

Les Biches

mov. 4: Andantino

Francis Poulenc

*arranged by Paul De Bra for
accordion orchestra*

(1a, 1b, 2a, 2b, 3a, 3b, 4, bass, timpani)

Les Biches is a one-act ballet to music by Francis Poulenc. From the ballet he extracted a five movement suite. The arrangement is of movement 4: Andantino. Literally the title means “The Does” (female deer) but the term is sometimes also used to indicate women with dubious sexual intentions.

The composition uses many different instruments, alternating quickly, and this is reflected in the arrangement for accordion orchestra which not only contains seven accordion parts but also requires fast register changes, potentially requiring diviso such that in the same voice one player can omit a few notes before and another a few notes after a register change.

As this is Poulenc, classical harmony does not really apply: there are dissonances, parallel quints and many other “forbidden” recipes that are used... Still, it never really becomes a cacophony.

Note that as Poulenc died in 1963 this work is in the public domain in countries like Canada, but Europe has to wait until 2034.

A recording by Professor P is available on YouTube.

This arrangement is provided under the Creative Commons Attribution license (and so is the recording).

Les Biches: Andantino

Francis Poulenc
arr. Paul De Bra

♩ = 108 Note: originally this piece is in 4/8, not 4/4.
light tremolo (violin)

Acc. 1a
mf
light tremolo (violin)

Acc. 1b
mf
light tremolo (violin)

Acc. 2a
mf
pizz. arco

Acc. 2b
mf
pizz. arco

Acc. 3a
mp
p

Acc. 3b
p

Acc. 4
pizz. arco

Bass
mf
pizz. arco

Timp.
D - C
mf

5 8a

Ia

Ib

IIa

IIb 8a or 8vb mf

IIIa mf

IIIb (p) p mf notes to help IIb

IV

B pizz. arco

T

9

Ia

Ib

IIa

IIb

IIIa

IIIb

IV

B

T

pizz.

arco

pizz.

pizz.

register switch if
pizz. possible

p

pizz.

13

The musical score is arranged in a system of staves. The parts are labeled as follows:

- I a**: Treble clef, arco, pizz., arco
- I b**: Treble clef, arco, pizz., arco
- II a**: Treble clef, arco
- II b**: Treble clef, arco, or 8vb arco
- III a**: Treble clef
- III b**: Treble clef
- IV**: Treble clef, arco
- B**: Bass clef, arco, pizz.
- T**: Bass clef

Measure 13 is marked with the number '13'. The score includes various musical notations such as 'arco', 'pizz.', and '8vb'. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The time signature is 3/4. The score is divided into three measures. The first measure shows the beginning of the piece with various instruments playing. The second measure continues the piece with similar instrumentation. The third measure shows a change in the instrumentation, with some instruments playing pizzicato and others arco.

16

Ia *f*

Ib *mp* *très sec.* *tutti*

IIa *f* *très sec*

IIb (omit E for register) *f* *très sec*

IIIa *mf*

IIIb *très sec* *ff* *très sec*

IV

B

T

19

Ia *ff* *gliss.* *mf* arco

Ib *f* *pizz.* *mf* arco

IIa *mf* arco

IIb *f* *or 8vb* *mf* arco

IIIa *mp* *mf* arco

IIIb *p* *pizz.* *mf* arco

IV *arco* *pizz.* *arco*

B *arco* *pizz.* *arco*

T

23

Musical score for 'Les Biches: Andantino' page 7, measures 23-26. The score is in 2/4 time and features the following parts and dynamics:

- Ia:** Treble clef, *p* (piano), sustained notes.
- Ib:** Treble clef, *p* (piano), eighth-note patterns.
- IIa:** Treble clef, *f* (forte), sixteenth-note runs, *solo* marking, *ff* (fortissimo) and *8va tutti* markings at the end.
- IIb:** Treble clef, *f* (forte), *solo* marking, *ff* (fortissimo) at the end.
- IIIa:** Treble clef, *p* (piano), eighth-note patterns, *ff* (fortissimo) at the end.
- IIIb:** Treble clef, *pp* (pianissimo), eighth-note patterns, *ff* (fortissimo) at the end.
- IV:** Treble clef, *p* (piano), eighth-note patterns.
- B:** Bass clef, *p* (piano), sustained notes, *ff sec* (fortissimo second ending) at the end.
- T:** Bass clef, rests.

