was easier on pianos in Chopin's time, which had narrower keys:

If this is impossible to play because of a small hand span, the following fingering and pedaling may be applied, taking care of the articulation (as *legato* as possible) of the notes played with the first finger:

Bar 1

Bar 6

In bar 1 and analogous bars some notes may be taken over by

the R.H.:

The following, simpler solution gives a very approximate sound effect to the original:

(care should be taken to change pedal gently on the f# notes).

Bar 7 R.H. = f#¹ together with G# in the L.H.

p. 32 *Bars 33-36* R.H. The execution of the chord at the beginning of

bar 33: , and by analogy in subsequent bars.

The editors advocate that Chopin's pedaling is preserved (cf. *Source Commentary*) with one addendum—on the last beat of bar 33 it is better to change the pedal than to release it. The pedal marks (in brackets) added over the top staff follow Chopin's indications from previous bars. The marks added under the bottom staff are a practical suggestion which would preserve the continuity of both main R.H. melodic lines.

14. Prelude in E flat minor, Op. 28 no. 14

- s. 33 Chopin's omission of pedaling marks does not indicate that the pedal should not be used. The editors suggest:
- in bars 1, 2, 5, 6, 11 & 12—pedal depressed gently (not too fast) at the beginning and gently released in mid-bar,
 - in remaining bars—one pedal for each half of the bar.

15. Prelude in D flat major, Op. 28 no. 15

- p. 34 *Bar 3 & analog.* Pedal change on the second beat, although not marked by Chopin in bars 26 and 78, is indicated for contemporary instruments in each of these places. According to Chopin's notation, the player should take care to sustain the third $ab-c^7$ with the L.H.
- p. 35 *Bars 38-39 & analog.* Because of the grace-note in the bass the pedal can be depressed a crotchet earlier than Chopin indicated.
- p. 37 *Bars 81-83* The pedal release signs [✱] in bars 81 and 83 describe the shortest and the longest of possible holds on a pedal depressed at the beginning of bar 81.

16. Prelude in B flat minor, Op. 28 no. 16

- p. 38 *Bars 2-8 & 18-25* The original pedaling should be preserved, as it gives a "torrential" sound effect both on pianos from the time of Chopin and contemporary instruments (cf. *Sonata in B♭ minor* Op. 35, first movement, bars 5-15). Chopin used this pedaling quite consciously, probably after having experimented with it (in bars 2-3 the autograph shows deletions of earlier markings denoting a pedal change for every half-bar). The short pedal applied by most pianists on the first and third beat in these bars reduces to a considerable degree the effect intended by Chopin.

17. Prelude in A flat major, Op. 28 no. 17

- p. 43 *Bar 38* L.H. If there are difficulties in spanning the chords in the second part of the bar, the topmost notes, ab^7 , are better played with the R.H.

- p. 44 *Bars 43 & 47* The arpeggio with grace-notes in bar 43:



Anticipated grace-notes (quaver b^1 together with the L.H. chord). Per analogiam in bar 47.

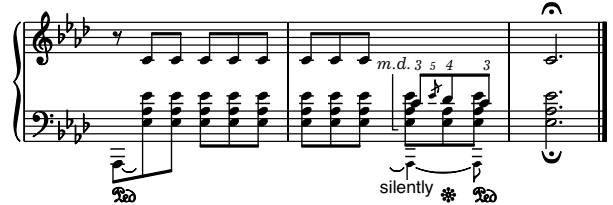
Bar 56 R.H. The grace-notes are easier played with the following

fingering: , adding on the bottom note of the chords, ab^1 , to the L.H. part.

The first of the grace-notes, f^2 , should be struck together with d^2 and the L.H. chord.

- p. 45 *Bars 65-87* Clean changes of harmony and at the same time a longer sounding pedal point Ab^1 , can be achieved by a rapid change of pedal in the positions marked. One can also apply the middle pedal, using it to catch the Ab^1 in bar 67 and sustain it until the end of the piece.

Bars 88-90 A clean sonority of the ultimate Ab -major chord together with its fundamental Ab^1 , can also be achieved without the use of the middle pedal (see previous note). This would require a "mute" hold on the bass note:



18. Prelude in F minor, Op. 28 no. 18

- p. 47 *Bar 18* The trill should be started on the main note.

21. Prelude in B flat major, Op. 28 no. 21

Pedaling: In the basic figure of the accompaniment the pedal should be lifted gradually, with a gentle motion. In this way the pedal can be released completely a little later than would arise from Chopin's notation.

- p. 52 *Bars 18-19* On contemporary pianos, in order to prolong the sound of the bass note Gb^1 , it is possible not to change the pedal when passing from one bar to the other.

22. Prelude in G minor, Op. 28 no. 22

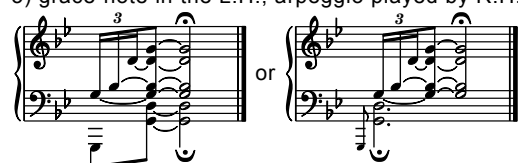
- p. 54 *Bars 1-4, 9-12 & 35-38* The interpretation of L.H. slurring which is inconsistent in the sources may give rise to doubts. The editors believe that the differences in slurring analogous fragments do not have to imply differences in execution. The slurs indicate rather the articulation *legato* than energetics of the octave phrases. In practice the following unification of Chopin's slurring in these bars may be proposed:



This interpretation seems supported by the — signs (diminuendo or long accent). These concern both hands and above all signify accents: on the L.H. octave which begins the bar and the R.H. chord which follows (a specific "polyaccentuation" of Chopin's).

- p. 55 *Final bar* The two slurs before the last chord denote its division between the two hands. Both slurs or just the top one could also signify arpeggio. Considering these options, the bar can be executed as follows:

- 1) grace-note, followed by an unarpeggiated chord in both hands,
- 2) continuous arpeggio with both hands (from G^1 to g^1),
- 3) grace-note in the L.H., arpeggio played by R.H.:



23. Prelude in F major, Op. 28 no. 23

p. 56 Bars 2, 6, 10 & 18 L.H. The execution of the trill with grace-notes



Per analogiam in bars 6, 10 & 18.

24. Prelude in D minor, Op. 28 no. 24

Left hand. One should take care to hold the second semiquaver, as indicated by Chopin in the figures of the initial bars. This is fundamentally important for a firm hold of the wide position and, should be applied throughout the prelude whenever possible.

p. 57 Bars 7 & 25 R.H. The best solution for the ornament in bar 7:



By analogy in bar 25.

p. 58 Bars 10 & 28 R.H. The execution of the trill with grace-notes in



Analogously in bar 28.

Bars 12, 16, 30 & 34 R.H. Trills should begin with the main note.

25. Prelude in C sharp minor, Op. 45

The variants of Chopin's pedaling (markings in or without parentheses) should be read as follows:

- in bars 5-6 & analogous, the (*) and * marks describe the earliest and the latest moment to release a pedal depressed at the beginning of the L.H. figuration. In practice, one may suggest a gentle and gradual release in-between the two signs;
- in bars 8-9 the pedal should be depressed on the last quaver of bar 8 or at the beginning of bar 9 and held at least towards the end of bar 9, and similarly in all analogous places;
- in bars 35-36 it is left to the discretion of the performer whether to change the pedal in the middle of bar 35; if so, then the editors believe that it is better to start the new pedal on the sixth quaver of the bar; and whichever version is preferred, the moment of release should be as for bars 5-6 above;

p. 63 Bar 33 Deciding to release the pedal in mid-bar, one may help keep the bass by applying "harmonic legato" (fingers sustain components of the harmony):



An analogous device may be used in bar 57.

p. 66 Bar 84 L.H. To supplement Chopin's pedaling, the editors suggest "harmonic legato" (see above), by holding the sixth quaver c# until the pedal is depressed on a.

Bars 88-89 To preserve the continuous sonority on contemporary pianos it is better not to change the pedal when passing from the one bar to the other.

Jan Ekier
Paweł Kamiński

Introductory comments

The following commentary sets out in an abridged form the principles of editing the musical text of particular works and discusses the most important discrepancies between the authentic sources; furthermore, it draws attention to departures from the authentic text which are most frequently encountered in the collected editions of Chopin's music compiled after his death. A separately published *Source Commentary* contains a detailed description of the sources, their filiation, justification of the choice of primary sources, a thorough presentation of the differences between them and a reproduction of characteristic fragments.

Abbreviations: R.H. – right hand, L.H. – left hand. The sign → symbolizes a connection between sources; it should be read “and ... based on it”.

