



"Marche Militaire"

Franz Schubert
Born: January 31, 1797
Died: November 19, 1828

Franz Schubert was born in Vienna, Austria to a very musical family. Franz learned to play several instruments and sang very well. When he was 10, he was accepted at the Imperial and Royal Seminary, which trained boys for the Court Chapel Choir. That choir still exists today as the Vienna Boys' Choir.

Schubert's father was a schoolmaster and expected his son to become a teacher in his school. But Franz didn't last long at that job—he was much more interested in writing music than paying attention to a classroom full of kids.

Schubert's first symphonies were written for his school orchestra and for friends of the family who used to get together to play. When Schubert gave up teaching, he moved in with his friends who encouraged him to compose. He spent the rest of his short life doing what made him happy...writing music.

In addition to symphonies, Schubert also wrote piano, choral and chamber music. His *Marche Militaire* is an example of music he wrote for piano four hands, or music composed for two people at one keyboard. However, he is probably most famous for composing over 600 songs. Schubert was a master at setting poetry to music and bringing the story to life.



Franz Schubert



The march begins as the second player (secondo) plays the opening rhythm. The first player (primo) begins the melody 6 measures later. Can you hear the two parts? Both parts are played on the same piano. This section repeats.

The B section begins with strong eighth notes marching back and forth. Listen for the changes in dynamics. The A music then returns after which the entire section is repeated.



The C section begins with soft quarter notes from the primo player against bouncing eighth notes in the secondo part. Listen for the rolling melody as it tumbles down and back up again. This section repeats.

The D section is a bit tricky, because the rhythm is similar to the C section. However, this music is in a minor key and the notes will sound different. Listen closely. This section repeats.

We now return to the beginning of the piece. The piano plays A B A once again, without repeats, and our march is ended.



Listen Up!

Answer the questions below after you have listened to *Marche Militaire*. If you need the definition of the underlined words, refer to the chart below.

1. Can you easily walk to the tempo of this music?
2. Do any of the sections repeat?
3. Does the music change dynamics?
4. Is there a rhythmic theme that returns throughout the music?
5. Can one piano player play this piece of music alone?

The Key Facts



A keyboard's white and black keys are 1/2 step in pitch apart. The names of the notes follow the musical alphabet pattern. You can always find the key "C" to the immediate left of pairs of black keys. The keys that have the same names also have the same pitch, or speed of vibration. Those notes with a faster vibration, or higher pitch, will be to the right of the keyboard. Those with a slower vibration, or lower pitch, will be to the left of the keyboard.

Musical ABCs

A B C D E F G

All of music is written with the first seven letters of the alphabet. After you reach G, you begin again with A.

How many words can you come up with using the musical ABCs?

Bag

Egg

Cabbage

| | | |
|-------|-------|-------|
| _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ |

Here's your chance to be creative after listening to *Marche Militaire*.

Draw a picture or write your own story about the music and send it to:

Classics for Kids
c/o WGUC
1223 Central Parkway
Cincinnati, OH 45214

Or E-mail us at
mail@classicsforkids.com



Definitions

Dynamics - The degree of loudness or softness in music.

Piano Four Hands - Music composed for two people at one keyboard.

Repeat - To do or perform again.

Tempo - The speed of a piece of music.

Theme - A complete musical idea, often used as the subject for variations.