

Petite Suite: Ballet

Movement 4

Claude Debussy

*arranged by Paul De Bra for
accordion orchestra*

Petite Suite by Claude Debussy (1862-1918) is a composition for piano 4 hands. Most famous is the orchestration by Henry Büsler (1872-1973). The arrangement for accordion orchestra is based on this orchestration and is of the fourth movement (Ballet). It consists of 8 accordion parts, bass and 4 percussion parts (timpani, triangle, cymbal, tambourine). Different registrations are used to simulate violins, trumpet, horn, oboe, clarinet, etc. Nothing is critical (as it was originally all piano anyway).

This composition is in the public domain world-wide, but the orchestration by Büsler is in the public domain in the USA, but will enter the public domain in reasonable countries on Jan. 1, 2024. (Europe has to wait another 20 years.)

A recording by Professor P is available on YouTube.

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Petite Suite: Ballet (movement IV)

Claude Debussy, orch. Henry Büsser

arr. Paul De Bra

Allegro giusto $\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 100$

The musical score is arranged in 12 staves. The top two staves are for Acc. 1a and 1b, both in treble clef. The next four staves are for Acc. 2a, 2b, 3a, and 3b, all in treble clef. The next two staves are for Acc. 4a and 4b, both in treble clef. The bottom three staves are for Bass (bass clef), Timpani (bass clef), and Triangle (percussion clef). The Cymbal and Tambourine staves are also percussion clefs. The score includes various dynamics such as *p*, *mf*, *f*, and *mp*, as well as performance instructions like *arco*, *pizz.*, and *(loco)*. There are also circled symbols with dots above them, likely indicating specific performance techniques or articulation. The tempo is marked as *Allegro giusto* with a metronome marking of approximately 100 beats per minute. The time signature is 2/4.

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The musical score for "Petite Suite: Ballet" (page 3) features the following instruments and parts:

- Ia, Ib:** Violins I and II, playing pizzicato (pizz.).
- IIa, IIb:** Violas I and II, playing pizzicato (pizz.).
- IIIa, IIIb:** Celli I and II, playing pizzicato (pizz.). IIIa includes a circled "pizz." with the instruction "(switch only if next switch is also possible)". IIIb includes a circled "pp".
- IVa, IVb:** Double Basses I and II, playing pizzicato (pizz.). IVa includes a circled "pp" and a circled "arco" with the instruction "(switch as soon as possible)".
- B:** Bassoon, playing pizzicato (pizz.).
- Timp.:** Timpani, playing *pp*.
- Trgl.:** Triangle.
- Cym.:** Cymbals.
- Tamb.:** Tambourine.

The score is in 3/4 time and the key signature has one sharp (F#). It includes various musical notations such as pizzicato (pizz.), arco, and dynamic markings like *p*, *pp*, and *pp*.

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small notes = other voices

mf

f

sf

ff

pizz.

arco

normal mallet

(echo)

p

78

Ia *f* *mf* *p* *pp*

Ib *f* *mf* *p* *pp*
small notes first voice

IIa *f* *pp*

IIb *f* *pp* *p*

IIIa *f* *p* *pp*

IIIb *f* *mf* *p* *pp*

IVa *f* *mf* *p* *pp*

IVb *f* *mf* *p* *pizz.* *pp* *ppp*
arco

B *f* *mf* *p* *pp* *pp*

Timp. *p* *pp* *ppp*

Trgl.

Cym.

Tamb. *f* *pp*

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poco rit.

a tempo

Musical score for *Petite Suite: Ballet*, page 9. The score is in 2/4 time and includes the following parts and markings:

- Ia:** *pp* (pianissimo), *p* (piano), *pizz.* (pizzicato).
- Ib:** *p* (piano), *pizz.* (pizzicato).
- IIa:** *pp* (pianissimo), *pp* (pianissimo), *poco* (poco), *p* (piano), *p* (piano), *pizz. (long decay)* (pizzicato with long decay).
- IIb:** *pp* (pianissimo), *poco* (poco), *p* (piano), *p* (piano), *pp* (pianissimo).
- IIIa:** *pp* (pianissimo), *poco* (poco), *p* (piano).
- IIIb:** *ppp* (pianississimo), *p* (piano), *pp* (pianissimo).
- IVa:** *ppp* (pianississimo), *p* (piano).
- IVb:** *pp* (pianissimo), *mf* (mezzo-forte), *p* (piano), *pizz.* (pizzicato).
- B:** *ppp* (pianississimo), *mf* (mezzo-forte), *p* (piano), *pizz.* (pizzicato).
- Timp.:** *ppp* (pianississimo), *mf* (mezzo-forte), *p* (piano).
- Trgl.:** *p* (piano).
- Cym.:** *pp* (pianissimo), *poco* (poco), *pp* (pianissimo).
- Tamb.:** *pp* (pianissimo).