1-24. Preludes, Op. 28

Sources

A Autograph of all 24 Preludes, sent from Majorca on January 22, 1839 to Julian Fontana for copying (National Library, Warsaw). **A** served as the basis for the first French edition. Many deletions and corrections, a large part of which concern performance directions, represent the work devoted by Chopin to **A**. In spite of this, **A** does contain a variety of errors and inaccuracies in notation, mostly a considerable number of omissions of accidentals in some of the preludes.

FC Copy of **A** made by Julian Fontana (lost, photocopy held by the Chopin Society in Warsaw). **FC** served as the basis for the first German edition. As a whole, the copier duplicated the **A** text carefully, nonetheless making a number of mistakes, the gravest of which are omissions of entire bars in *Preludes in G# minor* no. 12 and *in Bb* no. 21. Chopin did not correct **FC**. Certain pencilled markings on some of the Preludes (mainly filling in the chromatic signs) were made by the long-time owner of the manuscript, Hermann Scholtz, who based his own edition of the *Preludes* (Peters, Leipzig 1879) on the **FC**.

Individual manuscripts of eight preludes (nos. 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 9, 17 and 20) are described as additional sources in reference to each prelude.

FE1 First French edition, Ad. Catelin et C^{ie} (Ad^e.C.(560) & C^{ie}), Paris, June 1839. **FE1** is based on **A** and was not revised by Chopin. Corrections, which included supplemented accidentals and pedaling, were added by J. Fontana (see quotes *about the Preludes...* which precede the musical text).

FE2 Second impression of **FE1** (same company and number) printed not long after the first. **FE2** contains some alterations, mostly corrections of the errors of **FE1**. Most probably they were also made by J. Fontana although it is not possible to entirely exclude the participation of Chopin, indirect as it may have been. There are copies of **FE2** which have different prices on the cover.

FE3 Third impression of **FE1**, Brandus et C^{ie} (B et C^{ie} 4594), Paris, December 1846 and later reimpressions. The musical text is identical to **FE2**.

FE = **FE1**, **FE2** and **FE3**.

FED, **FEJ**, **FES**, **FESch**—teaching copies of **FE** with Chopin's remarks on fingering, performance directions, variants, corrections of printing errors:

FED—copy from the collection of Chopin's pupil, Camille Dubois (Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris),

FEJ—copy from the collection of Chopin's sister, Ludwika Jędrzejewicz (Chopin Society, Warsaw),

FES—copy from the collection of Chopin's pupil, Jane Stirling (Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris),

FESch—copy from the collection of Chopin's pupil, Marie de Scherbatoff (Houghton Library, New York).

The set of Preludes containing annotations in Chopin's hand or which may have come from Chopin is different in the case of each of the above collections:

FED—*Preludes* nos. 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 9, 11-13, 15, 17-21, 23 & 24,

FES—*Preludes* nos. 2-4, 6, 7, 9, 11, 13-15, 17, 20, 21 & 24,

FEJ—*Preludes* nos. 4, 6, 9, 11, 15, 17 & 21,

FESch—*Preludes* nos. 7, 11 & 16.

GE1 First German edition, Breitkopf & Härtel (6088), Leipzig, September 1839. **GE1** is based on **FC**, it contains many adjustments and errors. Chopin took no part in the preparation of **GE1**. There are copies of **GE1** which have differing covers, and the edition was also published in a version of 4 fascicules containing 6 preludes each.

GE2 Second impression of **GE1** (same company and number), after 1852, with many of the errors corrected and many arbitrary alterations introduced. The editors of the National Edition were not able to find a copy of **GE2** containing the entire Op. 28 in one book.

GE3 Third impression of **GE1** (same company and number) with further small changes. There are copies of both versions of **GE3** (complete opus or 4 fascicules) and also with a new price imprinted on the cover after 1872.

GE = **GE1**, **GE2** and **GE3**.

EE1 First English edition, divided into two fascicules, one with 14 and the other with 10 preludes, Wessel & C^o (W & C^o 3098 and 3099), London, August 1839. **EE1** is based on **FE2**, with some adjustments, e. g. the fingering has been added in some of the preludes. Chopin had no part in preparing the edition.

EE2 Second impression of **EE1** (same company and number), after 1846 with small alterations. The editors had access only to book 1 of **EE2**.

EE = **EE1** and **EE2**.

Editorial Principles

We base this edition on **A**. In some places, where one might suspect Chopin to have had made a mistake, we compare **A** with manuscripts of the particular *Preludes*. We have taken into consideration the annotations on pupils' copies made by Chopin or which may have come from Chopin.

Dedication

In **A** (→**FC**→**GE**) there is the dedication: “à son ami J. C. Kessler”. However, in March 1839 Chopin wrote in a letter to Fontana: “I very much want my Preludes to be dedicated to Pleyel [...]. Nothing to Kessler. [...] Tell Probst [who acted as agent between Chopin and the German publisher] about the changed dedication”. The alteration was made in **FE** (→**EE**) and also the **FC** was appropriately amended. In this situation, the appearance of **GE** with the original dedication to Kessler can be explained by misunderstanding or reluctance to change a title page which—perhaps—was complete. It cannot be excluded that Chopin took advantage of the fact that for commercial reasons circulation of particular editions was restricted, and decided to honour two patrons with one opus—a Frenchman with the French edition and a German with the German one.

1. Prelude in C major, Op. 28 no. 1

Sources and editorial principles

See above 1-24. *Preludes*, Op. 28.

p. 13 *Bars 18-20, 23 & 25-26* R.H. In **GE2** the original quintuplets were altered to the same rhythm as in the remaining bars.

Bar 34 L.H. In **FE** beside the three notes sustained from the previous bar there is an erroneous *E* note.

2. Prelude in A minor, Op. 28 no. 2

Sources and editorial principles
See 1-24. *Preludes, Op. 28* on page 6.

Additional sources

As A shorthand sketch of the whole *Prelude* in a version very close to the ultimate one (private collection, photocopy at the Chopin Society, Warsaw).

CGS Copy made by George Sand probably from **FE1** (private collection, photocopy in: *Korespondencja Chopina z George Sand i jej dziećmi*, ed. K. Kobylańska, Warsaw 1981).

p. 14 **Bar 1 EE** and some of the later collected editions arbitrarily changed the time signature from ♩ to ♩ .

Bars 1-2 The notation of **A**:  has been reduced

in **FE** (\rightarrow **EE**) to one part as in the following bars. The probable reason for the simplification, most likely not in line with what Chopin intended, was the complex graphical arrangement of the original script, difficult to render in print.

Bars 5, 10, 17 & 20 R.H. The grace-notes are given here as according to **A** (\rightarrow **FE** \rightarrow **EE**). In **FC** (\rightarrow **GE**) they have been written as crossed ones. Such inaccuracies in recording ornaments are typical for Fontana's copies. In **FES** Chopin crossed the grace-notes in bars 17 and 20, probably correcting erroneous execution during a lesson. Cf. *Performance Commentary*.



3. Prelude in G major, Op. 28 no. 3

Sources and editorial principles
See 1-24. *Preludes, Op. 28* on page 6.

Additional source

FCI Fontana's copy of a lost autograph with an earlier edition of the *Prelude* (Chopin Society, Warsaw).

p. 15 **Bar 1** In some of the later collected editions, the time signature has been arbitrarily altered from ♩ to ♩ .

p. 16 **Bar 17 R.H.** In **FC** the second half of the bar has a mistaken rhythm . In the **GE** this has been changed to  which is rhythmically correct but inconsistent with Chopin's original notation in **A** (\rightarrow **FE** \rightarrow **EE**).

Bars 22-23 R.H. Some of the later collected editions arbitrarily tied the notes e^{\flat} and g^{\flat} .

Bar 31 FC (\rightarrow **GE**) features an erroneous *cresc.* to describe the dynamics. The description also figures in **FCI**, so it must have been the original concept for this bar, later altered by Chopin to *dim.* which figures in **A** (\rightarrow **FE** \rightarrow **EE**).

4. Prelude in E minor, Op. 28 no. 4

Sources and editorial principles
See 1-24. *Preludes, Op. 28* on page 6.



Additional sources

As As for *Prelude in A minor*, Op. 28 no. 2.

CGS Copy made by George Sand probably from **FE1** (private collection, photocopy in: K. Kobylańska, *Rękopisy utworów Chopina*, Cracow 1977).

p. 17 **Upbeat** The sign *p* was overlooked in **FC** (\rightarrow **GE**).

Bar 11 L.H. **GE** has a *B-d#-a* chord erroneously repeated throughout the bar.

