

IMPROMPTU, Opus 51

First-edition imprints

First-edition imprints of a work by Chopin are shown below.

The Collection's scores for the work are described on the pages that follow.

To go directly to a description, click the score's imprint in the Bookmarks panel on the left.

IMPROMPTU IN G FLAT MAJOR

Opus 51

Paris: M. Schlesinger (3847) 1843

Leipzig: Hofmeister (2900) 1843

London: Wessel (5304) 1843

Composed 1842

Brown 149

Chominski & Turlo 45

Paris: M. Schlesinger (3847) 1843

51-mS-2

M25.C54 I41 c.2

Gazette Musicale du 9 Juillet 1843. « | 3^E | IMPROMPTU | POUR | Piano | dédié à Madame | La Comtesse Esterhazy | née Comtesse Balthany, | PAR | F. CHOPIN | A.V. | Op: 51. « » Prix 6^f | A PARIS, chez MAURICE SCHLESINGER, Rue Richelieu, 97 | Londres, Wessel et Stapleton. « » Leipzig, F. Hofmeister.

6 leaves (320 x 245 mm): pp. [i] lith title page, [ii] blank, 1–9 lith music, [10] blank.

CAPTION TITLE: p. 1, ‘Troisième ÷ IMPROMPTU ÷ par ÷ F. CHOPIN. » Op: 51.’

FOOTLINE: p. 1, ‘M.S. 3847. » Maurice Schlesinger rue de Richelieu 97.’; pp. 2–8, ‘M.S. 3847.’; p. 9, none.

STAMPS: successor, style BD/A.

1. *Date*: given explicitly on the title page.
2. The date of registration of Op. 51 at the Dépôt Légal is 8 May 1843, and the date of notice in the *Bibliographie de la France* is 10 June 1843 (Kallberg, 1983, p. 538). The former date is adopted by Chominski & Turlo (p. 99) as the formal date of publication, while Brown (p. 153) evidently uses the date of issue in the *Gazette Musicale* (July 1843). As to whether the *Gazette* issue preceded the independent engraved publication (51-mS-1), it is not possible to say with certainty, but the fact that the imposition error (note 3) was corrected in the engraved issue suggests that the *Gazette* was first. However, Grabowski (1994, p. 17) points out that “In the earlier impression registered on 8 May 1843 whose format and paper quality are the same as the other compositions for sale, the sequence of pages is correct. It is hard to explain why, two months later the correct pagination was altered.”
3. This issue of the Impromptu — as a supplement to *Gazette Musicale* (of which Schlesinger was publisher) — contains an error in imposition, about which Chopin wrote to Schlesinger as follows (July 22): “Dear friend, — In the Impromptu which you have issued with the paper of July 9, there is a confusion in the paging, which makes my composition unintelligible. Though I cannot at all pretend to take the pains which our friend Moscheles bestows on his works, I consider myself, however, with regard to your subscribers, in duty bound to ask you on this occasion to insert in your next number an *erratum*: — | Page 3 — read page 5. | Page 5 — read page 3. | If you are too busy or too lazy to write to me, answer me through the *erratum* in your paper, and that shall signify to me that you, Madame Schlesinger, and your children are all well. — Yours very truly, F. Chopin.” (Niecks, II, pp. 272–273).

IMPROMPTU, Opus 51

Paris: M. Schlesinger (3847) [= 1843]

51-mS-1

M25.C54 I41 c.1

The transcription of this title page is the same as that of 51-mS-2, except here the first line of 51-mS-2 is absent.

6 leaves (327 x 258 mm): pp. [i] engr title page, [ii] blank, 1–9 engr music, [10] blank.

CAPTION TITLE: p. 1, '*Troisième* | IMPROMPTU | par | F. CHOPIN. » Op: 51.'

FOOTLINE: p. 1, 'M.S. 3847. » Maurice Schlesinger rue de Richelieu 97.'; pp. 2–8, 'M.S. 3847.'; p. 9, none.

STAMPS: successor, style BD/A; dealer, Clo[...?], Lyon.

DATE: first-edition inference (date code fe).

Paris: Brandus & Dufour (M.S. 3847) [after 1857]

51-BD-1

M25.C54 I412

ÉDITION ORIGINALE | OEUVRES COMPLÈTES POUR LE PIANO | DE | FRÉDÉRIC CHOPIN | SEULE ÉDITION AUTHENTIQUE | SANS CHANGEMENTS NI ADDITIONS, PUBLIÉE D'APRÈS LES ÉPREUVES CORRIGÉES PAR L'AUTEUR LUI-MÊME. | [list of works Opp. 1–50] |

Op. 51. Troisième impromptu en *sol* bémol (dédié à la comtesse Esterhazy) 6 " | [list of works

Opp. 52–65 and three works without opus number] | Paris, G. BRANDUS ET S. DUFOUR, Éditeurs | 103, rue de Richelieu, 103. | [below the decorated border:] IMPRIMERIE CENTRALE DES CHEMINS DE FER. « » A. CHAIX ET CO, RUE BERGÈRE, 20, A PARIS | 238-0

6 leaves (348 x 270 mm): pp. [i] lith title page, [ii] blank, 1–9 engr music, [10] blank.

