

CÉSAR FRANCK

Chorale No. 3

in A minor, M. 40

*from
Three Chorales for Organ*

TRANSCRIBED
FOR SOLO PIANO

BY

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INTRODUCTION

“BEFORE I DIE, I am going to write some organ chorales, just as Bach did, but on quite a different plan”, declared Franck in 1889, and by the end of September the following year the *Trois Chorals* were completed, only a month or so before his death. Unlike Bach’s *Chorale Preludes* or Brahms’ similar swan-songs, these are more like three fantasies, although their construction is as skilful in its subtle use of cyclic form as anything Franck wrote. The A minor Chorale is the most pianistic of the three, even though to represent the appropriate textures and sounds of a large organ on the piano creates a veritable Etude in pedalling (all three of them) and tone control. One specific challenge is to suggest an imperceptible acoustical ambience, similar to a slight octahedral overhang, by not changing the pedal too cleanly with each new harmony, and by allowing figuration sometimes to sound a little blurred.

Franck’s original registration is quite specific in colour, particularly his love of reeds with their piercing timbre. It is interesting that at the moments of greatest melodic and harmonic sweetness in all three Chorales Franck asks for the most sour stops to be drawn. In the third Chorale, in the glorious central section, the left hand and pedals are gently painting a wash of harmonic colour with flutes and bourdon, whilst the endless melody on the Swell manual has to be etched with the acid of the combined oboe and trumpet stops. However, this is one of the peculiarities of Franck’s style - the *non troppo dolce* that appears quite often in the piano works - with its poignant, emotional tug between the austere and the sentimental: the ice-cold marble altar, but the burning candles and the sweet incense.

The transcription is dedicated to Eric Chadwick, who taught me organ at the Royal Northern College of Music when I was a student there.

STEPHEN HOUGH

A recording of this work is available on:
César Franck Piano Music: HYPERION CDA 66918

Chorale No. 3

in A minor, M.40

César Auguste Franck
(1822 - 1890)

Transcribed for piano by
Stephen Hough

Quasi allegro
non legato

Piano *molto f*

con ped.

3

Largamente

5

ff

Ped.

Tempo primo

8

molto f

10

poco dim.

12

cresc.

14

Largamente

ff

Ped. _____

Ped. _____ 1/2 _____

17

Più largamente

più ff

Ped. _____ 1/2 _____

Ped. _____

Tempo Primo

20

f

— 1/2 —

22

ff sostenuto

sempre con ped.

25

f

dim.

mp

rit.

Ped. Sost. ped.

30

mp

*non troppo dolce**

pp

mf

* (Swell with reeds)

36

pp *mf*

42

dim. *pp*

ossia:

47

non legato *p quasi lontano* *con ped.*

50

52 *poco largamente*

mf

Ped.

56

f

mp

61

f

mp

66

p

71

71

cresc.

*poco **f** espress.*

This system contains measures 71 through 75. The right hand features a series of chords and dyads, with a crescendo marking at measure 73. The left hand plays a continuous eighth-note accompaniment. A 'poco **f** espress.' marking appears at measure 74.

76

76

dim.

pp

This system contains measures 76 through 79. The right hand has a melodic line with a decrescendo marking at measure 76. The left hand continues with eighth-note accompaniment. A 'pp' (pianissimo) marking is present at measure 77.

80

80

p

This system contains measures 80 and 81. The right hand features a rapid sixteenth-note pattern. The left hand has a simple eighth-note accompaniment. A 'p' (piano) marking is at the beginning of measure 80.

82

82

mp

This system contains measures 82 through 85. The right hand continues with a sixteenth-note pattern. The left hand has a simple eighth-note accompaniment. An 'mp' (mezzo-piano) marking is at the beginning of measure 83.

84

cresc.

86

mf *dim.*

88

p *pp* *Ped.* $\frac{1}{2}$

90

p *Sost. ped.* *Ped.*

93 *poco rit.* *mf*

mp *cresc.* *poco f*

Sost. ped. Sost. ped.

97 *Adagio* *sempre legato* *mf*

ppp dolce espress. *sempre ppp*

Ped. — ¼ — ½ — ½ — *sempre con molto pedale* (retake notes silently)

100 *sempre ppp* *mf*

(½ ped.) Ped. — ½ —

102 *sempre ppp* *mf*

sempre pedale Ped.