Bars 11 & 19 R.H. In **FED** there are markings which possibly indicate how to play the grace-notes. The sign in bar 19 seems to equate  with . Cf. *Performance Commentary*.

Bar 16 R.H. Sources have no accidentals under the turn. This is most obviously an omission by Chopin and it points indirectly at $g^{\sharp\sharp}$ (sounding as a^{\flat}) which may have seemed to Chopin as not needing any sign.

5. Prelude in D major, Op. 28 no. 5

Sources and editorial principles
See 1-24. *Preludes, Op. 28* on page 6.

p. 18 **Bars 13-16 & 29-32 R.H.** The crotchet stems added on to the notes b^{\flat} in bars 13-16 and g^{\flat} in bars 29-32 are here given after **A**. Because of deletions in **A** the stems disappear from **FC** (\rightarrow **GE**) and **FE** (\rightarrow **EE**).

Bar 16 R.H. In **FC**, bars 15-16 are marked as a repetition of bar 14, because the copyist missed h written before the last note in bar 16 of **A** (in **A** bars 14-16 are written out in notes). Hence the erroneous final $a^{\sharp\flat}$ in this bar in **GE**.

6. Prelude in B minor, Op. 28 no. 6

Sources and editorial principles
See 1-24. *Preludes, Op. 28* on page 6.

Additional source

CGS As for *Prelude in E minor*, Op. 28 no. 4.

p. 19 **Bar 7 R.H.** The arpeggio is featured in **FED**.

p. 20 **Bars 12-14 A** (\rightarrow **FC** \rightarrow **GE**) lacks the naturals lowering c^{\sharp} to c (in all octaves). This has been revised in **FE** (\rightarrow **EE**).

Bars 13, 15-17 & 20-21 The dynamic signs contained in parentheses come from **FES**. The variant *pp* from bar 13 is featured in **FEJ**.

Bar 19 R.H. The second crotchet of the lower part is $c^{\sharp\flat}$ according to **A**. **FC** (\rightarrow **GE**) and **FE** (\rightarrow **EE**) contain $c^{\sharp\flat}$ (as in the following bar). The mistake of the copyist and the **FE**'s engraver could have been provoked either by the similarity of bars 19 & 20, or the slightly raised position of the upper note in **A**, suggesting an interval of a second.

The voice-leading which is analogous to bar 15 also speaks in favour of $\text{f}\sharp^{\flat}$.

Bars 22-23 L.H. The tie on the B_1 appears in **A** (\rightarrow **FC** \rightarrow **GE**, \rightarrow **FE** \rightarrow **EE**). It has been crossed out in **FES**, and in **FEJ** there is fingering which suggests a repetition of the sound in bar 23—the numeral 5 written under B_1 in bar 22 as well as B_1 and B in bar 23 (Chopin pointed to similar use of the fifth finger in several other compositions, e. g. in the *Nocturnes in C# minor* Op. 27 no. 1, bars 13-14 and *in B* Op. 32 no. 1, bars 26 & 36). It seems advisable to play B_1 in bar 23 in view of the rhythm of the basic motif and the original pedaling.

7. Prelude in A major, Op. 28 no. 7

Sources and editorial principles
See 1-24. *Preludes, Op. 28* on page 6.

Additional sources

CXI Copy by unknown copyist (Österreichische Nationalbibliothek, Vienna) which may carry the earlier version of the prelude's character and tempo description—*Lento misterioso*. This possibility is also indicated by the fact that *Lento* was initially marked on **A**, then crossed out and replaced by *Andantino*.

CGS As for *Prelude in A minor, Op. 28 no. 2*.

p. 21 **Bar 11** R.H. In **A** (→**FC**→**GE**1, →**FE**) the beginning of the bar omits \sharp which raises d^2 to $d\sharp^2$. In **FES** and **FESch** the sign has been replaced.

Bar 12 The simplified version of the chord given in the *Performance Commentary* was inscribed in **FES**.

Bar 13 R.H. On the third beat in **A** (→**FE**→**EE**) \flat is missing to lower $a\sharp^1$ to a^1 . This is an obvious mistake corrected in **FC** (→**GE**) and **FED**.

Bar 15 In **FC** (→**GE**), the third crotchet erroneously repeats the previous chord $e-a-e^1$.

8. Prelude in F sharp minor, Op. 28 no. 8

Sources and editorial principles
See 1-24. *Preludes, Op. 28* on page 6.

In this *Prelude* we tacitly replace the exceptionally large number of accidentals obviously omitted from **A** (replacements have also been made in lesser or greater degree in the remaining sources).

p. 21 **Bar 4** R.H. **A** (→**FC**→**GE**) erroneously omits \flat before the fourth demisemiquaver of the last group.

p. 22 **Bars 6 & 20** R.H. In some of the later collected editions the final demisemiquaver in the second group has been arbitrarily altered from a^2 to \sharp^2 . In both bars in **A** the figure is fully written out in notes (with no abbreviations) and carries no corrections, thus excluding any possibility that the composer could have made a mistake. Often Chopin increased the span of figurations basically contained within an octave, for instance in *Preludes in E* no. 9, bars 2, 4 & 8, in *D♭* no. 15, bars 70 & 72-75, in *F* no. 23, bar 14 or *Etudes in A♭* op. 10 no. 10, bars 61-62 & 68, in *F* Op. 25 no. 3, bars 18 & 20. Chopin's use of a^2 in this position was probably intended to avoid the false relation \sharp^2-f^1 with the subsequent note played by the L.H.

Bar 9 L.H. The main text is a version read literally from sources. However, the crossings and corrections on this figure in **A** allow for the assumption that Chopin forgot to write \flat lowering $g\sharp$ to g , especially if he made the changes after he had written the subsequent figure, where there is a g (with \flat). We cite this possibility (which in effect gives a version analogous to bar 10) in the variant.

Bar 13 R.H. In **A** (→**FC**→**GE**, →**FE**1), there is no \flat to precede the third demisemiquaver in the third group. This is clearly an omission of Chopin's—in the great majority of groups the third and fifth demisemiquaver form a semitone. \flat has been added in **FE2** (→**EE**).

p. 23 **Bar 17** All sources cite b^1 on the third demisemiquaver of the second group. This is a remainder of the original version—initially in **A**, in the first two figures of bars 15-18, the third demisemiquaver was bb^1 . Chopin replaced it 7 times (out of 8) with ab^1 . He must have forgotten the said note as he made the corrections—this is additionally proved by the fact that he left it without \flat .

Bar 21 R.H. In **A** (→**FC**→**GE**), the fourth demisemiquaver of the third group is g^2 as it is not preceded by an accidental. This is an obvious omission by Chopin corrected in **FE** (→**EE**).

p. 24 **Bar 23** R.H. In **A** (→**FC**→**GE**), there is no accidental before the fourth demisemiquaver of the third group, thus it should be read as $d\sharp^3$. In **FE** (→**EE**) \flat has been added (d^3). In this case Fontana's addition seems matter for discussion, since a number of musical as well as source arguments would support $d\sharp^3$:

— deletions in neighbouring bars prove that Chopin was watching the chromatic signs in **A**;

— d^1 and d^2 after the C♯-minor chord in bar 24 have been marked with naturals by Chopin in the R.H part where the sign is necessary as well as the L.H, where it is only a precautionary measure; — a similar combination of sounds describing the major chord was used by Chopin at the end of bar 24 (a^1 and $c\sharp^2$ with a G-major chord). However, since it is not possible to exclude that Chopin accidentally omitted \flat here (and so that Fontana was right in **FE**) we give both versions, nonetheless with priority to the **A** version with $d\sharp^3$.

9. Prelude in E major, Op. 28 no. 9

Sources and editorial principles
See 1-24. *Preludes, Op. 28* on page 6.

Additional source:

CGS As for *Prelude in A minor, Op. 28 no. 2*.

We recreate the notation of dotted rhythms against triplets as it appears in **A** (→**FC**) and as it was used by Chopin in all of his works (see the chapter devoted to this matter in Jan Ekier's *Introduction to the National Edition, Editorial Problems*) In **FE** (→**EE**) and **GE** the semiquavers have been moved beyond the third note of the triplet. Newer editions (Henle Verlag 1956 and 1970, Edition Peters 1985) return to Chopin's version. In the history of phonography, the first artist to perform the original rhythmical version was Maurizio Pollini (Deutsche Grammophon Gesellschaft 1975).

