

II. Allegretto.^{a)} (♩. = 56.)

The musical score is written for piano and consists of five systems. Each system contains a treble and bass staff. The key signature has two flats (B-flat major), and the time signature is 3/4. The tempo is marked 'Allegretto' with a quarter note equal to 56 beats per minute. The score includes various dynamics such as *p* (piano), *pp* (pianissimo), *mf* (mezzo-forte), *cresc.* (crescendo), *sf* (sforzando), *f* (forte), *fp* (fortissimo), *p* (piano), and *sf* (sforzando). There are also markings for *espr.* (espressivo) and *dolce.* (dolce). Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1-5 above or below notes. Articulations like staccato are shown above notes in the right hand.

a) *Allegretto* means *poco allegro*. The movement should not exceed a moderate minuet-tempo, in this point precisely resembling the analogous movements in the Sonatas Op. 2, Nos 1 and 2; Op. 10, No 2; Op. 14, No 1, not to speak of later ones. This anti-Scherzo is, indeed, a lyrical Intermezzo between two tragical Nocturnes. Franz Liszt's clever *mot*: "*Une fleur entre deux abîmes*" (a flower betwixt two abysses) gives the key to the true interpretation.

b) Special care must be bestowed on the twofold task of the right hand — a songful leading of the melody, with a light and graceful *staccato* in the second part, which latter combines with the left-hand part as a third factor.

a)

pp *fp* *fp*

cresc. *p* *pp* *dolce.* *p*

p *mf* *p* *mf* *p*

espress. *cresc.* *sf* *p* *p*

pp *dolce.* *p* *cresc.* *sf* *riten.* *a tempo.* *pp* *il seguente. b)*

- a) A very common amateurish error – which, we regret to say, is countenanced here and in other places by Herr Lebert's otherwise so meritorious edition – is the notion that a closer *legato* is obtainable, in descending octave-passages, by a change of fingers. Precisely the opposite effect is produced by the following manipulation: ; the higher part, the one most strongly affecting the ear, suffers a most sensible interruption. A slight muscular stretching of the palm of the hand, which is no harder to learn than shifting on a stringed instrument, will amply fulfil all requirements.
- b) An undelayed attack (of the Finale) is quite as indispensable to the general effect as in the two reprises preceding.