

When Beethoven's *SONATA QUASI UNA FANTASIA* (Sonata in the style of a Fantasy) was first performed, a critic wrote that the first movement reminded him of "moonlight on Lake Lucerne." The public named it "MOONLIGHT SONATA," and it is probably the most popular of all of Beethoven's piano works.

Sonata Quasi una Fantasia

"Moonlight Sonata" (1st Movement)

KEY OF C# MINOR

Key signature: 4 sharps (F#, C#, G#, & D#)

Ludwig van Beethoven
Op. 27, No. 2

Adagio sostenuto*

The musical score is written for piano and consists of four systems. The first system begins with a treble and bass staff in C# minor (4 sharps). The tempo is marked 'Adagio sostenuto*'. The first measure has a piano (pp) dynamic. The second measure has a 'simile' instruction. The third system includes a 'Ped. simile' instruction. The score includes various fingerings and pedaling markings throughout.

**Sostenuto* means "sustaining the tone."

Beethoven's instructions at the beginning of this piece are as follows:

This entire piece must be played very delicately and without dampers.

The instruction *without dampers* was used on pieces written when the dampers were lifted by a knee lever rather than by a pedal. It means that the dampers should be off the strings. This is the same as our modern instructions to **USE THE PEDAL**. Thus *without dampers* = with pedal.

Modern pedal indications are added by the editors.

The Little Shepherd

Very moderately*

Claude Debussy

p very sweetly and delicately expressive *mf*

p *slightly faster*

p *poco*

a tempo *p* *più p* *slowing*

*Debussy gave his tempo indications in French. The translations are by the editors.

**The fermata over the comma indicates a rather long pause (about 2 counts, in this case).

NOTE: There are no fingering or pedal indications in the original. These indications are suggested by the editors.
Begin with the pedal down for a special effect.