

Sicilienne by Maria Theresia Paradis

Maria Theresia von Paradis was a widely known Austrian composer and performer during her time and was highly respected by the Mozart family. She lost her eye sight at the age of three. Unfortunately, most of Paradis' compositions has been lost. The Sicilienne in E flat major is one of her famous work and was originally written for solo violin and piano. This composition is a simplistic beauty with a visceral nuance. It's hovering tonality between major and minor expressed the feeling of "smiling through tears" which reflects on her struggles of being blind and being a woman in a male dominated world.

Presto by Thomas Augustine Arne

Thomas Augustine Arne was an English classical composer who was known for writing many patriotic and nationalistic works. Rule Britannia was one of his compositions which became the national anthem for Britain. He was an aural icon of Britain and has been quoted by composers like Handel, Beethoven, Wagner, Johann Strauss I and Elgar. The Sonata in A major is one of the 8 keyboard sonatas he composed. This sonata contains musical features of the typical baroque period. The whole piece was composed of driving semiquavers throughout. The use of Alberti bass-like pattern in both hands and the call and response between the left and right hand can also be heard.

Struttin' at the Waldorf by Philip Lane

Philip Lane is a contemporary composer and musicologist. He was known for his light composition style and his extensive work in restoring lost film scores. One of his compositions, Three Little Bites of the Big Apple, consists of 3 pieces written for piano solo which displays the essence of New York. They are titled Streets and Avenues, A Walk in the Park and Struttin' at the Waldorf respectively. All three pieces are lighthearted and inescapably jazzy with a happy go lucky feel. Struttin' at the Waldorf, for example has a rhythmic section in the middle which mimics the tap dancing steps. The subtle rhythmic differences between the 2 against 3 rhythm and the dotted rhythms provide freshness and variety to the piece.