Performance instructions include *poco rit.* (poco ritardando) and *a tempo*. A bracket labeled "8" spans measures 2-3. A bracket labeled "loco if needed" spans measures 4-5. The score also includes dynamic markings like *pp*, *p*, *mf*, and *ppp*, and articulation like *pizz.* and *ppp*.

Violin I (Ia): *p* arco, *f*, *p*, *p*

Violin II (Ib): *p*, *f*, *p*, *p*

Viola I (IIa): *p*, *f*, *p*

Viola II (IIb): *p*, *f*, *p*

Violoncello I (IIIa): *p*, *molto*, *f*, *p*

Violoncello II (IIIb): *p*, *molto*, *f*, *p*

Double Bass (B): *mf*, *f*

Timpani (Timp.): *p*, *f*

Triangle (Trgl.): *p*, *f*

Cymbals (Cym.): *p*, *f*

Tambourine (Tamb.): *p*

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Ia *mf* *p* *mf* *f* *pizz.* *p* *p*

Ib *mf* *p* *mf* *f* *pizz.* *p* *p*

IIa (loco) *p* *p* *mf* *p* *p* *p* *p*

IIb *p* *p* *mf* *mf* *mf* *mf* *mf* *p* *p*

IIIa *p* *mf* *mf* *p* *p* *p* *p* *p* *p*

IIIb *mf* *p* *mf* *mf* *mf* *mf* *mf* *p* *p*

IVa *mf* *p* *mf* *pizz.* *p* *p* *p* *p* *p*

IVb *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *p* *p* *p* *p* *p*

B arco *mf* *pizz.* *p* *p* *p* *p* *p* *p* *p*

Timp. *mf* *p* *mf* *mf* *mf* *mf* *mf* *mf* *mf*

Trgl. *mp* *mf* *f* *mf* *f* *mf* *f* *mf* *f*

Cym.

Tamb. *mf* *mf* *mf* *mf* *mf* *mf* *mf* *mf* *mf*

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Violin I (Ia, Ib): *p*, *pizz.*, *arco*, *p*, *pizz.*

Violin II (IIa, IIb): *p*, *pp*, *p*, *pp*, *p*, *pizz.*

Viola (IIIa, IIIb): *p*, *pp*, *p*, *pp*, *p*, *pp*

Cello/Double Bass (IVa, IVb): *p*, *pizz.*, *pp*, *arco*, *p*, *pp*, *arco*, *pizz.*

Bassoon (B): *p*, *pizz.*, *pp*, *arco*, *p*, *pp*

Timpani (Timp.): *p*, *p*, *pp*, *pp*

Triangle (Trgl.): *p*, *p*, *p*

Cymbals (Cym.): *p*

Tambourine (Tamb.): *p*

(switch only if next switch is also possible)

135

Score for Petite Suite: Ballet, page 13. The score includes staves for strings (Ia, Ib, IIa, IIb, IIIa, IIIb, IVa, IVb), Bass (B), Timp., Trgl., Cym., and Tamb. The music is in G major and 3/4 time. It features various dynamics like *p*, *cresc. poco a poco*, and *arco*, and includes performance instructions such as "switch as soon as possible" and "pizz.".

tempo di valse

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Ia *f* *mf* *p* pizz.

Ib *f* *mf* *p* pizz.

IIa *f* *p*

IIb *f* *p* 8va al fine

IIIa *f* *mp* *p*

IIIb *f* *p*

IVa *f* *p*

IVb arco *f* *p* pizz. *mp* arco

B *f* *p* pizz.

Timp. *f* *pp* *p*

Trgl. *f* *p*

Cym. normal mallets *p*

Tamb. *f* *p*

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Musical score for *Petite Suite: Ballet*, measures 158-168. The score is written for a full orchestra. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The score includes staves for strings (Ia, Ib, IIa, IIb, IIIa, IIIb, IVa, IVb), woodwinds (B), percussion (Timp, Trgl, Cym, Tamb), and dynamic markings (f, ff, mf, arco). The score is written in a grand staff format with multiple staves per instrument.