

POLONAISE, Opus 53

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.

POLONAISE IN A FLAT MAJOR
Opus 53

Paris: M. Schlesinger (3958) 1843

Leipzig: Breitkopf & Härtel (7002) 1843

London: Wessel (5306) 1844

Composed 1842–43

Brown 147

Chominski & Turlo 155

POLONAISE, Opus 53

Paris: M. Schlesinger (3958) [= 1843]

53-mS-1

M32.C54 P833

à M^r AUGUSTE LÉO. | GRANDE | POLONAISE | *brillante* | POUR | Piano, | PAR | F. CHOPIN |
AV | Op: 53. | Pr: 7.^f 50. | A PARIS, chez M^{CE} SCHLESINGER, Rue Richelieu, 97. |
Londres, Wessel et Stapleton. « Prop^e des Editeurs. » Leipzig, Breitkopf et Hartel. | M.S. 3958.

7 leaves (328 x 257 mm): pp. [i] engr title page, [ii, i] blank, 2–11 engr music, [12] blank.

CAPTION TITLE: p. 2, 'F. CHOPIN Op: 53. « » POLONAISE.'

FOOTLINE: p. 2, 'M.S. 3958. « » Maurice Schlesinger rue Richelieu 97'; pp. 3–11, 'M.S. 3958.'

STAMPS: publisher, style mS/A.

INSCRIPTIONS: owners signature.

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

Leipzig: Breitkopf & Härtel (7002) [= 1843]

53-BH-3

M32.C54 P8302

POLONOISE | POUR LE PIANO | *dédiée* | à Monsieur Auguste Leo | PAR | F. CHOPIN. |
Op. 53. « Propriété des Editeurs. » Pr. 1 Thlr. | *Leipzig, chez Breitkopf & Härtel.* |
Paris, chez M. Schlesinger. « » *Londres, chez Wessel & Stapleton.* | 7002. | *Enregistré aux Archives de l'Union.*

10 leaves (320 x 254 mm): pp. [1] lith title page, [2] blank, 3–19 engr music, [20] blank.

CAPTION TITLE: p. 3, '» F. Chopin, Op. 53.'

SUB-CAPTION: p. 3, 'POLONAISE.'

FOOTLINE: pp. 3–19, '7002'.

STAMPS: publisher, style BH/G; dealer, Theune, Amsterdam.

1. *Date*: first-edition inference (date code fe). Also see notes that follow.
2. Chopin conveyed copyright of Opp. 52, 53, 54 to Breitkopf & Härtel in a note dated 31 October 1843 (Kallberg, 1983, p. 823). The publisher registered the three works in November (see Table 4B) and gave them successive plate numbers 7001, 7002, 7003.
3. Since they were published virtually simultaneously, it is of interest to compare the title pages of these three works. The following discussion concerns only the placement of words and the use of capitalization and italicization. It does not concern calligraphy or artwork, which vary considerably in these scores. In particular, apart from genre, dedicatee and plate number, the transcriptions of 52¹ (meaning 52-BH-1) and 54¹ differ only in line 3, where 52¹ has "*dédiée*" and 54¹ has "dédié". The corresponding transcriptions by Hoboken (respectively Hob-406 and Hob-411, both stated to be first editions) are the same as those of 52¹ and 54¹. Chominski & Turlo (pp. 74 and 197) also give the same transcriptions.

In contrast, the transcriptions of 53³ and 53¹ differ from those of 52¹ and 54¹, and from each other. The transcriptions of Op. 53 in Hob-408 and in Chominski & Turlo (p. 170) are the same as that of 53³ (apart from italicization, which is not indicated by either of these sources). However, neither Hoboken nor Chominski & Turlo has a transcription that corresponds to 53¹. On comparing the transcription of 53³ with that of 52¹ we can see only two differences (apart from genre, dedicatee and plate number): lines 2 and 5 are in upper case in 53³ and in lower case in 52¹. On the other hand there are many differences between the transcriptions of 53¹ and 52¹.

