Les Preludes

Transposition Inquisition No. 96

Liszt/Brown

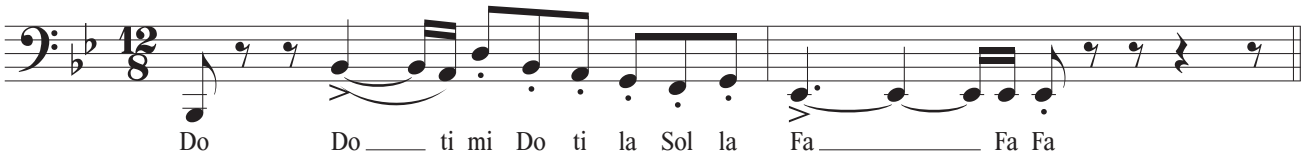
arr. Martorano

About the Composer:

"Franz Liszt was a Hungarian composer, virtuoso pianist, conductor, music teacher, arranger, and organist of the Romantic era. He is widely regarded as one of the greatest pianists of all time. He was also a writer, philanthropist, Hungarian nationalist, and Franciscan tertiary.

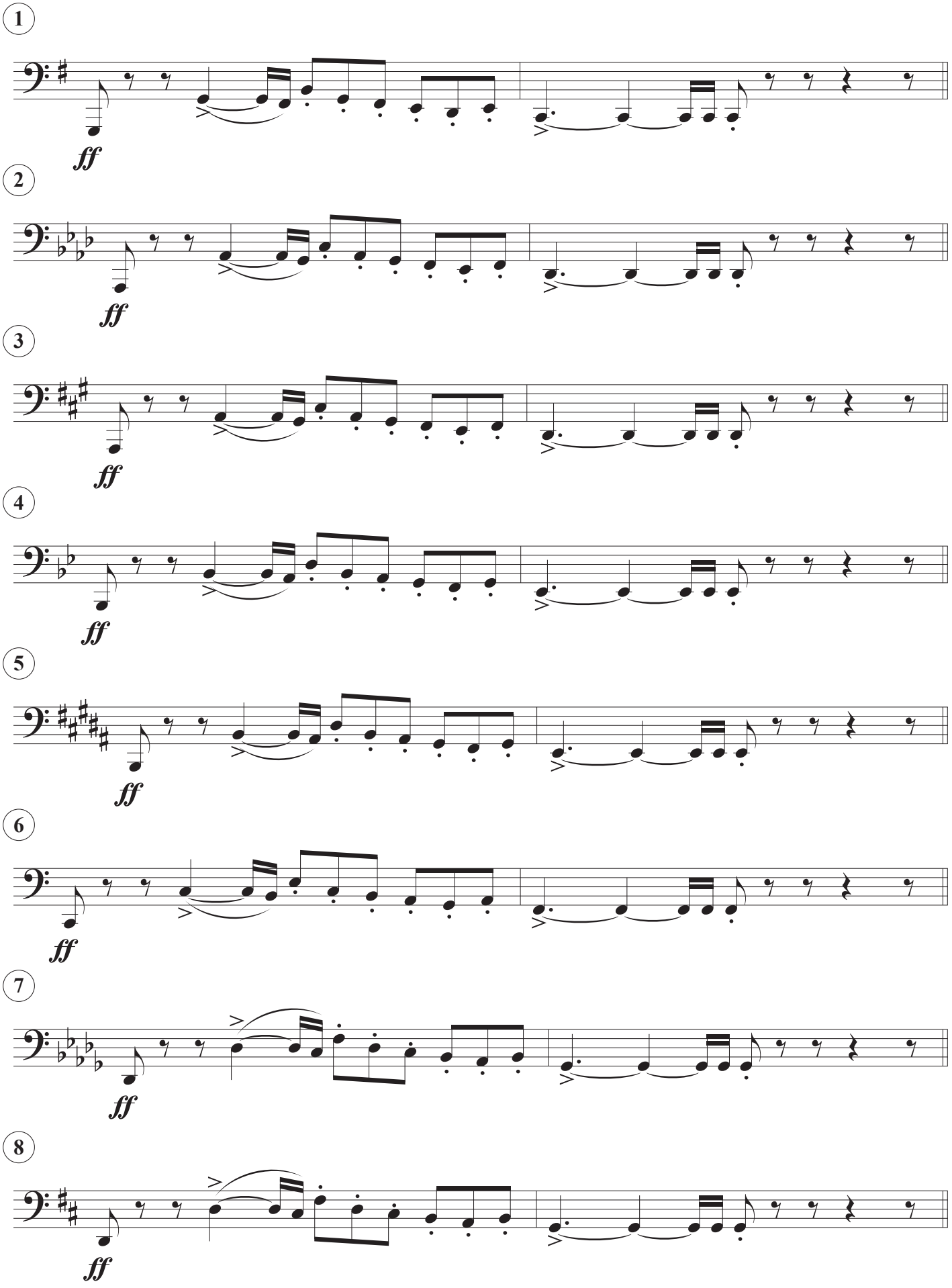
Liszt gained renown in Europe during the early nineteenth century for his prodigious virtuosic skill as a pianist. He was a friend, musical promoter and benefactor to many composers of his time, including Frédéric Chopin, Charles-Valentin Alkan, Richard Wagner, Hector Berlioz, Robert Schumann, Clara Schumann, Camille Saint-Saëns, Edvard Grieg, Ole Bull, Joachim Raff, Mikhail Glinka, and Alexander Borodin.

