

**Piece: Nocturne in C sharp minor**

**Composer: Fryderyk Chopin**

The Nocturne No. 20 in C-sharp minor, Op. posth., KK Iva, No.16 is a solo piano piece composed by Frédéric Chopin in 1830 and published in 1870.

Chopin dedicated this work to his older sister, Ludwika Chopin, with the statement: "To my sister Ludwika as an exercise before beginning the study of my second Concerto". First published 26 years after the composer's death, the piece is usually referred to as *Lento con gran espressione*, from its tempo marking. It is sometimes also called *Reminiscence*.

The title 'Nocturne' is a work of art dealing with evening or night. It was first used by the Irish pianist-composer John Field in the early-19<sup>th</sup> century to describe a lyrical, song-like piano piece, with pedalled broken chordal accompaniment, that evokes a dreamy night time atmosphere. Chopin did not invent the nocturne, he popularized and expanded on it. He wrote 21 pieces of nocturne for solo piano between 1827 and 1846.

**Piece: Valse (Waltz)**

**Composer: Maurice Ravel**

The Valses nobles et sentimentales is a suite of waltzes composed by Maurice Ravel. The piano version was published in 1911, and an orchestral version was published in 1912.

Ravel was intrigued by the waltz genre. By 1906 he had started composing what later would become La valse, in which he tried to epitomise everything this popular genre encompassed. In 1911, prior to the 1919 publication of La valse, he published the piano version of his suite of eight Valses nobles et sentimentales.

He was influenced by Liszt and Chabrier, whose virtuoso piano writing he was to surpass (though no great pianist himself) in some of his larger works. He was a master of subtle, brilliant orchestration, with a highly individual harmonic idiom.