

# Arabesque nr. 1

*Claude Debussy*  
*orchestrated by Hubert Mouton*

*arranged by Paul De Bra for*  
*accordion quintet*

Claude Debussy (1862-1918) composed a set of two “Arabesques” for piano solo. There are several orchestrations of this work. This arrangement for accordion quintet is based on the orchestration by Hubert Mouton (1872-1954).

The challenge for a quintet to play this song is that it contains many speed changes (*ritenuto*, *al tempo*, *più mosso*, *meno mosso*...). The notes themselves are not that difficult for moderately trained players.

This composition is in the public domain world-wide and since Jan. 1, 2025 so is the orchestration.

A recording by Professor P is available on YouTube.

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# Arabesque nr. 1

Claude Debussy  
orch. Hubert Mouton  
arr. Paul De Bra

Andante con moto

♩ = 120

do not play small (cue) notes

Acc. 1 *p* light tremolo

Acc. 2 *p* light tremolo

Acc. 3 *pp* legato

Acc. 4 *pp* legato

Bass *pp* legato arco

*p*

*cresc.*

I *p* poco rit. a tempo

II *pp* sostenuto switch only if possible

III *p*

IV *pp*

B *p*

(use 8va on small accordions)

I *p* switch only if possible string.

II *p*

III *p*

IV *p*

B *p*



29 (loco)

I *mf* *p*

II *mf* *p*

III *mp* *p*

IV *cresc. - -* *mf* *mp* *p*

B *mf*

35 **Tempo rubato (un peu moins vite)**

I *p*

II *p* omit low E if not available

III *pizz.* *p* arco

IV *pizz.* *p* arco

B *pizz.* *p*

41 **C** **Mosso**

I *p* *p* *p*

II *p* *mp arco* *p*

III *pizz.* *pizz.* *p* *p*

IV *pizz.* *pizz.* *p* *p*

B *pizz.* *pizz.* *p* *p*

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I *rit.* - - - *Mosso*

II

III

IV

B

52

I **D** *Meno*

II

III

IV

B

58

I **E** *Risoluto*

II

III

IV

B

66 **tempo primo**

I  
II  
III  
IV  
B

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

72 **poco rit.**

I  
II  
III  
IV  
B


*cresc.*  
*p*  
*p*  
*p*

76 **a tempo**

I  
II  
III  
IV  
B

*pp* *sostenuto*  
switch if possible  
*p*  
*pp*  
*p*  
*p*

81

string.  switch if possible

I

II

III

IV

B

*p*

*cresc. ---*


*cresc. ---*

*cresc. ---*

*cresc. ---*

*cresc. ---*

86

rit. **F**  a tempo

switch if possible

I

II

III

IV

B

*p*

*p*

*p*

91

omit B if needed for reg. switch

high B to help third voice

*pp*

I

II

III

IV

B

*pp*

*pp*

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Musical score for measures 96-99. The score is arranged in five staves: I (Violin I), II (Violin II), III (Viola), IV (Violin III), and B (Cello/Double Bass). The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#). Measure 96 features triplets in the first three staves. Measure 97 continues the triplet patterns. Measure 98 includes a *pp sostenuto* marking and a fermata in the second staff. Measure 99 features a *pp* marking and a fermata in the second staff.

Musical score for measures 100-103. The score is arranged in five staves: I (Violin I), II (Violin II), III (Viola), IV (Violin III), and B (Cello/Double Bass). The key signature is three sharps. Measure 100 has a fermata in the first staff. Measure 101 features triplets in the second staff. Measure 102 has triplets in the second and third staves. Measure 103 includes triplets in the third and fourth staves.

Musical score for measures 104-107. The score is arranged in five staves: I (Violin I), II (Violin II), III (Viola), IV (Violin III), and B (Cello/Double Bass). The key signature is three sharps. Measure 104 includes a *switch if possible* instruction above the first staff. Measure 105 features triplets in the second and third staves. Measure 106 has triplets in the second and third staves. Measure 107 includes a *pizz.* marking and a *pp* marking in the bass staff.