This problem relates to the doubts over the manner of separating the top voice. We adopt the notation which most frequently appears in **A**, where the top notes of chords belong to both voices simultaneously, thus the upper part becomes merely an individual element of the figuration and not a wholly independent part.

p. 25 **Bar 7** On the third beat in **A** (→**FC**), naturals lowering $f\sharp$ to f are missing. They have been replaced in **FE** (→**EE**) and **GE**. The version with $f\sharp$, although acceptable as it sounds, is highly unlikely because of the unusual spelling of the $F\sharp/Gb$ -major chord. Chopin did not object to the naturals as they appear in print in the three pupils' copies which carry his annotations.

Bar 9 R.H. Added octaves in the bass part seem appropriate because of the shape of the motif (cf. bar 1) which is repeated in octaves in the following two bars (10-11).

Bar 12 R.H. **FE** (→**EE**) omits the tie linking b notes in the final chord and preceding third.

L.H. **GE** incorrectly recreates the tie on B_1 as a slur linking this note and the final E_1 .

10. Prelude in C sharp minor, Op. 28 no. 10

Sources and editorial principles
See 1-24. *Preludes, Op. 28* on page 6.

p. 26 **Bar 7** R.H. Chopin mistakenly dotted the minim $g\sharp$.

Bar 18 R.H. **A** (→**FE**→**EE**) gives $f\sharp$ as the lower note of the semiquaver chord. The note is written somewhat imprecisely in **A**, so it has been mistakenly read as $g\sharp$ in **FC** (→**GE**).

11. Prelude in B major, Op. 28 no. 11

Sources and editorial principles
See 1-24. *Preludes, Op. 28* on page 6.

- p. 27 **Bar 21** The grace-note, its tie and a slur have been recreated following **A**. Remaining sources deform the notation of the bar:
— in **FC** (\rightarrow **GE**) the tie and slur have been omitted, and the grace-note is written as ♯ ;
— in **FE** (\rightarrow **EE**) the slur which crosses the tie in **A** was read erroneously as a *f* sign.

Bar 23 At the marked place **FED** contains a pencilled line crossing the slur.

12. Prelude in G sharp minor, Op. 28 no. 12

Sources and editorial principles
See 1-24. *Preludes, Op. 28* on page 6.

- p. 28 **Bar 12** R.H. The slurs follow **A** (\rightarrow **FC**). They were possibly considered illogical by engravers (proof-readers?) and altered:
— in **FE** (\rightarrow **EE**) one slur ends on the fourth quaver in bar 12 and the next begins at the sixth quaver in the bar,
— in **GE** the first slur has been extended to the final quaver of bar 12.

Bars 21-22 L.H. **FE** (\rightarrow **EE**) is missing the tie on *B*.

Bars 21-22 & 25-26 R.H. Slurs signifying *tenuto* over minims in bars 21 and 25 have been arbitrarily altered in **GE** to ties on b^1 in bars 21-22 and a^1 in bars 25-26. Similar slurs have been omitted in bars 22 and 26.

Bars 21, 24 & 25 L.H. Some of the later collected editions arbitrarily tied the top notes of the fifths which close the bars: the $\text{f}\sharp$ in bars 21-22 and *e* in 24-25 & 25-26.

Bars 23-24 R.H. In all sources the top notes in bar 23 are $c\sharp^2$ (h pencilled on **FC** is a later and alien addition—see the notes on **FC**). In many later collected editions, possibly to avoid a cross relation with c^1 in bar 24, the notes have been changed to c^2 . While there is small probability that Chopin mistakenly omitted h in bar 23, there are reasons to question the purpose of h to lower $c\sharp^1$ to c^1 in bar 24. This is a reconstruction based on an analysis of the music's layout and visible corrections, of the three-stage notation process in **A**, bars 23-26:

Stage 1:



In this version, subsequent tonalities in bars 21-28 are grouped in regular sets of two bars, the version also avoids the above said cross relation $c\sharp^2-c^1$. $c\sharp^1$ in bar 24 also helps explain (easier fingering) the exceptional rhythmical value of the crotchet a^1 in this bar—in all analogous places (in bars 21-22, 25-26 and particularly in bar 28 which closes the four-bar fragment) there are minims.

Stage 2:



Possibly the above alteration to bar 24 was introduced by Chopin—misled by the lack of a full notation in bar 26—in the belief that bars 24-25 are the first two bars of a four-bar clause, i. e. 25-26.

Stage 3:



Chopin relinquished the idea to raise to $d\sharp^1$ the top note on the fourth quaver in bars 24-26.

The basic conclusion from the above reconstruction is that the corrections made by Chopin in bars 24-25 (stages 2 and 3) were probably intended for bars 25-26; this does not impact on the sound of the latter but it proves wrong the version of bar 24 which figures in **A**. Chopin's intentions would probably be answered by the version described in the first of the above examples (with $c\sharp^1$). That is why we give it as an acceptable variant of this bar.

- p. 29 **Bar 30** R.H. In **A** (\rightarrow **FC,FE**) there are no chromatic signs before the last octave. The possibilities are two:
— Chopin was thinking of the octave d^1-d^2 and forgot to write h at the lower note of the octave:



— Chopin was thinking of the octave $d\sharp^1-d\sharp^2$ and forgot \sharp before the upper note of the octave:



An analysis of the notation of the third crotchet in bar 30 in **A**, including the deletion preceding the final octave in the bar, does not turn the balance to favour any of the above versions. In our opinion, the lower notes of the octaves were added at a later time, Chopin began writing \sharp before $d\sharp^1$ but realized it was not necessary and then mistakenly crossed out \sharp he had placed before at the upper note.

A stylistic analysis of bars 29-32 does clearly support the second version: bars 31-32 are basically a repetition of bars 29-30; in the one pair as well as in the other the harmonic progression leads to the E-minor chord (at the beginning of bar 31 and 33); thus it is much more probable that corresponding chords in both pairs are—apart from the first one—identical.

In **GE1** and **EE** there is h added which lowers $d\sharp^1$ to d^1 , in **GE2** \sharp has been placed before both notes in the discussed octave.

Bar 32 L.H. In **FE** (\rightarrow **EE**) the tie on $\text{f}\sharp$ has been omitted.

Bar 36 R.H. **A** (\rightarrow **FE** \rightarrow **EE**) gives the octave $g\sharp^1-g\sharp^2$ on the fifth quaver of the bar. **FC** (\rightarrow **GE**) also has there the crotchet $\text{f}\sharp^2$. This place was corrected by Chopin at least four times in **A**. Among the many deletions he left the version with $\text{f}\sharp^2$ (as in **FC**), then he scratched the note out, possibly so as not to add yet another confusing deletion. However, some of the ink did remain and this may have misled the copyist.

This is a typical example of Chopin's economy with sound. Traces of removing well-sounding but unnecessary notes can also be seen in other places in this prelude (e. g. the crossed-out crotchets $a\sharp^1$ on the second and third beat in bar 39).

- p. 30 **Bar 64** **FE** (\rightarrow **EE**) contains a continuous pedal held throughout the bar. We omit this marking, added by Fontana in his proof-reading of **FE1**.

Bar 70 LH The majority of later collected editions change the first octave from *E-e* to *G#-g#*. The deletions and corrections in **A** prove that Chopin did try out several versions (including the *G#-g#* octave) and wrote down *E-e* as the final one.

Bar 78-79 These bars are missing from **FC** (\rightarrow **GE**). This is a typical error ("haplography") possibly caused by their similarity to bars 76-77. Cf. commentary to the *Prelude in Bb* Op. 28 no. 21, bar 54.

13. Prelude in F sharp major, Op. 28 no. 13

Sources and editorial principles
See 1-24. *Preludes, Op. 28* on page 6.

p. 31 **Bar 1** According to sources, the time signature is 3/2. This is Chopin's mistake (the correct metre should be 6/4) probably related to a changed notation: Chopin began to write the *Prelude* in a 6/8 metre and with rhythmical values halved.

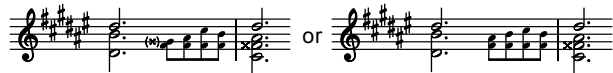
Bars 4 & 12 R.H. We have adopted a value of \circ in bar 4 and \circ in bar 12 for the $c\sharp^1$ which appears at the beginning of these bars in **A** (\rightarrow FE \rightarrow EE). In view of the original pedaling both forms are equal. In bar 4 **FC** has only p and **GE** has the erroneous value in both bars.

Bar 6 R.H. Instead of the rest which closes the bar, **FC** (\rightarrow GE) erroneously has dots to lengthen the second chord.

Bar 7 & 9 R.H. In **GE2** the grace-note in bar 7 is ♯ . In some of the later collected editions this non-authentic grace-note form also appears in bar 9.

p. 32 **Bar 22** R.H. Part of the later collected editions give the first $e\sharp^1$ in the lower voice replaced with a quaver rest.