To establish the chronology of 53³ and 53¹ we must know (i) which is the earlier one, and (ii) whether the earlier one is a first or later issue. In the following comments I assume that scores 52¹ and 54¹ are in fact first issues of these editions. Regarding (i), note that in 53³ the genre name is spelled "POLONOISE" (as in the score described by Fuld, p. 435), while in 53¹ it is "POLONAISE". The 'o' spelling, which also appears in the Wessel edition (53-W-1), is probably the earlier one. This inference is consistent with the fact that the transcription of 53³ is much closer to that of 52¹ than it is to 53¹. Regarding (ii), I found no evidence that a score of Op. 53 exists with the same layout as that of Opp. 52 and 54, and this leads to the inference that 53³ is in fact a first issue.

Leipzig: Breitkopf & Härtel (7002) [after 1843]

53-BH-1

M32.C54 P83

POLONAISE | pour le | PIANO | dédiée | à *Monsieur Auguste Leo* | par | F. Chopin. | Op. 53. |
Propriété des Editeurs. | *Leipzig, Breitkopf & Härtel.* | *Paris, M. Schlesinger.* « » *Londres, Wessel & Stapleton.* |
Pr. 1 Thlr. | *Enregistré aux Archives de l'Union.* | 7002.

10 leaves (326 x 258 mm): pp. [1] lith title page, [2] blank, 3–19 engr music, [20] blank.

CAPTION TITLE: p. 3, '» F. Chopin, Op. 53.'

SUB-CAPTION: p. 3, 'POLONAISE.'

FOOTLINE: pp. 3–19, '7002'.

STAMPS: publisher, style BH/G.

1. *Date*: see 53-BH-3, notes 2 and 3.

Leipzig: Breitkopf & Härtel (10141) [1872–73]

53-BH-2

M211.C54 P77

POLONAISE | pour le | PIANO | dédiée | à *Monsieur Auguste Leo* | par | F. Chopin. | Op. 53. |
Arrangement pour deux Pianos par L. Röhr. | Propriété des Editeurs. | *Leipzig, Breitkopf & Härtel.* |
Pr. 1 Thlr. 5 Ngr. = Mk. 3.50. | *Enregistré aux Archives de l'Union.* | 10141.

Pianoforte I. 6 leaves (337 x 267 mm): pp. [1] lith title page, [2] blank, 3–11 engr music, [12] blank.

CAPTION TITLE: p. 3, 'POLONAISE. | » F. Chopin, Op. 53 arr.'

HEADLINE: pp. 3–11, 'Pianoforte I.'

FOOTLINE: p. 3, 'Stich und Druck von Breitkopf & Härtel in Leipzig. « | 10141'; pp. 4–11, '10141'.

Pianoforte II. 5 leaves (338 x 266 mm): pp. 1–10 engr music.

CAPTION TITLE: p. 3, 'POLONAISE. | » F. Chopin, Op. 53 arr.'

HEADLINE: pp. 1–10, 'Pianoforte II.'

FOOTLINE: pp. 1–10, '10141'.

WRAPPER (light brown): pp. [1] same as title page, [2, 3] blank, [4] advt.

ADVT: wrapper p. [4], 'MUSIKWERKE | für 2 Pianoforte zu 4 oder zu 8 Händen | im Verlage von |
BREITKOPF & HÄRTEL in Leipzig.' Two Chopin works are listed in addition to the present work: the
Marche funèbre from Op. 35 arranged for two pianos and 8 hands, and the Concerto Op. 21 arranged for
two pianos and four hands. Prices are in thaler and neugroschen.

IMPOSITION: The first and last leaves of Pianoforte II are conjugate; leaf 3 is a singleton.

STAMPS: publisher, style BH/B; dealer, Hug, Basel (embossed).

1. *Date:* currency inference (date code c2).

2. The plate number indicates a date *ca* 1861 for the first edition of this arrangement.

POLONAISE, Opus 53

London: Wessel (5306) [1848–56]

53-W-1

M32.C54 P832

N^o [handwritten “57”] OF | WESSEL & C^o’s COMPLETE COLLECTION | OF | *the Compositions* | OF |
FREDERIC CHOPIN | FOR THE | Piano Forte. | Solo & Duet | [list of works, Wessel 1–56] |
57 “EIGHTH POLONOISE” *in A* [flat] . *Op. 53, 3/6* | [list of works, Wessel 58–71] |
Ent. Sta. Hall. « Copyrights. » Price, Solo [handwritten “3/6”] | LONDON, | WESSEL & C^o *Importers and*
Publishers of FOREIGN MUSIC, | (by special Appointment) to H.R.H. the Duchess of Kent. |
N^o 229, Regent Street, Corner of Hanover Street.

