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1. ROYAL RHAPSODY

A *rhapsody* is a musical composition very different from the formal, structured style of the *fugue* (see page 23). Unlike a fugue, a rhapsody is a loosely constructed fantasy, sometimes in an epic or heroic style. The result resembles an improvisation. Brahms' rhapsodies are compact and carefully balanced pieces. This is one of three rhapsodies that he composed.

Johannes Brahms, Op. 119, No. 4
(1833–1897)

Allegro maestoso ♩ = 152–176

The musical score for the first system of '1. Royal Rhapsody' is presented in four systems. The first system begins with a forte (*f*) dynamic and a tempo marking of **Allegro maestoso** with a quarter note equal to 152–176 beats. The score is in 4/4 time and features a complex texture with multiple voices in both hands. The first system includes various articulations such as *sfz* and *p*, and is marked with octaves (*8va*) and slurs. Fingerings and slurs are clearly marked throughout the system.