CAPTION TITLE: p. 1, 'Troisième ÷ IMPROMPTU ÷ par ÷ F. CHOPIN. » Op: 51.'

FOOTLINE: p. 1, 'M.S. 3847. » Maurice Schlesinger rue de Richelieu 97'; pp. 2–8, 'M.S. 3847.'; p. 9, none.

STAMPS: successor, style Bra/D.

1. *Date*: based on the publisher's name on the title page (Table 5A).
 2. The partnership ended with the death of Dufour in 1872.
 3. Chominski & Turlo (p. 255) give 1859–78 for the Brandus collected edition.
 4. This score corresponds to Hob-405.
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IMPROMPTU, Opus 51

Leipzig: Hofmeister (2900) [= 1843]

51-Ho-1

M25.C54 I4

ALLEGRO VIVACE | POUR LE | PIANOFORTE | DEDIÉ | À MADAME | LA COMTESSE
ESTERHÁZY, | NEÉ COMTESSE BATHYANY | PAR | FRÉDÉRIC CHOPIN. |
OP. 51. « » PR. 20 NGR. | Propriété des Editeurs. | Enregistré aux Archives de l'Union. |
LEIPZIG, CHEZ FREDÉRIC HOFMEISTER. | LONDON, CHEZ WESSEL & C^{ie}
PARIS, CHEZ M. SCHLESINGER. | S^t PETERSBOURG, CHEZ E. E. HOLTZ. |
VARSOVIE, CHEZ G. SENNEWALD. | 2900.

6 leaves (320 x 245 mm): pp. [1] lith title page, [2] blank, 3–11 engr music, [12] blank.

CAPTION TITLE: p. 3, 'Allegro vivace. | IMPROMPTU. | » F. Chopin. Op. 51.'

FOOTLINE: pp. 3–11, '2900'.

STAMPS: none.

BINDING: library cloth.

1. *Date*: first-edition inference (date code fe).

2. From Deaville's data (see 1-Ho-2, note 3), the first print run of 51-Ho-1 was 50 copies, in 1843. Through 1878 a total of 3,000 copies was printed, on average about 83 copies annually.

Leipzig: Hofmeister (2900) [after 1873]

51-Ho-2

M25.C54 I401

[the title page is in the format of a publisher's catalog:]

ALTES UND NEUES.

SAMMLUNG VORZÜGLICHER CLAVIERWERKE.

[Abert to Burgmüller, then:]

Chopin, Fréd., Op. 1. 1er Rondeau (C.) Neue

Ausgabe mit Fingersatz v. J. Zschocher.	1 [Mk.]	50 [Pf.]
– Op. 5. Rondeau à la Mazur(F)	1	75
– Op. 51. Allegro vivace. Impromptu (Ges)	2	—

[then Eschmann to Zedler]

Eigenthum des Verlegers Den Verträgen gemäss eingezeichnet. Eintragen in's Verein-Archiv.

LEIPZIG, CHEZ FRIEDRICH HOFMEISTER.

[under decorated border:]

Druck von Hunderttund & Pries in Leipzig.

6 leaves (340 x 270 mm): pp. [1] letterpress title page, [2] blank, 3–11 lith music, [12] publisher's catalog.

CAPTION TITLE: p. 3, 'ALLEGRO VIVACE. | IMPROMPTU. | » F. Chopin. Op. 51.'

FOOTLINE: p. 3, (*) Durchgesehen und mit Fingersatz versehen von J. Zschocher. « | 2900 » Stich und Druck von W. Benieke in Leipzig.'; pp. 4–11, '2900'.

SCORE ADVT: p. [12]. 'Verlag von Friedrich Hofmeister in Leipzig. | Kompositionen für Pianoforte zu zwei Händen.' The list is from Abert through Henselt, and includes the same entry for Chopin as on the title page.

STAMPS: none.

1. *Date*: currency inference (date code c3).

2. From Deaville's data (see 1-Ho-2, note 3), in the 30-year interval from its publication in 1843 to the currency transition in 1872–73, Hofmeister made 24 print runs of the Impromptu Op. 51, with a total of 1,950 copies. In the brief interval from 1874–78 (when the record ends) — which probably includes the printing of 51-Ho-2 — the first print run was 200 copies, the last was 500 copies, and the total number was 1,050. This relatively large number in five years attests to the enduring popularity of Chopin's music.