A prolific composer, Liszt was one of the most prominent representatives of the New German School. He left behind an extensive and diverse body of work that influenced his forward-looking contemporaries and anticipated 20th-century ideas and trends. Among Liszt's musical contributions were the symphonic poem, developing thematic transformation as part of his experiments in musical form, and radical innovations in harmony."



About the Composition:

"Les Preludes is perhaps the most well-known of Liszt's symphonic poems, however he originally began composing the work in 1844 as an overture for a choral piece called "The Four Elements" (Earth, Winds, Oceans, Stars), which itself was based on the poems by the French poet, Joseph Autran. Nearly ten years later, the composer would revise the work, presenting it as a symphonic poem with a new title. During revisions, Liszt happened on a poem by Alphonse de Lamartine that seemed to parallel the ideas and feelings the composer was trying to evoke in his work. So it was from this poem that the new title came along with the four contrasting sections of love, the storm, pastoral life, and war.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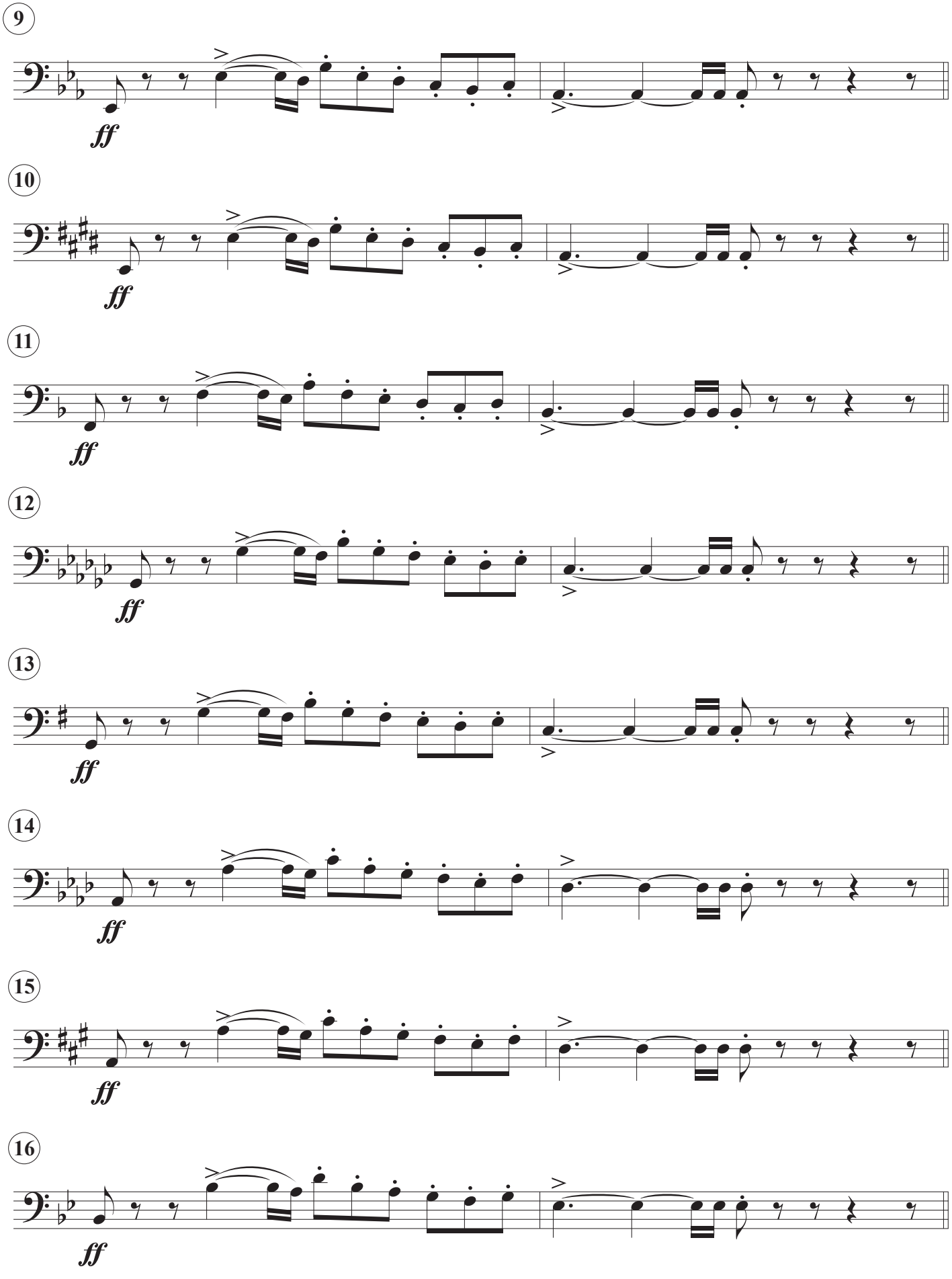
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