

CARL CZERNY

24 Easy Studies for the Left Hand, Op. 718

This edition is dedicated to
Dr. Pauline Riddle with
admiration and
appreciation.

Maurice Hinson

Edited by Maurice Hinson

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Foreword

Carl Czerny was born in Vienna on February 20, 1791. After early instruction by his pianist father, he appeared in public as a child prodigy in 1800. Subsequently he became a student of Beethoven and by the age of 15, he had established himself as a respected piano teacher.

Among his artist pupils were Theodor Döhler, Sigismond Thalberg, Theodor Kullak, Alfred Jaëll and Franz Liszt. His nonetude works comprise over 300 graduals and offertories, as well as symphonies, masses, writings in music history and theoretical treatises; his opus numbers are near the one-thousand figure. Czerny's one planned international concert tour was cancelled because of the Napoleonic Wars. He died in Vienna on July 15, 1857.

Czerny's talent was remarkable: within a narrow harmonic

scheme he developed a prodigious understanding of finger movements possible on the keyboard. He composed many volumes of studies that feature rapid, feathery, well-articulated passages, mainly for the right hand. His style was smooth, pretty and ear-tickling when played fast; he was very popular during his lifetime.

Czerny's Op. 718 is a set of 24 studies that emphasize training of the left hand. The work is not a collection of left-hand solo studies as one might guess from the title, though it focuses on the dexterity of the left hand. The studies include the following types of technique: scales, double thirds, full (four-note) chords, arpeggios, skips, melody and accompaniment in the left-hand part, turns, staccato 16ths, passing of the second finger over the first, fast repeated notes with changing fingers, an exercise to strengthen the fourth and fifth fingers, grace notes and octaves.

Op. 718 and the *School of the Left Hand (Schule der linken Hand)*, Op. 399, are Czerny's only two opus numbers devoted exclusively to developing the left hand.

24 Easy Studies for the Left Hand

Carl Czerny
Op. 718

① Allegro moderato

1. *p*

3. *cresc.*

6. *f*

9. *p dolce*

12. *cresc.* *f*

① Since this opus focuses mainly on the left-hand part, special attention should be given to it when practicing.

② The eighths should be heard above the sixteenths.