Bar 31 R.H. In **FES** at the end of the bar there is an indistinct pencilled addition, possibly made by Chopin. It can be read as the following variant:



(when the added small notes are played as semiquavers—the first one simultaneously with the L.H. b —they create an analogy with the motifs in bars 22, 24, 25 & 37). Nonetheless, the above reading is somewhat hypothetical, that is why it is not cited along with the main text.

Bars 31-32 R.H. In **FE** (\rightarrow EE) there is no tie on the $d\sharp^2$.

Bar 32 R.H. The topmost note struck in the first chord is, in **A** (\rightarrow FC) and the first editions, b^1 . A comparison with the analogous bar 16 indicates Chopin's probable *lapsus calami*—an anticipation of the note to appear in the next chord (cf. *Ballades in G minor* Op. 23, bar 193 and *in F* Op. 38, bar 173). In **FES** Chopin altered the b^1 to $a\sharp^1$.

Bars 33-35 The pedal signs here have been placed by Chopin over the top stave, perhaps to underline the close connection between the pedaling and the sound of the long notes in the upper voice. A majority of later collected editions transfer the signs to their usual place under the bottom stave.

14. Prelude in E flat minor, Op. 28 no. 14

Sources and editorial principles
See 1-24. *Preludes, Op. 28* on page 6.

p. 33 **Bar 1** In **FES** the description **Allegro** has been struck out and replaced with **Largo**. This could have been a lesson-time correction of a working nature—an indication of the method of practice and not a change in the concept of the *Prelude*. The placing of this *Prelude* described as **Largo** between *Preludes in F#—Lento* and *in D#—Sostenuto* seems improbable considering the construction of the entire cycle. **FE** (\rightarrow EE) wrongly gives the time signature as c .

Bar 5 In **A** (\rightarrow FE, \rightarrow FC \rightarrow GE1) there are missing naturals before the ninth quaver to raise the $c\flat$ to c . Chopin corrected himself by adding the accidentals in **FES**.

Bar 8 There is an illegible dynamic sign on the fourth beat which in **FC** (\rightarrow GE) has been taken to read \rightrightarrows and in **FE** (\rightarrow EE) \leftarrow .

Bar 14 Most of the later collected editions arbitrarily added flats in front of the eighth quaver of the bar raising the $e\flat$ to $e\flat$. Some editions also change the notation of the fourth and sixth quaver from $e\flat$ to d . Cf. similar adulterations in the finale of the *Sonata in B# minor* Op. 35, bars 35-37.

15. Prelude in D flat major, Op. 28 no. 15

Sources and editorial principles
See 1-24. *Preludes, Op. 28* on page 6.

p. 34 **Bars 3, 7, 22 & 78** L.H. Stems lengthening the sound of the $a\flat$ on the second and sixth quaver of the bar can be found in **A** in bar 3 (both) and bar 7 (the first). It certainly could not have been Chopin's intent to perform these details in different ways, and so we give a unified notation based on bar 3 which has been recorded the most precisely.

Bar 4 RH. The 7 notes closing the bar are given in **EE** as semi-quavers. The seemingly incorrect notation of the original was most possibly meant by Chopin to suggest that the group is played calmly and slightly slower. Cf. bar 79 of the same *Prelude*, and also *Prelude in F minor* Op. 28 no. 18, bar 12, and *Nocturnes* Op. 9: *in B# minor* no. 1, bar 73 and *in E#* no. 2, bar 16.

Bar 12 L.H. On the third quaver in **A** (\rightarrow FC \rightarrow GE1, \rightarrow FE) there is no \flat to lower the c^1 to $c\flat^1$. Chopin added it in **FED** and **FES**.

Bar 17 L.H. The seventh quaver in **A** (\rightarrow FE \rightarrow EE) is just f^1 . Probably an erroneous reading of **A** resulted in the second $e\flat^1-f^1$ to appear in **FC** (\rightarrow GE). In such instances, Chopin's manuscripts are difficult to decipher, nonetheless in **A** this place is fairly clear—and obviously differs from the second $e\flat^1-f^1$ in bar 15.

Bar 19 L.H. The crotchet stem at $g\flat$ is found in **A** (\rightarrow FC) but has been omitted in the first editions. In **FES** and **FED** Chopin added stems to the $g\flat$ and $a\flat$ notes.

p. 35 **Bar 21-22** The \leftarrow sign has been added on in **FES**.

Bar 26 R.H. p was added by Chopin in **FED**.

Bar 33 & 49 L.H. The final crotchet in **A** (\rightarrow FC \rightarrow GE, \rightarrow FE \rightarrow EE) is an octave $C\sharp-c\sharp$. It is clear from **A** that Chopin most probably altered an earlier sixth $E-c\sharp$. However, in all the pupils' copies which Chopin annotated—**FED**, **FEJ** and **FES**—the octave was changed back to a sixth. We assume $E-c\sharp$ to be the final version adopted by Chopin, perhaps after many trials.

Bars 34 & 50 The taking over of e by the R.H. was marked on **FES**.

Bars 43-44 **FE** (\rightarrow EE) omits p in bar 43. In **FED** Chopin added pp on to the beginning of bar 44.

p. 36 **Bar 65** R.H. At the beginning of the bar in **A** (\rightarrow FC \rightarrow GE, \rightarrow FE) \sharp is erroneously placed in front of the $d\sharp^1$. The mistake was corrected in **FES**.

p. 37 **Bar 68** R.H. **GE** is missing the $d\sharp^1$ in the first chord.

Bar 70 R.H. The main text is derived from **A** (\rightarrow FC \rightarrow GE1). Chopin is not likely to have made a mistake in **A**, as proved by the following arguments:

— in **A** the lower note of the chord ($d\sharp^1$) is written very clearly,
 — the octave suspension $d\sharp^1-d\sharp^2$ in a natural way resolves to the sixth $e^1-c\sharp^2$,

— it is characteristic of Chopin to go from an octave to a bigger distance in his chords or figurations; cf. e. g. *Preludes in F# minor* no. 8, bar 6, in *E* no. 9, bar 2, in *C minor* no. 20, bar 2 & 6, and in *F* no. 23, bar 14.

The **FE** (\rightarrow **EE**, also in **GE2**) version given in the variant is probably the result of a mistake made by **FE** engraver, but the absence of corrections in the pupils' copies indicates that Chopin allowed it.

Bars 75-76 R.H. The slur given in parentheses was added in **FES**.

Bar 79 The mark which suggests how the run should be divided vis-à-vis the L.H. is contained in **FED**.

Bars 81-83 The moment of releasing the pedal taken at the beginning of bar 81 is not indicated in **A** (cf. *Performance Commentary*). In **FC** (\rightarrow **GE**) there are no pedal signs for these bars. In **FE** (\rightarrow **EE**) there is a star (possibly not authentic) to signify pedal release in bar 81.

16. Prelude in B flat minor, Op. 28 no. 16

Sources and editorial principles

See 1-24. *Preludes, Op. 28* on page 6.

p. 38 **Bar 1** **FE** (\rightarrow **EE**) erroneously gives the time signature as **C**.

Bar 2 R.H. In **GE**, the second and third semiquaver have been switched, so the beginning of the bar reads $f^2-e\flat^2-c^2-d\flat^2$.

Bar 7 R.H. There is no accidental to precede the thirteenth and fifteenth semiquaver in **A** (\rightarrow **FC,FE**). There could be doubts over \flat placed on the same level before the third semiquaver (a^2), whether Chopin intended a^3 or ab^3 , however more arguments are in favour of two ab^3 notes:

— precisely speaking, the script in **A** represents for this version, as \flat is not vital here;

— the absence of accidentals indicates that Chopin was hearing the same sound twice; a^3 as the fifteenth note in this melodic and harmonic context would have sounded awkward;

— in the analogous bar 23 there are two ab^3 notes.

EE contains the version which we have adopted (with \flat preceding the thirteenth note of the bar), while in **GE** there is \flat arbitrarily added in front of the fifteenth note of the bar, which suggests the progression $a^3-b^3-ab^3-g^3$ on the last beat.

p. 39 **Bars 12 & 13** R.H. Before the twelfth semiquaver in **A** (\rightarrow **FC,FE**) \flat is missing.

Bar 16 L.H. In **A** (\rightarrow **FE** \rightarrow **EE**), there is a three-note chord $a-c-g\flat^1$ on the second quaver. In **FC** there is an illegible c^1 (or there is no note at all), so that **GE** only gives the seventh $a-g\flat^1$.

