

Beethoven: Pathetique 3rd Movement Rondo

A) Difficulty Level:

Enter bar numbers for the following:

_____ The easiest phrase *Sight-readable in tempo* 106-111
A moderate phrase *Sight-readable close to tempo* 1-8 A difficult
phrase *Sight-readable, half tempo* 18-24 A very difficult phrase
Hands-separately, slow tempo 127-133 I need more than two weeks
Hands-separately note-for-note 178-200 Impossible *Score modification*
required

B) Sonata Attributes:

Enter bar numbers for the following:

205-207	The quietest phrase
184	The loudest phrase
134-141	Phrase with the most notes
205-207	Phrase with the least notes
158-166	Phrase with the most articulation markings
200-210	Phrase with the most dynamic markings
184	Phrase with the fastest harmonic rhythm
106-113	Phrase with the slowest harmonic rhythm
133-141	Transition with most complex harmonies/chromatics
76	Phrase with most ornamentation
134-141	Phrase with the thickest texture
200-210	Phrase with the thinnest texture

TALLY:

Count the total number of each category of indication from the score:

C) Dynamics:

1	<i>pianissimo (pp) or softer</i>
13	<i>piano (p)</i>
	<i>mezzo piano (mp)</i>
	<i>mezzo forte (mf)</i>

3	<i>forte (f)</i>
5	<i>fortissimo or louder (ff, fff)</i>
4	<i>crescendo (written as a word)</i>
2	<i>crescendo (written as a hairpin)</i>
	<i>subito</i>
	<i>diminuendo (written as a word)</i>
2	<i>diminuendo (written as a hairpin)</i>
2	<i>forte-piano (fp)</i>
2 decrescendo	

D) Sound Quality/Timing:

	<i>tempo modifier (con espressione, appassionato, etc)</i>
2	<i>dolce</i>
	<i>espressivo</i>
	<i>cantabile</i>
	<i>mezza voce</i>
	<i>sotto voce</i>
	<i>smorzando</i>
	<i>sempre + another term</i>
	<i>poco + another term</i>
	<i>ritenente</i>
	<i>fermata</i>
	<i>accelerando</i>
	<i>ritardando</i>
	<i>rallentando</i>
	<i>poco a poco (gradually)</i>

E) Articulation:

100	<i>marcato ^</i>
54	<i>staccato .</i>
	<i>staccatissimo (wedges/daggers)</i>
	<i>accent ></i>
	<i>sforzando sfz</i>
13	<i>sforzato sf</i>
	<i>tenuto —</i>
23	<i>portato (slur over staccato)</i>
RH: 153 LH: 87	<i>legato (slurs)</i>
	<i>legatissimo (written as a word)</i>
17	<i>ties/ligatures (connecting notes over bar line/syncopation)</i>

F) Ornaments:

26

_____ total number of ornaments written in small notes _____
total number of passages that are written-out ornaments _____ 2 trills _____ name of
most frequently used ornament in first movement _____ name of most
frequently used ornament in second movement _____ grace notes _____ name of most
frequently used ornament in third movement _____

General Observations:

This is the third movement of the Pathétique. It's in sonata rondo form ABACABA.

I was struck by how few dynamic and tempo markings there actually are. But there are a LOT of articulation markings. There is a lightness to this movement. Most of it is marked 'p'.

This tells me the characterization comes from the phrase markings and articulation markings. There are so many slurs. Beethoven also differentiates between the staccato, marcato and portato articulations very carefully. There are 13 'sf' markings but only 5 places marked fortissimo. There are literally only two expressive markings - both 'dolce' - so these will be key moments to bring out in the piece.