104

molto espress.

mp

ppp

sost. ped. — — — — —



107

RH

LH

RH

LH

— — — — —

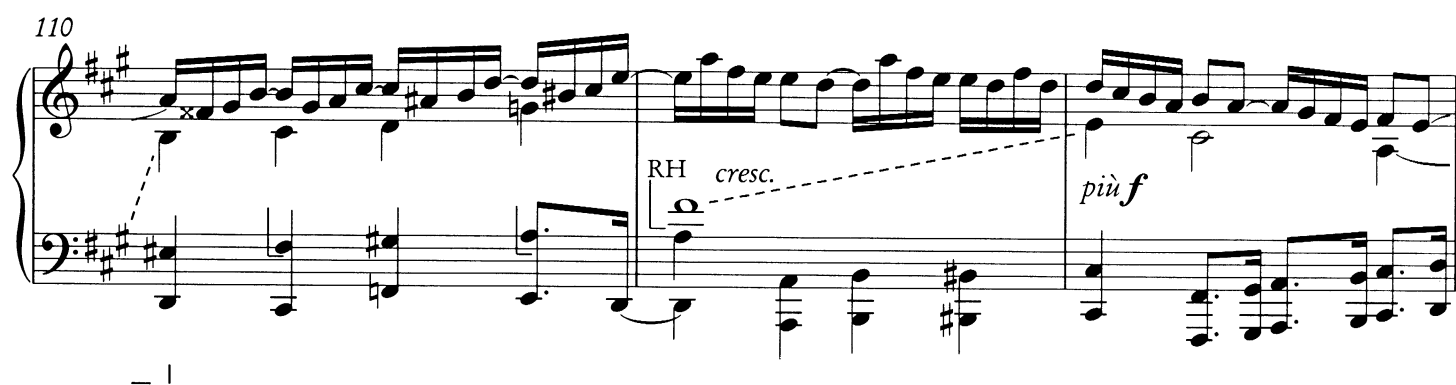


110

RH *cresc.*

più f

— |



113

dim.

p

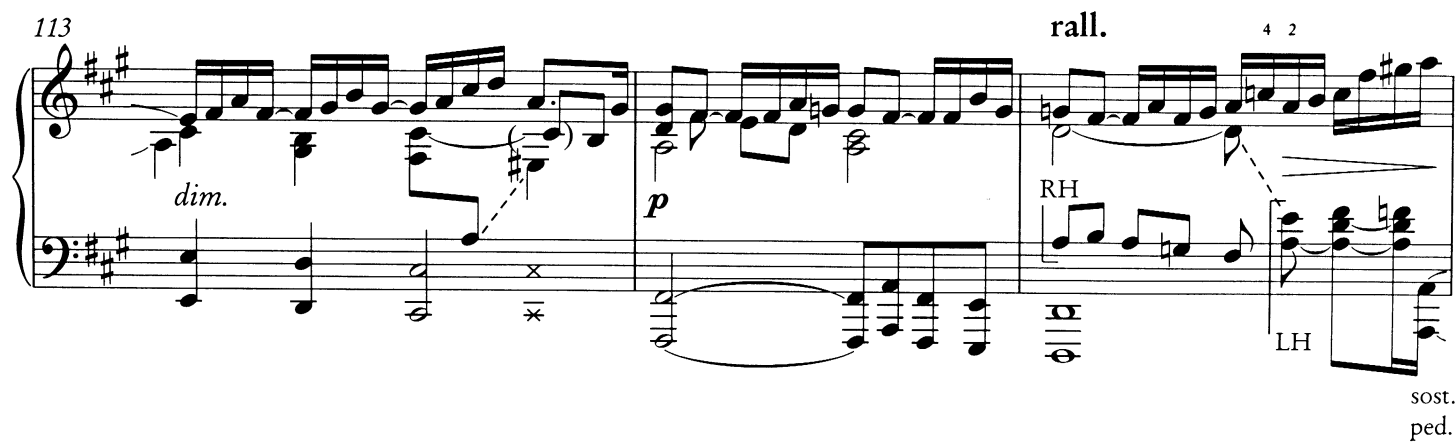
rall.

4 2

RH

LH

sost. ped.