Bar 17 L.H. **FC** (\rightarrow **GE**) has an erroneous $e\flat$ instead of f in the chord.

p. 40 **Bar 22 & 23** R.H. **FC** (\rightarrow **GE**) is missing \flat in front of the seventh semiquaver in bar 22 and the third one in bar 23.

Bar 23 R.H. Most of the later collected editions change the ninth semiquaver from f^3 to $f\flat^3$.

Bar 24 L.H. In **GE** on the second quaver there is an erroneous octave $g\flat-g\flat^1$. In some later collected editions this appears as $g\flat-c^1-g\flat^1$.

17. Prelude in A flat major, Op. 28 no. 17

Sources and editorial principles

See 1-24. *Preludes, Op. 28* on page 6.

We have tacitly replaced the obvious omissions of chromatic signs in **A**, which are more frequent in this *Prelude* than in the others (the omissions have been replaced to a greater or lesser degree in the remaining sources).

Additional sources:

AM Autograph of a fragment (bars 65-72) written in an album belonging to Ignaz Moscheles, and dated "Paris, 9 November 1839".

FCI Fontana's copy (Gesellschaft der Musikfreunde, Vienna) made from a lost autograph of an earlier version of the *Prelude*.

p. 42 **Bar 5** L.H. The chords in the second half of the bar in the **GE** are missing ab .

Bar 11 R.H. In some of the later collected editions the octave $db^1-d\flat^2$ on the fourth quaver features an additional and arbitrary g^1 note.

Bar 19 R.H. **A** (\rightarrow **FC** \rightarrow **GE**, \rightarrow **FE** \rightarrow **EE**) is missing \sharp before the topmost note of the chord at the fifth quaver. This must be a mistake of Chopin's, since:

— there is \sharp before the note in **FCI**,

— the chord contains a L.H. e^1 , which would give an unpleasant clash with f^1 (cf. bar 21, where Chopin avoids a similar clash by omitting $g\sharp^1$).

R.H. The last chord of **FC** (\rightarrow **GE**) is missing a d^1 .

p. 43 **Bars 37-42** In **FE2** (\rightarrow **EE**) pedaling has been added, most probably by Fontana, duplicating bars 5-10.

p. 44 **Bar 43** R.H. In **A** the arpeggio mark before the chord at the fourth quaver merged with \sharp before the grace-note $c\sharp^2$, to resemble a \flat . Hence both **FE** (\rightarrow **EE**) and **FC** (\rightarrow **GE**) omit the arpeggio, and also in **FE** (\rightarrow **EE**) the second grace-note is c^2 . Chopin corrected **FE** errors in pupils' copies: in **FES** he wrote \sharp in place of \flat , in **FED** he wrote in the arpeggio.

Bars 44-45 and 48-49 R.H. Most of the later collected editions tied b^1 in bars 44-45 and $c\sharp^2$ in bars 48-49. There are no ties in **A** (\rightarrow **FC** \rightarrow **GE**, \rightarrow **FE** \rightarrow **EE**) but they are back in **FCI**, however this is no argument that Chopin forgot about them in **A**, since the copy hands down the original concept of the prelude, which differs from the final one in respect of the R.H. on-the-beat strokes in bars 19-50. This is borne out—along with the ties in the bars discussed—by the following details in **FCI**: the tied $g\sharp^1$ in bar 19, $c\sharp^2$ in bars 20-21, b^1 in bar 43 (without the ornament), a missing f^1 at the beginning of bar 37 and the chord at the beginning of bar 47. That Chopin did not mistakenly omit the ties is also proved by all the three pupils' copies annotated by him (**FED**, **FES**, **FEJ**), where none appear.

Bar 53 The dynamic sign **p** or **pp** was written by Chopin in **FED**.

p. 45 **Bar 65** L.H. In **A** (\rightarrow **FE** \rightarrow **EE**) there is no $f\sharp$. This must certainly be an omission of Chopin's—it is the last bar on the page in **A**. The sound is accented by $f\sharp$ in **FCI** as well as in **AM**, and there is the testimony by Chopin's pupil, Mme Dubois (see quotes *about the Preludes...* preceding the musical text). $f\sharp$ is also featured by **FC** (\rightarrow **GE**).

Bar 69 In part of the later collected editions the chords from the third to the sixth quaver contain added notes $e\flat^1$ and db^1 analogously to bar 77.

Bars 86-87 R.H. In **EE** and most of the later collected editions the crotchets ab^1 have been lengthened with dots—contrary to **A** (\rightarrow **FC** \rightarrow **GE**, \rightarrow **FE**) and **FCI**.

18. Prelude in F minor, Op. 28 no. 18

Sources and editorial principles
See 1-24. *Preludes, Op. 28* on page 6.

p. 46 *Bar 1* FE (→EE) erroneously gives **c** as the time signature.

Bar 8 None of the sources has a chromatic sign before the penultimate note of the run (both hands). This is obviously an omission, as proved by similar melodic figures in bars 4-5 (*b*[♭] at the beginning of bar 5) and an octave higher in the bar discussed (*e*[♭]). Cf. the notes to *Prelude in C minor Op. 28 no. 20*, bar 3.

Bars 8 & 12 In **GE** the runs in these bars are noted in demisemi-quavers. Although in bar 12 this is formally grounded we preserve Chopin's notation in the belief that it was purposeful (the demisemi-quavers could have unnecessarily suggested the need to accelerate movement considerably). Cf. commentary to *Prelude in D[♭] Op. 28 no. 15*, bar 4.

p. 47 *Bar 17* R.H. **GE1** is missing *e*[♭] in the arpeggio passage.

19. Prelude in E flat major, Op. 28 no. 19

Sources and editorial principles
See 1-24. *Preludes, Op. 28* on page 6.

The pedaling, which is inaccurate in several places in **A**, we correct after more precisely recorded, analogous fragments.

p. 48 *Bars 1 & 33* R.H. The third quaver in **A** (→FC→**GE1**, →FE→**EE**) is *e*[♭]. In **GE2** this has been altered to *g*[♭], perhaps in analogy to bar 9. It does seem, however, that the difference between bars 1 & 9 was intended by Chopin, probably because of the relation to the preceding harmony (in bars 8-9) or its absence (bars 1 & 33). Cf. similar differentiation between bars 1 and 9 in the *Etude in E[♭]*, Op. 10 no. 11.

Bars 9-12 & 41-42 In **FE2** (→**EE**) pedaling has been added (one pedal on bars 9-12 and one on 41-42). This is most probably not authentic (and certainly wrong in bars 9-12).

Bar 12 L.H. In all sources the seventh quaver is *c*. However, there exist indications to suspect that Chopin wrote the note mistakenly instead of *e*[♭]:

- the parallel fifths between extreme voices *c-g*² and *cb-g[♭]2* at the beginning of the next bar,
- the lack of pedaling in bars 9-12 which suggests that Chopin was hearing the same harmony as in bars 1-4,
- the possibility of Chopin's *lapsus calami*, by which he anticipated the note which was to appear in the following bar (cf. commentary to *Prelude in F[♯] Op. 28 no. 13*, bar 32).

Nonetheless, the above statements do not push the balance decisively towards the composer's mistake:

- parallel fifths between extreme voices can indeed be found in sources (e. g. *Prelude in E minor Op. 28 no. 4*, bars 3-4, *Mazurka in B[♭] Op. 17 no. 1*, bars 14-16, *Scherzo in E Op. 54*, bars 55-56),
- several inaccurate and even erroneous pedal signs in this prelude in **A** suggest that Chopin could have written them down in haste.

That is why in the main text we give the *c* found in the sources.

p. 50 *Bar 49* L.H. The main text—eighth quaver *g*—is derived from **A** (→FC→**GE1**, →FE→**EE**). In the analogous bar 57 the corresponding note is *b*[♭]. In bars 49-66 Chopin changed the pitch of the central notes in the triplets twelve times in **A**, six times replacing *g* with *b*[♭] in the *E[♭]*-major chord. In this situation it is probable that the first bar of this section remained uncorrected by an oversight (it happened that Chopin missed a correction in several similar places—see e. g. the commentary to *Prelude in F[♯] minor Op. 28 no. 8*, bar 17). That is why we include the version with *b*[♭] as a variant.

Bars 53 & 61 L.H. The seventh and ninth quaver in **GE1** is erroneously *E*[♭] and *B*[♭].

p. 51 *Bar 69* In **FC** (→**GE**) as well as in **FE** (→**EE**) there is in mid-bar a star signifying pedal release (added by Fontana). It does not feature in **A**, which means that the pedal depressed in bar 68 should be held through to the end of the prelude. Both the sound effect (pedal held) and notation (no ***) are typical for Chopin and appear at the close of many of his compositions.

