

Les Biches

mov. 4: Andantino

Francis Poulenc

*arranged by Paul De Bra for
accordion orchestra*

(1a, 1b, 2a, 2b, 3a, 3b, 4, bass, timpani)

Les Biches is a one-act ballet to music by Francis Poulenc. From the ballet he extracted a five movements suite. The arrangement is of movement 4: Andantino. Literally the title means “The Does” (female deer) but the term is sometimes also used to indicate women with dubious sexual intentions.

The composition uses many different instruments, alternating quickly, and this is reflected in the arrangement for accordion orchestra which not only contains seven accordion parts but also requires fast register changes, potentially requiring diviso such that in the same voice one player can omit a few notes before and another a few notes after a register change.

As this is Poulenc, classical harmony does not really apply: there are dissonances, parallel fifths and many other “forbidden” recipes that are used... Still, it never really becomes a cacophony.

Note that as Poulenc died in 1963 this work is in the public domain in countries like Canada, but Europe has to wait until 2034.

A recording by Professor P is available on YouTube.

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

Les Biches: Andantino

Francis Poulenc
arr. Paul De Bra

♩ = 108 Note: originally this piece is in 4/8, not 4/4.
light tremolo (violin)

Acc. 1a

mf
light tremolo (violin)

Acc. 1b

mf
light tremolo (violin)

Acc. 2a

mf
pizz. arco

Acc. 2b

mf
pizz. arco

Acc. 3a

mp
p

Acc. 3b

p

Acc. 4

mf
pizz. arco

Bass

mf
pizz. arco

Timp.
D - C

The image shows a page of a musical score for "Les Biches: Andantino". The score is arranged in a system with eight staves. The staves are labeled as follows from top to bottom: I a, I b, II a, II b, III a, III b, IV, B, and T. The music is written in treble clef for the upper staves and bass clef for the lower staves. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The time signature is 3/4. The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, beams, and slurs. Dynamics markings include *mf* (mezzo-forte) and *p* (piano). Performance instructions include *pizz.* (pizzicato) and *arco* (arco). There are also performance instructions like "notes to help II b" and "or 8vb" (or 8va below). The score is divided into four measures by vertical bar lines. The first measure starts with a circled "5" and a circled "8a". The second measure has accents over the notes. The third measure has accents over the notes. The fourth measure has a circled "8a" and a circled "8vb" (or 8va below). The score is for a string quartet.

9

Ia

Ib

IIa

IIb

IIIa

IIIb

IV

B

T

pizz.

arco

pizz.

pizz.

arco

pizz.

register switch if
pizz. possible

p

pizz.

13

The musical score is arranged in a system with eight staves. The parts are labeled as follows:

- I a:** Treble clef, arco, pizz., arco
- I b:** Treble clef, arco, pizz., arco
- II a:** Treble clef, arco
- II b:** Treble clef, arco, or 8vb arco
- III a:** Treble clef
- III b:** Treble clef
- IV:** Treble clef, arco
- B:** Bass clef, arco, pizz.
- T:** Bass clef

Measure 13 is marked at the beginning of the first staff. The score includes various musical notations such as slurs, ties, and dynamic markings. A dashed line with the number '8' indicates an octave shift for the II b part.

16

Ia *f*

Ib *mp* *rit.*

IIa *f* *très sec*

IIb *f* *très sec*
(omit E for register)

