THE FIRST

SONATINA BOOK

FOR THE PIANO

EDITED BY WILLARD A. PALMER

INTRODUCTION TO THE SONATINA

The sonatina has been defined as a diminutive sonata. In many respects the sonatina may serve to acquaint the student with the basics of musical form and style that are characteristic of the classical sonata.

A sonatina usually has 2 or 3 rather short movements. While these movements provide contrasts of tempo and mood, they also complement one another, combining to fulfill the overall plan for a complete work in several parts.

A sonatina movement is generally constructed from two themes or subjects:

- 1. the principal theme (A)
- 2. the subordinate theme (B)

These themes are often used in the simple two-part (binary) form A B, which may, because of repeats, become A A B B or A B A B. Some movements are in three-part (ternary) form, A B A. By the use of repeats, this may become A A B A or A B A B A. A short ending phrase, called the *codetta*, is sometimes added to complete a movement in any of these forms.

The student should be taught to recognize and identify the principal and subordinate themes as well as transitional phrases between the two themes, and any short developments of thematic material that may occur. He should also be able to identify the *codetta*. Application of this type of analysis to the *sonatinas* contained in this book will also provide the student with a basic understanding of the elements of composition.

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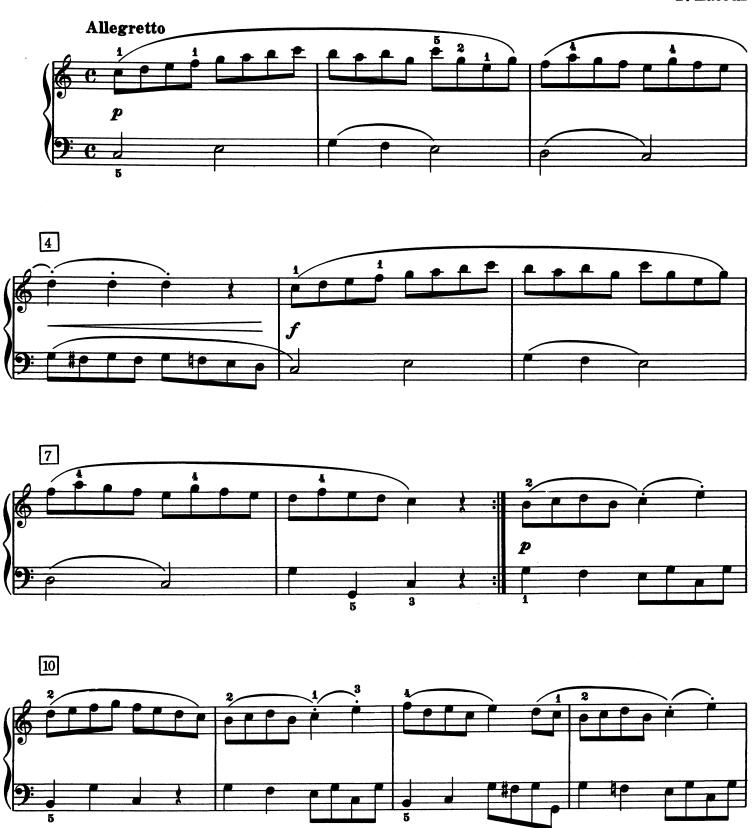
Second Edition

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Cover art: A detail from An Architect's Table by Pierre-Charles Duvivier (French, 1716–1788) Oil on canvas, 40 %" x 31", 1772 Norton Simon Art Foundation, Pasadena, California

Sonatina in C Major

T. Latour



Latour was pianist and composer to King George IV of England during the early part of the 19th century.

Sonatina in C Major



Tobias Haslinger was an Austrian music publisher. He was a very likable person and was a close friend of many composers, including Beethoven, who held him in high esteem.