

Contemporary Piano Literature

BOOK
3

Selected and Correlated by Frances Clark
Edited by Louise Goss
Stories by Adele deLeeuw

Preface

The Contemporary Piano Literature series is devoted to choice smaller keyboard works written by some of the composers who have achieved prominence in our time.

This series was designed as a companion to *Piano Literature of the 17th, 18th and 19th Centuries*. Together, the two sets form a representative collection of easier keyboard literature from the time of Bach to the present day.

Many of the pieces in the *Contemporary Piano Literature* books were written on commission for the *Frances Clark Library for Piano Students*. Others were taken from the repertoire of available contemporary works.

Frances Clark

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Cyril Scott
1879–1970

Poetry and music were woven together all through Cyril Scott's life, and many countries influenced him.

His father was a Greek scholar and his mother was a gifted amateur musician. The young English boy played the piano by ear at an early age and his mother encouraged him. When he was seven, he began to compose. His parents sent him to Germany to study piano at the Hoch Conservatory, but because he was so young—only twelve—he had a tutor come to his house each day to help him with his studies instead of going to a regular school.

He returned home for a while, keeping up with piano studies, and then he went back to Germany to concentrate on composing. While he was there, he made a lifelong friendship with a young German poet, Stefan George, who opened up to him the world of poetry; and later, when he had gone back to England and was giving piano recitals and lessons to piano students, he began to write poetry himself. His first verses were published the same year that his first composition was performed in public.

Cyril Scott liked to use multi-rhythms in his music, which means frequent shiftings from one rhythm to another. He made many interesting experiments in harmony, too. Although he was trained largely in Germany, there are influences of France and the Orient in his work. One of his most delightful compositions is a musical setting of Riki Tiki Tavi, the hero of Kipling's *Jungle Book*.

Scott lived in Liverpool, England, where he was a teacher, writer, and composer. He composed a great many small works as well as several operas, church music, and compositions for chorus, voice, and piano. "Seesaw" and "March of the Tin Soldiers" come from a set of ten student pieces Scott originally called *Young Hearts* but was renamed *For My Young Friends*.

March of the Tin Soldiers

From "For My Young Friends"

Cyril Scott

In march time

mp p

5

simile

10

15

rit.

20

mp mf a tempo

expressively

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