IIIa *mf*

IIIb *ff* *très sec*

IV

B

T

tutti

19

Ia *ff* *mf*

Ib *gliss.* *f* *pizz.* *arco*

IIa *mf*

IIb *f* *or 8vb* *mf*

IIIa *mp* *mf*

IIIb *p* *mf*

IV *pizz.* *arco*

B *arco* *pizz.* *arco*

T

23

The musical score consists of ten staves, labeled Ia through T. The time signature is 2/4. The key signature has one flat (B-flat).
- **Ia:** Treble clef, starts with a half note B-flat, dynamic *p*.
- **Ib:** Treble clef, starts with a quarter note G, dynamic *p*.
- **Ila:** Treble clef, starts with a half note B-flat, dynamic *f*. Includes a *solo* marking and a slur over a sixteenth-note pattern.
- **Ilb:** Treble clef, starts with a half rest, then a half note B-flat, dynamic *f*. Includes a *solo* marking and a slur over a sixteenth-note pattern.
- **Illa:** Treble clef, starts with a quarter note G, dynamic *p*.
- **IIlb:** Treble clef, starts with a quarter note G, dynamic *pp*.
- **IV:** Treble clef, starts with a quarter note G, dynamic *p*.
- **B:** Bass clef, starts with a half note B-flat, dynamic *p*.
- **T:** Bass clef, starts with a half rest.
- **Rehearsal Mark 23:** Located at the end of the first measure of staff Ia, marked with a circled 23.
- **Rehearsal Mark 24:** Located at the end of the first measure of staff Ib, marked with a circled 24.
- **Rehearsal Mark 25:** Located at the end of the first measure of staff Ila, marked with a circled 25.
- **Rehearsal Mark 26:** Located at the end of the first measure of staff Ilb, marked with a circled 26.
- **Rehearsal Mark 27:** Located at the end of the first measure of staff Illa, marked with a circled 27.
- **Rehearsal Mark 28:** Located at the end of the first measure of staff IIlb, marked with a circled 28.
- **Rehearsal Mark 29:** Located at the end of the first measure of staff IV, marked with a circled 29.
- **Rehearsal Mark 30:** Located at the end of the first measure of staff B, marked with a circled 30.
- **Rehearsal Mark 31:** Located at the end of the first measure of staff T, marked with a circled 31.
- **8va tutti:** Markings in staves Ila and Ilb, indicating an octave register change and a tutti dynamic.
- **ff sec:** Marking in staff B, indicating fortissimo and a second ending.

Musical score for 'Les Biches: Andantino' starting at measure 27. The score is arranged for a string quartet and includes a double bass part. The staves are labeled I a, I b, II a, II b, III a, III b, IV, B, and T. The music is in 2/4 time and begins with a common time signature (C) in the second measure. The first two staves (I a and I b) feature a melody with accents and a forte (ff) dynamic. The second and third staves (II a and II b) provide harmonic support with chords and moving lines. The fourth and fifth staves (III a and III b) play sustained chords. The sixth staff (IV) plays a bass line with a forte second (ff sec) dynamic. The seventh staff (B) plays a bass line with accents. The eighth staff (T) is silent.

31

The musical score is arranged in nine staves, labeled Ia through T. The time signature is 2/4. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The score begins at measure 31. The first staff (Ia) has a treble clef and contains a melodic line with a slur and an accent over a note in the second measure. The second staff (Ib) has a treble clef and contains a similar melodic line. The third staff (IIa) has a treble clef and contains a chordal accompaniment. The fourth staff (IIb) has a treble clef and contains a chordal accompaniment with a circled note in the second measure. The fifth staff (IIIa) has a treble clef and contains a melodic line with a slur and accents. The sixth staff (IIIb) has a treble clef and contains a melodic line with a slur and accents. The seventh staff (IV) has a treble clef and contains a melodic line with a slur and the marking 'div.'. The eighth staff (B) has a bass clef and contains a bass line. The ninth staff (T) has a bass clef and contains a whole rest. The word 'pizz.' appears above the first and second staves in the third measure.

35

The musical score consists of nine staves, labeled I a through T. The notation includes various musical symbols such as notes, rests, beams, and dynamic markings. The first staff (I a) begins with a measure rest followed by a half note G4, marked *mf* and *arco*. The second staff (I b) starts with a half note G4, also marked *mf* and *arco*. The third staff (II a) begins with a half note G4, marked *mf* and *arco*, and includes a circled 'pizz.' marking. The fourth staff (II b) starts with a half note G4, marked *mf* and *arco*, and includes a circled '8vb' marking. The fifth staff (III a) begins with a half note G4, marked *mf*. The sixth staff (III b) starts with a half note G4, marked *mp*. The seventh staff (IV) begins with a half note G4, marked *mp* and *pizz.*. The eighth staff (B) starts with a half note G4, marked *mf* and *pizz.*. The ninth staff (T) is a whole rest.

