

## Chopin, Frédéric (1810-1849)



### Works by Chopin. Facsimile Edition Dzieła Chopina. Wydanie faksymilowe

A facsimile edition of all of Fryderyk Chopin's music manuscripts

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Warsaw, 2005 -

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On October 17, 2005 the launch of a new series—*Works by Chopin. Facsimile Edition* took place. This international academic publishing project, undertaken by The Fryderyk Chopin Institute and the Publishing House "Bernardinum", aims to publish all the available manuscripts of works by Fryderyk Chopin in facsimile form, with commentaries by leading Chopin scholars. *Works by Chopin. Facsimile Edition* is the first of its kind on such a grand scale. Participating in this venture are representatives from Poland, France, the UK, Switzerland, Germany, Spain, USA and Japan in addition to libraries and universities where Chopin manuscripts are held, music publishers and Chopin societies.

The purpose of this edition is to preserve and disseminate the Fryderyk Chopin legacy in Poland and across the world by reproducing and safeguarding the contents of his manuscripts scattered around the world, make the original Chopin texts accessible for research purposes, enable performance practice to approach as near as possible the composer's intentions, verify knowledge regarding sources, and to disseminate this knowledge via up-to-date commentaries furnished in six languages: Polish, English, French, German, Spanish and Japanese.

A note about the Chopin sources

Scholars have long acknowledged the conundrum of the Chopin sources. Although similar to the problems that plague source studies of other composers, i.e., coming to terms with the varying ways in which a work is drafted, prepared for publication, and subsequently revised for successive impressions, the Chopin sources are somewhat different. For example, inadequate or confusing copyright protection among the main European countries during the 19th century compelled Chopin to employ different publishers in France, Germany and England, resulting in three "first editions" of most of the pieces, each being unique as a result of idiosyncratic editorial methods and subsequent compositional revisions. As the *Chopin Variorum Edition* under the direction of John Rink has summed it up:

"Chopin provided his publishers with various types of *Stichvorlage*, including autographs, annotated proofsheets, and scribal copies. In each case, the music continually evolved as autograph or scribal copies were prepared or proofsheets corrected, resulting in significant differences between the multiple first editions. Further differences arose from the interventions of house editors and proof-readers in successive impressions which until recently have simply been regarded as "first editions"—an error of judgment that has undermined much Chopin scholarship. Only now is the importance of these differences fully realized—likewise that of the first editions as a whole, which constitute one of the principal sources of knowledge of Chopin's music."

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n.b. Facsimiles with 2009-2010 imprint were first released  
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