The Joy of First Classics

Easy pieces by master composers in their original form. Keyboard miniatures of three centuries for beginners and early-grade pianists. Selected and edited by Denes Agay.
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Foreword

The Joy of First Classics presents a colorful repertory of easy pieces by master composers, both well-known and lesser-known. Indeed, the student and player will find here numerous names and works not encountered before; music which has been unduly neglected, but deserving – because of its intrinsic musical value – to be included in the teaching repertory of the early-grade student.

The word 'classics' in our title indicates not only the style of the Viennese masters, Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven, and their contemporaries, but, in a broader sense, music which has shown itself worthy of general esteem for a considerable span of time. Certainly, works which have been known, played, and loved for a century (Liszt), or even considerably longer (Bach) qualify to be termed 'classic'.

The pieces are in their original forms. Expression marks, fingerings, were added and, in a very few cases, minor editorial adjustments made to clarify the note-picture and facilitate understanding. Keyboard miniatures of three centuries – musically rewarding and technically the most accessible – comprise the content of this volume; instructive and diverting fare for all beginning and early-grade pianists.

Denes Agay
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Canario
Old Dance

Joachim von der Hofe
(about 1612)
Little Sonata

1. Moderato

C. H. Wilton
(18th Century)
Brave Knight

Moderate march tempo

Aria

Moderato
Follow Me!

Kálmán Chován* (1852-1928)

* Pronounced KHO-vañ. Hungarian composer and influential pedagogue.
Four Little Pieces

1. Entree

Allegretto

2. Minuetto

Andantino
3. Complaint

Lento

4. Carefree

Allegro moderato
Gavotte

George Frideric Handel
(1685 - 1759)
Russian Dance

Allegro moderato

Alexander Goedicke
(1877-1957)
Two Little Inventions

1.

Moderato

Jan Jakub Ryba*
(1765 - 1815)

2.

Andante

* Pronounced REE-bah. Czech composer of many works, mostly vocal.
Two Hungarian Play Tunes

1.

István Bartalus
(1821 - 1899)
The Lute Player

Allegretto

Jacques Saint-Luc
(1616-1689)

* Pronounced San-Lueck. Belgian composer and virtuoso on the lute.
Song Without Words

Allegretto

(Fritz Spindler
1817 - 1905)
German Dance

Allegretto

Joseph Haydn
(1732-1809)
Dance Song

Andantino

*Sperontes (J. S. Scholze) *

(1705 - 1750)

* German composer and poet. Famous lyricist and publisher of a collection of popular dance melodies.
Duettino

Johann Wilhelm Hässler
(1747 - 1822)
Old English Air
Felton's Gavotte

Andante grazioso

William Felton
(1713 - 1769)
Mazurka

Maria Szymanowski
(1790-1831)

Moderato

* Pronounced SHEE- ma- novska. Polish piano virtuoso and composer.
A pupil of John Field, admired by Robert Schumann.
Minuet

From the Little Notebook for
Anna Magdalena Bach *
(1725)

* Johann Sebastian Bach's second wife.
Russian Folk Song

Vivace

Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827)
Tarantella

Vivace

Scotson Clark
(1840-1883)
La Montagnarde

The Highland Girl

Allegretto

Jean Joseph Mouret
(1682 - 1738)
Minuet

Andante grazioso

From Leopold Mozart's Little Notebook for Nannerl

* Compiled for his daughter Anna Maria, sister of Wolfgang Amadeus.
Bourrée

Allegretto

Johann Krieger
(1651 - 1735)
Village Dance

Allegretto

Ludwig van Beethoven
(1770-1827)

* From one of Beethoven's sketch-books.
The Cuckoo Waltz

Allegretto

August Eberhard Müller
(1767 - 1817)
Mount Vernon Set

1. Intrada

Allegretto

2. Promenade

Andantino

* English composer and teacher who came to America in 1786. Nellie Custis, George Washington’s adopted daughter was one of his pupils.
3. Minuet

Andantino

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{Piano} & \quad \text{Andantino} \\
\end{align*}
\]
Cradle Song

Johann Philipp Kirnberger
(1721 - 1783)
Arabesque

Allegro scherzando

Friedrich Burgmüller
Waltz

Franz Schubert
Sonata
Minuet

Andantino

Domenico Scarlatti
(1685 - 1757)
Bourrée

Christophe Graupner
(1683 - 1760)
Rondino Pastorale

Carl Reinecke
(1824-1910)
Scherzino

Allegretto marziale

Carl Reinecke (1824-1910)
Elegy

Carl Reinecke (1824 - 1910)

Andante con moto
Carnival

François Couperin
(1668 - 1733)
Rigaudon

Allegretto

Georg Philip Telemann

Fine

D.C. al Fine
Allegro K.3

Allegro giocoso

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
(1756 - 1791)
Solemn Procession

Andante con moto

Ignaz Pleyel
(1757-1831)
Ländler

Franz Schubert
(1797 - 1828)
Little Piece
from Album For The Young

Robert Schumann
(1810 - 1856)
L'épineuse*  
The Thorny One

Françoi Couperin  
(1668 - 1733)

Moderato, dolce

Fine

* Theme and First Couplet

D.C. al Fine
Waltz

Moderato

Franz Schubert
(1797 - 1828)