

Clementi : Sonatina in G Major Op 36 No.2

Muzio Clementi was an Italian-born English composer, pianist, pedagogue, conductor, music publisher, editor, and piano manufacturer. He developed a fluent and technical legato style, which he passed on to a generation of pianists, including Carl Czerny. He was also a great influence to Ludwig van Beethoven. Clementi's reputation was second only to Joseph Haydn back then; and he even competed with Mozart, with a tie as the result. However, Clementi's fame decreased in the 19th and 20th century. Now, he is mostly known for his Sonatinas, which are shorter forms of sonatas.

This particular Sonatina is from a set of six Sonatinas (Op 36) Clementi called 'progressive'. It was published in 1797, and is intended for intermediate piano students. It has three movements: 1. Allegretto, 2. Allegretto, and 3. Allegro.

The 1st movement is divided into three parts. It starts with the 1st theme in G major, then it modulates to its dominant, D major. Theme 2 comes in, and its ending marks the end of the exposition. The themes are developed, then the music returns to G major in the recapitulation.

The 2nd movement is in C major. It has a calmer mood, and is formed mostly of dotted notes.

The 3rd movement is in G major, a light and joyful piece in 3/8 time. The middle part modulates to D major, using new materials, before going back to G major, repeating the materials in the first part. To play this Sonatina, one must have a light touch and clear running notes.