

## F. Chopin's Nocturne in B-flat minor, Op. 9, No. 1

At once graceful and discontent, the piece constantly ebbs and swells, unwilling to settle for fixed boundaries but rather constantly extending and exploring its space. Its attention to beginnings and endings is not only evident in the simple ternary form adopted, but also in the repetition of phrases in the second section, where each repetition serves to mirror - and conclude - its opening counterpart. Where the first section is enlivened with the colourful use of ornaments, the second section is curiously absent of them, creating a discreet and meek tone that is soon shucked off in favour of brighter and grander tones before returning to its original motif, now quietly confident. The initial key of Bb minor gives way to Bb minor in a Picardy third ending, creating a finally peaceful conclusion.

This performance boldly embraces the spectrum of emotions as explored in the piece, taking listeners from tumbling grace to bright intensity and back again.