

# No. 17 - A<sup>b</sup> Major

[The Aeolian Harp]

Andante espressivo ♩ = 66

The musical score is presented in three systems, each with three staves. The first system begins with a piano (*p*) dynamic and a 'Ped.' marking. The second system begins with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic and a '\* Ped.' marking. The third system begins with a forte (*f*) dynamic and a '\* (pedale simile)' marking. The score includes various dynamics (*mp*, *mf*, *f*), articulation (>), and performance instructions like '8va' and '8vb'. There are also numbered boxes (2, 3, 4) indicating string divisions for the harp-like effect.

\*The harmonic design of this Prelude is modelled directly on Chopin's A Flat Major Etude, Opus 25, No. 1 and is really a tribute to Chopin's inspiration and genius. This Chopin Etude has been nick-named, "The Aeolian Harp," and the reimagining provided here actually adds harp-like gestures strummed with the back of the hand between each short melodic statement. The numbers refer to the division of the inside the piano into four ranges moving from high (Number 1) to low (Number 4). On many grand pianos these areas are created by the cast iron frame. The lines from the numbered boxes indicate the direction to strum the strings and usually move in contrary motion between the hands. As it is always good to play with a musical balance between hands, it is suggested that the right hand strum a bit louder than the left as the lower strings are inherently more resonant.

7

*f*  
*p* *mf* *mf*

8<sup>va</sup>

2 3  
3 4

9

*f*  
*p* *mf* *mf*

8<sup>va</sup>

3 3  
4 4

11

*f*  
*8vb p* *mf* *mp*

15<sup>ma</sup>

rall. a tempo

1 2 3  
2 3 4

13

*mf*  
*p* *mf* *mp*

15<sup>ma</sup>

1 1 1 1  
2 2 2 2