20. Prelude in C minor, Op. 28 no. 20

Sources and editorial principles
See 1-24. *Preludes, Op. 28* on page 6.

Additional sources:

AB Autograph presented to Alfred de Beauséne, dated "Paris, 30 January 1840" (Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris). It contains a first version of the work which does not have bars 9-12.

ACh Autograph contained in an album of Anna Chermetteff, dated "Paris, 20 May 1845" (V. I. Lenin Library, Moscow).

CGS Copy made by George Sand, possibly from another, lost autograph (private collection, photocopy in: K. Kobylańska, *Rękopisy utworów Chopina*, Cracow 1977).

p. 51 *Bar 3* R.H. Before the top note of the final chord in **A** (→FC→**GE**, →FE) and also in **AB** there is no *b*, thus it should be read *e*[♭]. However, Chopin wrote *b* in **ACh** and **FES**, and there is also *e*[♭] in **CGS**. It is thus all the more probable that the difference does not signify doubts or a change of concept on the part of Chopin in respect of this detail, but that it is an omission. Similar omissions of accidentals, which restore the pitch appropriate to the key are Chopin's most frequent errors—see notes to bars 8 & 12 of this *Prelude*, and also *Preludes in A op. 28 no. 7*, bar 13, and in *F minor Op. 28 no. 18*, bar 8.

Bars 5 & 9 L.H. In **ACh** the slur starts on the second crotchet.

Bars 8 & 12 The description *ritenuto* appears in **A** (→FC) over bar 8 (the word begins over the end of bar 7). Since bars 9-12 are marked in abbreviated fashion as a repetition of bars 5-8, *ritenuto* should also be applied in bar 12, although **FE** (→**EE**) does not record this. The process of shaping the final version of the prelude could lead to a further interpretation of **A** being adopted, with *ritenuto* only applied in bar 12; as from Chopin's annotation on **A** (see the quotes *about the Preludes...* preceding the musical text) it arises that bars 9-12 were added on as a result of somebody's suggestion to a piece he considered already finished. Probably in **A** Chopin was copying bars 1-8 from an earlier, 9-bar version of the prelude, with a slowing of tempo towards the end of the composition, and he missed the need to shift *ritenuto*. From the aesthetic point of view, slowing tempo only in bar 8 or twice in a composition this short seems unfounded. In **AB** and **ACh** the description is missing. In **GE** it appears only in bars 11-12.

Bar 8 (12) R.H. In **AB** the *g* notes in the final two chords are tied. This autograph does not have bars 9-12 thus it is not clear whether in the full version of the work the tie should figure in bar 8, or 12, or in both.

Bars 8 & 12 R.H. In **A** (→FC,**FE**) there is *h* missing before the semiquaver to restore *d*[♯]. Chopin added the sign in **FES**, it also appears in **AB** and **ACh**.

Bar 12 *f* was added by Chopin in **FED**.

Bar 13 *ff* appears in **AB**.

21. Prelude in B flat major, Op. 28 no. 21

Sources and editorial principles
See 1-24. *Preludes, Op. 28* on page 6.

p. 52 **Bar 4** In **A** the minim g^1 was initially to continue through the entire bar. The prolonging dot was then deleted by Chopin, probably because of the eb^1 to be played by the R.H. on the last quaver of the bar (this is confirmed by the fingering marked on **FES** and **FEJ**). The lack of a rest to complement the R.H.'s rhythm may have provoked the erroneous notation of **FC** (\rightarrow **GE**), where this eb^1 , played on the fifth quaver of the bar, closes the R.H. phrase as a crotchet.

Bar 6 L.H. Sources give the fourth quaver without \flat before the top note.

Bar 23 R.H. We give the version from **A** (\rightarrow **FC**, \rightarrow **FE** \rightarrow **EE**) which does not arouse any doubts. **GE1** is missing ab^2 in the grace-note and first crotchet. **GE2** replaces grace-note cb^2 - cb^3 with db^2 - db^3 . Some of the later collected editions have arbitrarily adopted the version from bar 31.

Bars 23 & 31 R.H. **A** (\rightarrow **FC** \rightarrow **GE1**, \rightarrow **FE**) is missing \flat lowering a^2 to ab^2 .

p. 53 **Bar 41** R.H. In some of the later collected editions the sixth gb^2 - eb^3 has an arbitrarily added a^2 .

Bars 45 & 47 L.H. In **FES** the 3 final quavers of bar 47 have an added upwards beam. This probably means that they are taken over by the R.H., which we also note in the analogous bar 45.

p. 54 **Bar 50** L.H. **GE** gives an erroneous octave A_1 - A on the third beat.

Bars 50-52 R.H. In **GE2** the minims g - g^1 in bars 50 and 52, and also f - bb - f^1 in bar 51 have been arbitrarily prolonged with dots.

Bar 54 In **FC** (\rightarrow **GE**) this bar, which is similar to the previous one, is missing ("haplography")—cf. notes to bars 78-79 of *Prelude in G# minor* Op. 28 no. 12.

Bar 55 In **GE1** the fourth quaver is erroneously given as $B\flat$.

22. Prelude in G minor, Op. 28 no. 22

Sources and editorial principles
See 1-24. *Preludes, Op. 28* on page 6.

p. 54 **Bar 1** **FC** (\rightarrow **GE1**) has no ties on a and c^1 . In **GE2** there is only a tie on c^1 .

Bars 1-12 & 34-38 L.H. The slurring in analogous phrases in **A** is inconsistent. There are differences both in the length of the slurs and in the places where they begin and end. Much of this can be explained by difficulties with space (caused by the texture itself or by crossings), and by adding the slurs at different times, sometimes hurriedly. It is not possible to ascertain Chopin's notation in a manner which would not arouse doubt, that is why we recreate the version from **A**, together with certain suggestions on its interpretation featured in the *Performance Commentary*.

Bar 8 R.H. In **A** (\rightarrow **FC** \rightarrow **GE**) the bar numbers seven quavers: $\uparrow \uparrow \uparrow \uparrow \uparrow \uparrow \uparrow$. Thus arises the question, what was the rhythmical value intended by Chopin for the chord: crotchet or quaver? As the three initial elements of the bar (\uparrow , chord, \uparrow) figure quite accurately over the three initial L.H. quavers, this is the more probable value. This is also the interpretation adopted in **FE** (\rightarrow **EE**).

p. 55 **Bars 22 & 30** In the manuscripts, bars 17-24 have been subtitled with letters which are then used as abbreviated references to denote bars 25-32 which are repetitions. In bar 22 (and 30) the letter "f" is erroneously printed in **GE1** as the dynamic sign f . In some of the later collected editions, this faulty marking shifted to bars 23 and 31.

Bars 35-38 R.H. In **A** (\rightarrow **FC** \rightarrow **GE1**, \rightarrow **FE1**) the inner notes of the chords are not tied. This does not seem to be Chopin's omission—it would have concerned as many as five ties, while the striking of entire chords here reflects the growing dynamic and emotional force of the fragment. The ties have been added in **FE2** (\rightarrow **EE**) and **GE2**. Since Chopin's participation in Fontana's proof-reading of **FE2** cannot be excluded, we give this version in a footnote.

Last bar Both the notation and the method of execution (cf. *Performance Commentary*) of the final chord arouse doubts. We give the notation after **A**; in **FE** (\rightarrow **EE**) the lower slur is missing, the grace-note appears as a small crotchet and the RH chord is preceded by the wavy line of the arpeggio. **FC** (\rightarrow **GE**) has the following notation:



23. Prelude in F major, Op. 28 no. 23

Sources and editorial principles
See 1-24. *Preludes, Op. 28* on page 6.

p. 56 **Bar 13** L.H. The second quaver is hardly legible in **FC**, that is why **GE** incorrectly took it for the second f^1 - g^1 .

Bar 14 R.H. In some of the later collected editions the sixth and fourteenth semiquaver has been arbitrarily altered from g^2 to b^2 .

p. 57 **Bars 15 & 16** L.H. We follow the notation of **A**. In remaining sources the record of rhythmical values is garbled.

Bar 16 L.H. **FC** (\rightarrow **GE1**) is missing the f^2 note.

Bar 21 L.H. **GE3** arbitrarily alters the eb^2 to c^2 .

