

E-Program Notes :

Waltz in A Minor, Op. Posth, F. Chopin

This waltz was supposedly written near the end of Chopin's life sometime between 1843 and 1848, but not published until over 100 years later in 1955.

The mood of the piece is unclear, showing great sadness at times but also hinting at happiness and hope. The first theme of the piece uses a simple but effective melody, conveying a sad portrait, with decorative ornaments used throughout.

The second theme is more interesting and lively, although it still has a certain sadness. About halfway through the piece, there is a modulation into A Major, featuring a happy and joyful melody. The piece concludes with the main theme, followed by a short coda.

Swineherd's Dance Sz.42 No.40, Bella Bartok

For children (Gyermekeknek) is a cycle of 79 piano pieces by the Hungarian composer Béla Bartók. The collection of piano pieces was written in 1908 and 1909, at the beginning of Bartók's teaching as professor of piano at the Franz Liszt Academy of Music in Budapest.

The relatively short pieces are based on Hungarian (Band I) and Slovak (Band II) folk music tunes. The level of difficulty increases continuously very well-known Hungarian simple set children's songs to the last piece, the Swineherd Dance (Kanásztánc). Famous pianists such as Zoltán Kocsis regularly included pieces from the collection in their concert program.

It is not a very simple piece, especially from the rhythmic-metric and dynamic point of view. This is shown by the syncopated rhythm of the left hand, along with the truncations and clarity of the semicromes of the right hand.