$Mazurka \ in \ B \ minor \ {\it arr.} \ for \ wind \ quintet \ by \ Toby \ Miller$

Score (instrumental pitch)

Op 33 no 4

Chopin

















I inherited a love of Chopin from my grandfather, along with a Bechstein piano bought cheaply in 1918 when the German firm was no longer welcome in Britain: just before the Bechstein Hall in London was renamed the Wigmore Hall and (later) suffered the indignity of being occupied by rival Steinway instruments. (I am a poor pianist but have been lucky to play chamber music with some fine players, including my son.) Chopin wrote only for his own instrument - sometimes with others of course - and mostly strongly melodic rather than contrapuntal music, that needs to be controlled by the imagination of a single player. So it was partly as a challenge to myself that I wanted to search out something that might work for a group of wind players. I landed on this unusually expansive and texturally varied Mazurka, where the tune is sometimes in the bass and there are passages with a single line. Inevitably the lower instruments, especially the horn in this case, still have a high proportion of accompanying figures. The piece is arguably also too long for five players to sustain interest: I have suggested delaying some of the ornamentation until later repetitions of Theme A to vary it a little, and brave players might like to consider additional variations. Otherwise the piece can easily be cut (e.g. from B1 to B4). However the themes and texture seem to suit the five instruments well and I hope Chopin enthusiasts will find it worth an outing.