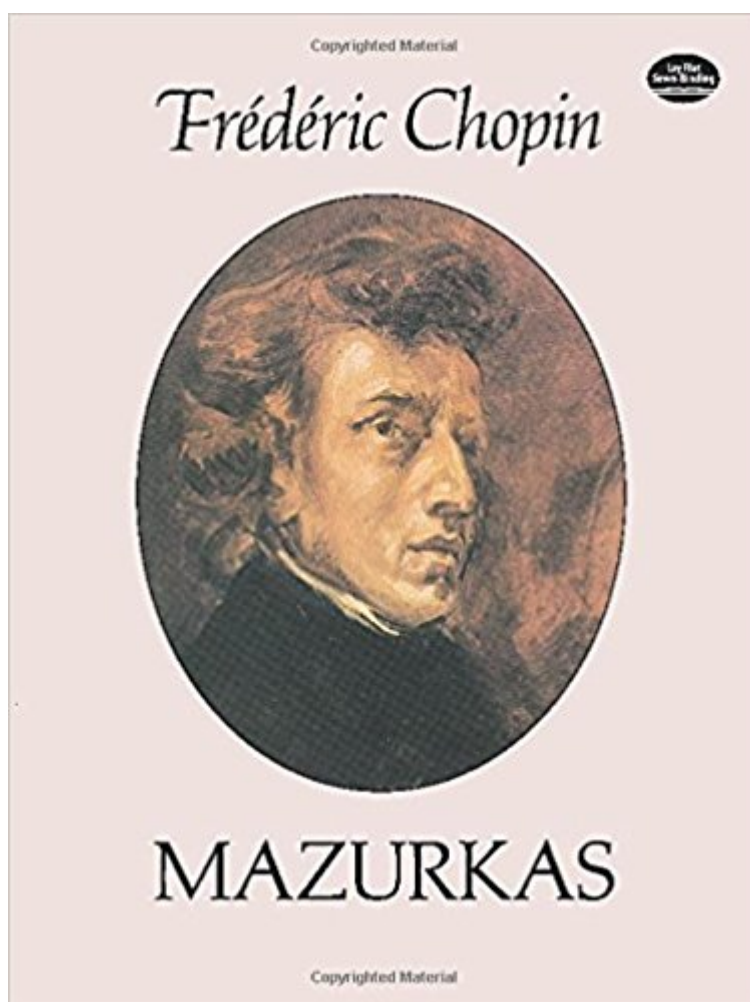


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Mazurkas (Dover Music For Piano)



Synopsis

Among the best-loved and most performed of Chopin's piano compositions are his mazurkas. This volume includes 51 works "remarkable for their wide emotional appeal, advanced chromatic techniques and pianistic devices, and ranging in difficulty from relatively easy, for advanced beginnings, to quite challenging, for the accomplished pianist. Edited by Carl Mikuli, a pupil of Chopin, the works in this inexpensive and attractive volume extend from the radiant joyfulness of the Mazurka in B-flat major, Op. 7, No. 1, to the aching sadness of the Mazurka in A minor, Op. 17, No. 4, and from the brevity of the Mazurka in E-flat minor, Op. 6, No. 4, to the breadth of the C-sharp minor Mazurka, Op. 50, No. 3. Pianists and music lovers will welcome this attractive, sturdy volume reproduced directly from the authoritative Kistner edition. It comprises a treasury of Chopin's most characteristic and appealing works in one convenient, inexpensive source.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This book is based on FR. Kistner Leipzig edition. Editor is Chopin's pupil Carl Mikuli foreword dated 1879, 30 years after chopin's death. There are many other editions of Mazurkas which I personally prefer to this available but I rate this book as a important reference to learn what the composer was intended. The editor Carl Mikuli was Chopin's piano pupil and many times he witnessed the performance of composer himself which were only to those of close to him. (Chopin did only a handful of public concerts and recitals in his life) However, intimate accounts of how his

(Chopin) fingers were shaped during the passages could only be used as a sentimental knowledge which has little use for today's performance standard. Nonetheless, we could keep in mind that what composer himself tried to express and teach his students his music as a great way to express our feeling through these beautiful works. Many Mazurkas have only a few pages and many could be played by beginning students. There are discussions of how the Mazurkas should be played, outside this book but Mikuli himself did not address this matter. (Where should the Mazurka's accents have to be placed--and there is an account of Chopin and Meyerbeer arguing reported by other pupil von Lenz who was taking lessons of Mazurka.) Convenient package of 1 book with this inexpensive price, with the cover portrait by Eugene Delacroix, also Chopin's close friend is a great buy for the piano students of all levels.

A standard beautiful Dover edition, I don't understand what some previous commentators are referring to. I also have the more "authentic" Paderewski edition, but Mikuli's is more interesting to me, as he was not only Chopin's prominent student, but a great teacher for coming generations of great artists, like Rosenthal and Katchalski, whose playing we may hear today, also in Youtube. The text is very rich with beautiful suggestions of fingerings, many of them not of the style to which we have been accustomed in later traditions. How exciting that this master, who was watching Chopin and consulting him, has provided us with such a treasure of advice. Now I have also ordered his edition of the Nocturnes and Walzes, some of which I can play, and also the Etudes, which I can not play, but I am eager to study Mikuli's suggestions and compare his edition to the urtexts, which I have.

This edition of Chopin's Mazurkas is far from definitive, but for the piano student and music lover, it is a great value. To get the composer's entire output of Mazurkas at this price is remarkable. Recommended!

I bought this because I wanted to have all the Chopin's mazurkas in one book. I didn't check the size of the book (really small), so it is difficult for me reading the scores while I play piano. Also, because this book is a reprint of another one, some musical notes are missing.

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