

Listening Guide

Liszt: *The Little Bell (La campanella)*

DATE OF WORK: 1838–39; revised 1851

GENRE: Etude, No. 3, from *Transcendental Etudes after Paganini*

FORM: Sectional, with variations (A-B-A'-B'-A''-B''-A''')

MEDIUM: Solo piano

BASIS: Paganini, Violin Concerto No. 2, Finale

TEMPO: Allegretto (fast and light), in 6/8 meter

WHAT TO LISTEN FOR: The work focuses on the highest limits of the piano, with a bell-like octave idea in the right hand.
Sectional work with variations; each variation is faster and more difficult than the previous one.
Highly virtuosic style, demanding great agility from the performer.

Original theme from Paganini violin concerto:



Introduction—shifting octaves, hesitant.

A section—main theme, with high, bell-like pedal, in minor:



Main theme repeated, with embellishments.

B section—begins after rest, with sequential idea, in major; bridge section leads back to A.

A' section—variation of main theme, now heard in left hand:





A'' section—main theme heard under high, trill-like pattern, with 4 trill notes heard for each one of melody:



Coda—*animato* (animated) closing, in loud octaves, with simpler rhythms.