

about the Ballades...

Op. 23

"I received a new Ballade from Chopin. It seems to be a work closest to his genius (although not the most ingenious) and I told him that I like it best of all his compositions. After quite a lengthy silence he replied with emphasis, 'I am happy to hear this since I too like it most and hold it dearest'."

From a letter by Robert Schumann to Heinrich Dorn, Leipzig 14 September 1836.

Op. 38

"[...] send me [...] the manuscript of my last Ballade because I want to see something."

From a letter by F. Chopin to Julian Fontana in Paris, Nohant 8 August 1839.

"The passionate episodes seem to have been added later; I recall precisely, that while playing the Ballade [September 1836], Chopin ended it in F major; now it ends in A minor."

Robert Schumann *Gesammelte Schriften über Musik und Musiker*, Leipzig 1888, vol. III.

"Madame Viardot told me that Chopin frequently played the opening Andantino but never that what follows."

Camille Saint-Saëns *Etude des Variantes* in "Trois manuscrits de Chopin", Paris 1932.

Op. 47

"Tomorrow you shall receive the Nocturne, and by the end of the week the Ballade [...] I am unable to polish it sufficiently."

From a letter by F. Chopin to Julian Fontana in Paris, Nohant 18 October 1841.

Op. 52

"Dear Sirs. I would like to offer you a Scherzo (for 600 fr.), a Ballade (for 600 fr.), and a Polonaise (for 500 fr.) [...]. If you find my Scherzo, Ballade and Polonaise acceptable, please write by the nearest post, indicating the term by which you would wish me to send these compositions. Sincerely devoted Fr. Chopin."

From a letter by F. Chopin to the Breitkopf & Härtel firm in Leipzig, Paris 15 December 1842.