

**The Act of Transcription writing:  
How to create a new, more satisfying virtuosic solo piano version of *La Valse* by  
Maurice Ravel.**

The purpose of this lecture is to investigate and refine, through my own piano solo transcription of *La Valse*, the **concept of virtuosity** in piano transcriptions. The virtuosic impact deals with the notion of “technical and aesthetical challenge”, which directly concerns the process of the change of format.

**I- The Art of Transcription: overview:**

- Hiller, Hummel, Liszt
- Vienna/France: *Chefs-d'oeuvre classiques de l'opéra français – Rameau project*
- Logistical reasons

**II- *La Valse*: a great example of piano transcription/reduction:**

- 1) Context and history.
- 2) Comparison between the different versions.
- 3) The virtuosic structure of *La Valse*: success of the orchestral and piano versions – Reasons.

**III- Pianistic artifices. What makes this new solo version a virtuosic challenge? Comparison of the two solo versions. Limits.**

- Third staves
- Octaves/orchestral pairings/basses
- Hyper registration/leaps
- Orchestral effects
- Enrichment of the harmonic content
- “fake” tricks

**Limits:** Timbre/Tempo/Physical aspect

**Conclusion:**

Usefulness – Faithfulness – *Tour de force* – Homage.

Does the inherent virtuosity only reside in the digital prowess?

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