

Valse Triste

From the incidental music for *Kuolema*, Op. 44

Jean Sibelius

*arranged by Paul De Bra for
accordion quintet (or orchestra)
(1, 2, 3, 4, bass)*

Jean Sibelius was a Finnish composer who is best known for his work “Finlandia”. He also wrote several concertos and other works, including this Valse Triste (or “Sad Waltz”). It was part of the “incidental” music composed for the play *Kuolema* (meaning “Death”) but is best known as an individual composition (from 1906).

The arrangement is for accordion quintet (or larger ensemble, as it benefits from using diviso).

As this composition was first performed before 1923 and Sibelius died in 1957 this work is in the public domain in most of the world already (but in Europe only after Jan. 1st, 2028).

As the tempo varies often it is challenging to play this piece without conductor. Also, the fast repeating notes at the end are difficult with bellows shake on the bass accordion. The entire bass part can also be played on a full size bayan (on which the shake is easier).

Professor P made a recording available on YouTube.

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

Valse Triste

from the incidental music for Kuolema, Op. 44

Jean Sibelius
arr. Paul De Bra

Lento
♩ = ca. 105

A  light (or no) tremolo
espressivo

Acc. 1

Acc. 2  pizz. (short decay) arco *p dolce*

Acc. 3  pizz. (short decay) arco *p*

Acc. 4  *espress.* *p dolce*

Bass  pizz. (long decay) *p* *pp* *p*

12

I

II

III

IV

B

22 **poco rit. a tempo** **B**

I

II

III

IV

B

33 rall. - - C a tempo

I *pp*

II *pp*

III *pp*

IV *pp*

B *pp*

43 poco accel.rit. - - - - - a tempo

I

II

III

IV

B

53 rall. - - - - - D a tempo poco accel.

I *più pp*

II *più pp*

III *più pp*

IV *più pp*

B *più pp*

62 rit. — — — — a tempo poco accel. rit. — — — — accel. — — — —

I *mp* *p* *mp deciso*

II *mp* *p* *mp deciso*

III *mp* *p* *mp deciso*

IV *mp* *p* *mp deciso*

B *mp* *p*

♩ = ca. 130 più mosso

72 **E**

I *mf* *mp*

II *mp*

III *mf*

IV *mp* *pizz. (short decay)*

B *mp*

80

I *mp dolce* *mp*

II *p* *pizz. (short decay)*

III *p* *mp*

IV *p*

B *p*

87 **F** $\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 140$ più mosso accel. rit.

I *p* *mp* *cresc.* *f* *dim. molto*

II *p* *cresc.* *f* *dim. molto*

III *p* *cresc.* *f* *dim. molto*

IV *arco* *p* *cresc.* *f* *dim. molto*

B *mp* *cresc.* *f* *dim. molto*

p *cresc.* *f* *dim. molto*

96 $\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 105$ tempo primo rit. Lento $\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 90$ rit.

I *pp* *mp* *pp*

II *pp* *p* *pp*

III *pp* *p* *pp*

IV *pp* *mp* *pp*

B *pp* *p* *pp*

pp *p* *pp*

106 **G** a tempo (Lento) poco a poco accel.

I *p dolce*

II *p*

III *p*

IV *p dolce*

B *p*

p

H $\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 130$
più mosso

115

I *mp dolce*

II *p*

III

IV *pizz.* *p*

B *p*

pizz. (short decay)

arco

mp

121 *poco a poco accel.*

I *p* *mp* *cresc.* *f*

II *p* *cresc.* *f*

III *p* *cresc.* *f*

IV *arco* *mp* *cresc.* *f*

B *p* *cresc.* *f*

I $\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 180$

130

I *f* *mf* *f*

II *f* *pizz.*

III *mf*

IV *pizz.* *f* *arco*

B *f*

140

I

II

III

IV

B

f

p

poco a poco cresc.

149

I

II

III

IV

B

f

3

più f

più f

(cresc.)

f

dim.

p

p cresc.

più f

più f

♩ = ca. 210

Più risoluto e mosso

157

I

II

III

IV

B

ff

arco

ff

ff

ff

arco

ffz

ffz

ff

165

I **L**  Stretto

II

III

IV *sfz* *sfz* *sfz* *sfz* *mf* Play low D 8va on small accordions

B *f* *f*

172

I

II

III

IV

B

177

I *ff*

II

III

IV

B

187 **M**

I *f*

II

III *mf*

IV

B

[illegible]

PDB 16/11/25