24. Prelude in D minor, Op. 28 no. 24

Sources and editorial principles
See 1-24. *Preludes, Op. 28* on page 6.

p. 57 **Bars 5 & 23** R.H. **GE** gives an erroneous a^1 at the end of bar 5 and e^1 at the end of bar 23.

p. 58 **Bar 17** R.H. In **FC** (\rightarrow **GE**) f^3 is erroneously given as a crotchet.

p. 59 **Bar 31** L.H. **FC** (\rightarrow **GE**) has an incorrect D as the second semiquaver in both figures.

Bar 42 L.H. **FE** has an incorrect cb on the second semiquaver in both figures, and **EE**— eb . **GE** gives an erroneous eb as the third semiquaver in the second half of the bar; some of the later collected editions also changed gb into eb in the first half of the bar.

p. 60 **Bar 51** The dynamic sign in **A** is unclear: in **FC** (\rightarrow **GE**) it has been read as f and in **FE** (\rightarrow **EE**)— ff . Considering the subsequent *cresc.* and ff , we adopt f .

25. Prelude in C sharp minor, Op. 45

Sources

[A1], [A2]—lost autographs on which the first French and German editions were based (see quotes *about the Preludes...* preceding the musical text). Comparing these versions one can conclude with strong probability that the earlier manuscript [A1], completed with slightly less care, was used for the French edition. In later years it became an unvarying habit with Chopin to send the earliest of two or three manuscripts to the French publishers.

FE1 First, three-page French edition by M. Schlesinger (no publication number), Paris, 12 December 1841. The *Prelude* was part of the anthology *Keepsake des Pianistes* containing works by 12 composers. **FE1** is based on [A1] and—considering the large number of errors it has—it was not proof-read by Chopin.

FE2 Second, seven-page French edition (same company, M.S. 3518), imprinted not long after the first. It recreates—in some places inaccurately—the text of **FE1** and revises it, mainly as regards accidentals (over 50 replaced signs). However, the edition not only failed to correct the most glaring mistakes (e. g. in bars 43, 56 and 58) but added new ones (bars 18, 43, 48). It is impossible that Chopin proof-read the edition.

FE3 Later impression of **FE2** by G. Brandus et S. Dufour, Paris, after 1858. Musical text and publishing number is unchanged.

FE = **FE1**, **FE2** and **FE3**.

FEJ copy of **FE2** from a collection which belonged to Chopin's sister, Ludwika Jędrzejewicz (Chopin Society, Warsaw), containing several corrections of printing errors made by Chopin's hand.

GE First German edition, Pietro Mechetti q^m Carlo (P.M.N° 3594), Vienna, November 1841, based on [A2]. The edition was part of the album *Beethoven*, which featured 10 works by different composers. It is possible that Chopin proof-read the edition. There are copies which have different details on the cover.

EE First English edition by Wessel & Stapleton (W & S No. 5297), London, January 1842, based on **FE1**. Chopin had no part in it.

Editorial principles:

The basis is **GE**, in comparison to **FE**.

The pedal markings are not consistent between **GE** and **FE**. In those places, where the two seem to suggest a different execution we submit both versions; for easier notation and reading, **FE** pedaling is given without parentheses. We retouch some places, where the editions most probably misread the manuscripts.

p. 62 **Bar 1** Part of the later collected editions altered the time signature from ♩ to ♩ .

Bar 2 R.H. **GE** is missing the grace-note b^1 . This seems to be an omission made by the engraver, since the slightly bigger space between two crotchets can signify that a grace-note had been intended between them, but was forgotten in the engraving process. Cf. *Etude in F minor* Op. 10 no. 9, bar 64.

Bars 6-7 & 87-88 We feature one symbol ≡ for both these pairs of bars, as it is in most other analogous places. The notation in **FE1** as well as **GE** is inaccurate: in bars 6-7 **FE1** and **GE** in 87-88 have new symbols for each bar (possibly because of starting a new line), and **GE** does not have the symbol in bar 6.

Bar 8 & analog. R.H. In **GE** and **FE** the first octave in the second half of the bar is generally given erroneously as ♩ or ♩ . This must have been the result of a misunderstanding.

We lengthen the sixth or seventh quaver, although this is not consistently noted in the sources: **FE** (\rightarrow **EE**), in bar 8; **GE** in 8, 22, 50 & 87. We believe there is no doubt that the “harmonic legato” (sustaining the components of harmony with fingers) should be applied in all similar figures.

Bar 9 R.H. **FE** (\rightarrow **EE**) is missing a grace-note at the beginning of the bar.

Bar 9 & analog. R.H. The arpeggio can only be found in **GE** in bar 9. It would seem that Chopin thought it obvious in the further part of the prelude, that is why we give it in brackets in all analogous places. Arpeggio with a repetition of the bottom note is one of the most typical Chopin ornaments.

Bar 18 L.H. In **FE1** there are no chromatic signs in this bar (also in the RH). This incomplete version was incorrectly adjusted in **FE2** by adding \sharp before the first quaver. **GE** and **EE** have d (with naturals) throughout the bar. A relevant handwritten correction also appears in **FEJ**. The \flat before the penultimate quaver (G) is only found in **GE**.

Bars 18-19 R.H. The tie on a appears only in **GE**. In some of the later collected editions not only the a is sustained but also—arbitrarily— \sharp^1 and a^1 .

Bar 22 L.H. In **FE** (\rightarrow **EE**) there is $g\sharp^1$ and a^1 erroneously on the third and fourth quaver. **FEJ** contains a handwritten correction of this.

Bars 22 & 26 R.H. In the second half of the bar **FE** (\rightarrow **EE**) omits to mark the prolongation of the first and third quaver.

p. 63 **Bars 31-32** f in bar 32 is found in **GE** and in bar 31—in **FE** (\rightarrow **EE**). Since there are no manuscripts one cannot exclude the possibility that the difference resulted simply from an incorrect reading by engravers. We give priority to the **FE** version which we believe is more probable.

Bars 33-35 The only dynamic marking in these bars in **FE** (\rightarrow **EE**) is ≡ in bar 34.

Bar 36 **GE** features p here, possibly incorrect, as there is already a p in bar 35. That is why we adopt pp after **FE** (\rightarrow **EE**).

p. 64 **Bar 43** R.H. In **FE1** the second crotchet is erroneously $c^2-ab^2-cb^3$, “corrected” in **FE2** to $cb^2-ab^2-cb^3$. In **GE** and **EE** the error does not appear.

Bar 48 R.H. **FE** (\rightarrow **EE**) has the rhythm ♩ ♩ in the top voice. Most probably this version is not correct (possibly the rhythm originally also figured in bars 36, 40 and 44 in [A1] and Chopin changed it; in the discussed bar this correction could have been missed or inaccurately introduced—the latter could be supported by **FE1** where the final c^3 is placed after g^2 , contrary to the rhythmic values).

Bar 49 R.H. **GE** is missing a^2 in the chord. We adopt the **FE** (\rightarrow **EE**) version, as compared to the analogous bar 41. Also the obvious omission of a note in bar 54 in **GE** indicates it was highly possible that a part of the chord could have been overlooked here.

Bar 51 R.H. The arpeggio appears in **FE** (\rightarrow **EE**).

Bar 52 L.H. In some of the later collected editions the final note has been altered from a^1 to \sharp^1 .


Bar 54 **GE** does not have $g\sharp^1$ in the chord, an obvious mistake.


p. 65 **Bar 56** L.H. **FE** incorrectly gives B_1 as the first note.

Bar 58 R.H. In the first chord **FE** (\rightarrow **EE**) erroneously gives db^1 and db^2 instead of d^1 and d^2 . Chopin corrected this in **FEJ**.

Bars 62-63 The slurring of the main text is derived from **GE**, and that in the footnote—from **FE** (→**EE**).

Bars 67 & 71 R.H. The main text recreates **GE** and the variants—**FE** (→**EE**). Chopin could have wavered between these versions:

—  reflects the motifs as they previously appeared,

—  prepares the rhythm of bar 75 and in a way announces the transition to the end passage.

p. 66 **Bars 77-78** In **FE** (→**EE**) *ritenuto* figures in the second half of bar 77.

Bar 78 *f* appears only in **GE**.

Bar 79 Most of the later collected editions arbitrarily added the bar-line before the *Cadenza*.

Cadenza In **FE** (→**EE**) it has been printed using notes of a normal size and without the annotation *a piacere*. Cf. similar instances of erroneous reading of manuscripts in the *Mazurka in C*, Op. 24 no. 2, bars 70-88 or the *Scherzo in B♭ minor*, Op. 31, bars 281-284.

FE2 is missing the description *dimin.*

Bars 90-91 **GE** is missing the slur over the chords.

Jan Ekier
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