116 *A tempo*

8va

LH pp

p

mp

119 *(8)* *loco*

p

122 *mf*

7

dolciss. pp

(poss. both hands 8ve lower until loco)

8va

125 *(8)* *p* *loco*

mf

sost. ped.

128

Musical score for measures 128-130. The score is written for piano with treble and bass staves. Measure 128 shows a series of eighth notes in both hands. Measure 129 continues the pattern. Measure 130 shows a change in the bass line. Labels 'RH' and 'LH' are present above the right and left hand staves respectively.

sempre con moto ma non agitato

130

Musical score for measures 130-132. The score is written for piano with treble and bass staves. Measure 130 shows a series of eighth notes in both hands. Measure 131 continues the pattern. Measure 132 shows a change in the bass line. Labels 'p', 'mf', 'cant.', 'LH', 'RH', and 'LH' are present above the right and left hand staves respectively.

133

Musical score for measures 133-135. The score is written for piano with treble and bass staves. Measure 133 shows a series of eighth notes in both hands. Measure 134 continues the pattern. Measure 135 shows a change in the bass line. Labels 'f', 'poco', and 'poco' are present above the right and left hand staves respectively.

sost. ped. —

135

mf cresc.

f (only)

8va

RH

LH

sempre con molto pedale

sost. ped. —

137 (8)

molto cresc.

RH

Ped.

139 (8)

ff poco pesante

ff

fff

RH

LH

141 *molto rit.*

fff tutti forza

$\frac{1}{2}$

144 *sempre rit.*

lunga

lunga depress silently

Ped. *gradually release* *sost. ped. (keep until bar 171)*

147 *Tempo 1* (♩ = ♩)

pp

pp

Keep an 1/8 pedal 'blur' throughout this section.

149

Measures 149 and 150. Measure 149 features a treble clef with a 4/2 time signature and a first ending bracket. The bass clef has a first ending bracket. The grand staff includes a sub-octave bass line with a first ending bracket. The key signature has one flat (B-flat).

151

Measures 151 and 152. Measure 151 features a treble clef with a 4/2 time signature and a first ending bracket. The bass clef has a first ending bracket. The grand staff includes a sub-octave bass line with a first ending bracket. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). A piano (*p*) dynamic marking is present in measure 151.

153

Measures 153 and 154. Measure 153 features a treble clef with a 4/2 time signature and a first ending bracket. The bass clef has a first ending bracket. The grand staff includes a sub-octave bass line with a first ending bracket. The key signature has one flat (B-flat).

155

pp

2 1 3 4 1 2

2 1

This system contains measures 155 and 156. The right hand features a melodic line with eighth and sixteenth notes, including fingerings 2, 1, 3, 4, 1, 2 in measure 155 and 2, 1 in measure 156. The left hand has a bass line with a long slur spanning both measures, marked *pp*. The grand staff includes a third line for the left hand.

157

8^{va}

p

sempre pp

This system contains measures 157 and 158. The right hand has a melodic line with a *p* dynamic in measure 157 and an 8^{va} (octave up) marking above measure 158. The left hand has a bass line with a long slur spanning both measures, marked *sempre pp*. The grand staff includes a third line for the left hand.

(8)

159

This system contains measures 159 and 160. The right hand has a melodic line with a *p* dynamic in measure 159 and an 8^{va} (octave up) marking above measure 160. The left hand has a bass line with a long slur spanning both measures, marked *sempre pp*. The grand staff includes a third line for the left hand.

(8)-----1

161

loco

mp

163

8va

p

(8)-----

165

(8)

167

loco

mf

169

molto cresc.

171

f

cresc.

RH

release
sost. ped.

173

marcato *ff*

mf sempre

f

8^{va}-----

8^{vb}-----

sost. ped.
(to end of piece)

loco

(8)-----

175

(8)-----

177

ff *mf* *f* *ff*

2 1

ossia

ossia

(8)

179

2 1 *b*

ossia

ossia

(8)

181

ff mf ff mf ff mf

f mp

ossia

(8)

183

f

ossia

(8)

185

cresc.

ff

LH sempre ff

(8)

187

fff

f

fff

f

fff

fff

(8)

189

f

f *sim.*

mp

rit.

loco

ff *poss. a fine grandioso*

192

mf

sim.

ossia 8ve basso

Ped. $\frac{1}{2}$

195

sim.

197

LH

lunga

lunga

fff *f*

ossia

8^{vb}