39 , un poco meno mosso pizz.

Ia *tr*

Ib *p*

Ia *f* *> solo*

Ib

IIIa *p*

IIIb *mf* *mp*

IV *p*

B

T

42 ancora un poco meno mosso
arco

Ia *p* *f*

Ib *p* *f*

IIa *tutti* *p* *f*

IIb *f*

IIIa *mf* *pizz.*

IIIb *mf* *pizz.*

IV *mf* *pizz.*

B

T

48

Ia *pizz.*
p

Ib *pizz.*
p

IIa *pizz.*
p

IIb *div. if needed for legato*
f *solo*
f

IIIa *p* *très doux*
arco

IIIb *p* *très doux*

IV *p* *très expressif*
arco

B *p* *très expressif*

T *p* *pp* *pp* *doucement rythmé*

54

mf
arco
8

mf

arco solo

f

tutti
mf

IV

B

T

57

Musical score for Les Biches: Andantino, page 15, starting at measure 57. The score includes parts for I a, I b, II a, II b, III a, III b, IV, B, and T. Dynamics include pp, mp, mf, p, tutti, and pizz.

I a

I b

II a

II b

III a

III b

IV

B

T

pp

mp

mf

p

tutti

pizz.

60

Ia

Ib

IIa

IIb

IIIa

IIIb

IV

B

T

mf

ff

f

pizz.

mf

arco

63

Ia

Ib

IIa

IIb

IIIa

IIIb

IV

B

T

mp *mélancolique*

mp

arco

pizz.

mp

mp

5/4

5/4

5/4

5/4

5/4

5/4

5/4

5/4

5/4

5/4

66 poco rit. a tempo

Ia

Ib

IIa

IIb

IIIa

IIIb

IV arco

B

T

f

mf

mf

f

mf

mf

mp

p

mf

pizz.

pizz.

mf

pizz.

mf

69

Ia

Ib

IIa

IIb

IIIa

IIIb

IV

B

T

arco

arco

arco

arco

arco

arco

arco

arco

arco

pizz.

p

mf

8a

8a

8a

73

The musical score is arranged in a system of eight staves. The top staff is labeled 'Ia' and the bottom staff is labeled 'T'. The staves are numbered 73 at the beginning. The music is in 3/4 time. The first staff (Ia) has a fermata over the first measure. The second staff (Ib) has a fermata over the first measure. The third staff (IIa) has a fermata over the first measure. The fourth staff (IIb) has a fermata over the first measure. The fifth staff (IIIa) has a fermata over the first measure. The sixth staff (IIIb) has a fermata over the first measure. The seventh staff (IV) has a fermata over the first measure. The eighth staff (B) has a fermata over the first measure. The ninth staff (T) has a fermata over the first measure. The dynamics are *ff* for the first six staves and *mf ff* for the seventh staff. The eighth staff has the instruction 'arco' above it. The music features various rhythmic patterns, including eighth and sixteenth notes, and rests.

76

Ia

Ib

IIa

IIb

IIIa

IIIb

IV

B

T

fff

loco

pizz.

8va

mp

p

79 Céder

Ia *p*

Ib *f* *sfp subito solo* *tutti sf*

IIa *f*

IIb *mp* *sff*

IIIa *pp*

IIIb *f* 6 6

IV *p* *pizz.* *sfp subito*

B *p* *sf*

T *pp*

82

Ia *pp* solo *tutti* *sff*

Ib *sff*

IIa *sff* sec.

IIb or $\text{\textcircled{8vb}}$ *sf*

IIIa *sff* sec.

IIIb *f* 6 6 *sff* sec.

IV *pp* arco *sff* arco

B *sf* *sff*

T *sff* sec.

PDB 08/2/21