27

Ia

Ib

IIa

IIb

IIIa

IIIb

IV

B

T

ff

ff

ff^{sec}

31

Ia

Ib

IIa

IIb

IIIa

IIIb

IV

B

T

div.

pizz.

pizz.

35

Score for *Les Biches: Andantino*, starting at measure 35. The score includes staves for I a, I b, II a, II b, III a, III b, IV, B, and T. It features various musical notations such as dynamics (*mf*, *mp*), articulation (*pizz.*, *arco*), and performance instructions (8vb, or).

39 , un poco meno mosso pizz.

The musical score consists of seven staves. The first staff (Ia) is Violin I, the second (Ib) is Violin II, the third (IIa) is Violin IIIa, the fourth (IIb) is Violin IIIb, the fifth (IV) is Violin IV, the sixth (B) is Bass, and the seventh (T) is Trombone. The score is divided into three measures. The first measure (measures 39-40) contains the initial notation. The second measure (measures 41-42) begins with the tempo change 'un poco meno mosso' and includes dynamics like *p*, *f*, and *mp*, along with articulations like *pizz.* and *> solo*. The third measure (measures 43-44) continues the piece with further dynamics and articulations. The time signature is 2/4 throughout.

42 ancora un poco meno mosso arco

Ia *p* *f*

Ib *p* *f*

IIa *tutti* *p* *f*

IIb *f*

IIIa *mf* *pizz.*

IIIb *mf* *pizz.*

IV *mf* *pizz.*

B

T

48

Ia *pizz.*
p

Ib *pizz.*
p

IIa *pizz.*
p

IIb *div. if needed for legato*
f *solo*
f

IIIa *p* *très doux*
arco

IIIb *p* *très doux*

IV *p* *très expressif*
arco

B *p* *très expressif*

T *p* *pp* *pp* *doucement rythmé*

54

mf
arco
8

mf

arco solo

f

tutti
mf

IV

B

T

57

Musical score for Les Biches: Andantino, page 15, starting at measure 57. The score includes parts for Ia, Ib, IIa, IIb, IIIa, IIIb, IV, B, and T. Dynamics include pp, mp, mf, p, tutti, and pizz.

Ia

Ib

IIa

IIb

IIIa

IIIb

IV

B

T

pp

mp

mf

p

tutti

pizz.

60

I a

I b

II a

II b

III a

III b

IV

B

T

ff

mf

f

f

pizz.

mf

arco

63

Ia

Ib

IIa

IIb

IIIa

IIIb

IV

B

T

mp mélancolique

mp

arco

pizz.

mp

mp

5/4

5/4

5/4

5/4

5/4

5/4

5/4

5/4

5/4

5/4

66 poco rit. a tempo

Ia

Ib

IIa

IIb

IIIa

IIIb

IV arco

B

T

f

mf

mf

f

mf

mf

mp

p

mf

pizz.

pizz.

pizz.

mf

pizz.

mf

73

The musical score is arranged in a system of eight staves. The top staff is labeled 'Ia' and the bottom staff is labeled 'T'. The staves are numbered 73 at the beginning. The music is in 3/4 time. The first two staves (Ia and Ib) have a circled 'ff' dynamic marking above them. The third staff (IIa) has a circled 'ff' dynamic marking below it. The fourth staff (IIb) has a circled 'ff' dynamic marking below it. The fifth staff (IIIa) has a circled 'ff' dynamic marking below it. The sixth staff (IIIb) has a circled 'mf ff' dynamic marking below it. The seventh staff (IV) has a circled 'ff' dynamic marking below it. The eighth staff (B) has a circled 'ff' dynamic marking below it. The ninth staff (T) is empty. The word 'arco' is written above the eighth staff. The music features various rhythmic patterns, including eighth and sixteenth notes, and rests.

76

Ia

Ib

IIa

IIb

IIIa

IIIb

IV

B

T

fff

pizz.

loco

8va

mp

p

79 Céder

Ia *p*

Ib *sfp subito solo* *f* *sf*

IIa *f*

IIb *mp* *sff*

IIIa *pp*

IIIb *f* 6 6

IV *p pizz.* *sfp subito*

B *p* *sf*

T *pp*

82

Ia *pp* solo *tutti* *sff*

Ib *sff*

IIa *sff* sec.

IIb or $\text{\textcircled{8vb}}$ *sf*

IIIa *sff* sec.

IIIb *f* 6 6 *sff* sec.

IV *pp* arco *sff* arco

B *sf* *sff*

T *sff* sec.

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