7 leaves (334 x 250 mm): pp. [i] engr title page, [ii] blank, 1–11 engr music, [12] advt.

CAPTION TITLE: p. 1, ‘8^{ME} POLONOISE | Composée par | FREDERIC CHOPIN. | Op: 53.’

FOOTLINE: p. 1, ‘Copyright of WESSEL & C^o « » (W & C^o N^o 5306.)’; pp. 2–10, ‘CHOPIN, 8^{me}
Polonoise, Op: 53. « » (W & C^o N^o 5306.)’; p. 11, ‘CHOPIN, 8^{me} Polonoise, Op: 53. « | (N^o 5306)
WESSEL & C^o N^o 67, Frith Street, Corner of Soho Square.’

ADVT: p. [12], ‘PAGE S. | WESSEL & Co.’s EDITIONS OF THE PIANOFORTE WORKS (SOLO) BY
CHOPIN, | HELLER, SCHULHOFF, KULLAK, AND AGUILAR.’; at the foot, ‘WESSEL & Co., 229,
REGENT STREET, CORNER OF HANOVER STREET, (FIRST FLOOR.)’. Chopin works are listed
through Op. 64, and the Marche Funèbre extracted from the Sonata Op. 35.

STAMPS: publisher, style W/D.

1. *Date*: Wessel inference (date code W1).

POLONAISE, Opus 53

Boston: Ditson (23000) [1870–76]

53-Ditson-1

M32.C54 P8303

CHOPIN'S WORKS. | For the Piano. |

[list of works; Mazurkas through Op. 68 and three posthumous; Waltzes through Op. 70; Nocturnes through Op. 72; Polonaises through Op. 71; Ecosaisies Op. 72; Tarantelle Op. 43; Impromptus Opp. 29, 66; Marche Funebre; Scherzo Op. 31; Third Ballade Op. 47; Study in G, Op. 25.]
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BOSTON: OLIVER DITSON & CO., 277 WASHINGTON ST. |

NEW YORK: C. H. DITSON & COMPANY. |

J. C. HAYNES & CO. ÷ BOSTON LEE & WALKER, ÷ PHILADELPHIA.

JOHN CHURCH & CO. ÷ CINCINNATI. LYON & HEALY ÷ CHICAGO.

10 leaves (332 x 260 mm): pp. [1] lith title page, [2] blank, 3–19 engr music, [20] advt.

CAPTION TITLE: p. 3, 'POLONAISE' | » F. CHOPIN, Op. 53.'

FOOTLINE: pp. 3–19, '» 23000.

ADVT: p. [20], 'SELECT LIST OF MUSIC BOOKS. | THE NEW CHURCH MUSIC BOOK, |

FOR 1874–76. | THE LEADER !! | [numerous books of music and about music are listed] |

PUBLISHED BY | OLIVER DITSON & CO. ÷ 277 WASHINGTON ST., BOSTON. |

CHAS. H. DITSON & CO. ÷ 711 BROADWAY, NEW YORK. LYON & HEALY, ÷ CHICAGO.

STAMPS: none

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1. *Date:* The firm "Oliver Ditson & Co. occupied 277 Washington St. in Boston from 1858 to 1876 (Dichter & Shapiro, p. 185). Data for the other firms listed on the title page are consistent with a terminal date of 1876 for this score. The initial date comes from the firm "John Church & Co." in Cincinnati, formed in 1870 to replace its predecessor "John Church Jr.". The resulting estimate is 1870–76, which is consistent with the advt. It might be possible to infer a smaller range from the plate number, but I have not found that information.
 2. Prices on the title page are coded in terms of the unit \$0.10 (Dichter & Shapiro p. xxiii). For the Polonaise Op. 53 the code is "12½", which corresponds to \$1.25.
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