Mazurka in B minor 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.