

HELLER

25 MELODIOUS STUDIES OPUS 45 FOR THE PIANO

EDITED BY WILLARD A. PALMER

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FOREWORD

Stephen Heller was born in Budapest in 1813 and died in Paris in 1888. He enjoyed great success, both as a concert pianist and as a composer. He was admired and encouraged by Chopin, Schumann and Liszt, who were his close friends.

Heller's Opus 16, entitled *The Art of Phrasing*, consisted of 24 etudes. It was such a success that it guaranteed his economic security and enabled him to devote most of his time to composing. He had even greater success with the present work, *25 Melodious Studies*, Opus 45, which was written at the urging of his publisher as an introduction to his Opus 16.

The selections contained in Opus 45 are worthy of comparison with the shorter piano pieces of Schumann, such as those found in *The Album for the Young*, and with some of Mendelssohn's *Songs Without Words*. Heller's music shows the influence of both of these composers, but is nevertheless quite original.

The titles of the pieces in Opus 45 are very probably not Heller's own, and may have been added by the publisher. Heller is known to have said that descriptive titles were not important, since "music should be evocative rather than descriptive." At any rate, some of the titles, such as "A Real Task" and "Sterness," do little to add to the attractiveness of these pieces for modern-day students, and are best changed or omitted. We have retitled the former of these two "A Challenge," and the latter, "Scherzo."

This new edition corrects a number of printing errors and omissions. It is openly spaced for easier reading, but is without poor page-turns. Editorial suggestions appear in footnotes, and each piece is introduced with a short description of the style and/or purpose of the selection.

WILLARD A. PALMER



Second Edition
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Cover art: Golden Autumn
by Isaac Levitan
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In this quiet piece the right-hand sixteenth notes should be legato and equal throughout. The left-hand phrasing should be carefully observed, but not exaggerated.

THE BROOK

*Allegretto
legato*

The musical score for 'THE BROOK' is written for piano in common time (C). It consists of five systems of music, each with a right-hand (treble) and left-hand (bass) staff. The right-hand part features continuous sixteenth-note patterns, while the left-hand part provides a harmonic accompaniment with longer note values and rests.

System 1: The right-hand part begins with a series of sixteenth-note runs. Fingerings are indicated above the notes: 5 1 2 5, 4 3 2 3, 1 5 1 2 5, and 4 3 2. The left-hand part starts with a half note G3, followed by a half note F3, and then a half note E3. A piano (*p*) dynamic marking is present.

System 2: The right-hand part continues with similar sixteenth-note patterns. Fingerings include 5 5, 4 5 4 5 4, and 4 3. The left-hand part features a half note G3, followed by a half note F3, and then a half note E3. A crescendo (*cresc.*) and decrescendo (*dim.*) marking spans the system.

System 3: The right-hand part continues with sixteenth-note patterns. Fingerings include 4 3, 4 3 4, 5 5, 4 3 4, and 1. The left-hand part features a half note G3, followed by a half note F3, and then a half note E3. A *dolce* marking is present in the right-hand part, and a mezzo-forte marcato (*mf marcato*) marking is present in the left-hand part.

System 4: The right-hand part continues with sixteenth-note patterns. Fingerings include 1, 1, 1, 1, 2, and 1. The left-hand part features a half note G3, followed by a half note F3, and then a half note E3. A piano (*p*) dynamic marking is present.

System 5: The right-hand part continues with sixteenth-note patterns. Fingerings include 2 3 5, 4 3 5, and 4. The left-hand part features a half note G3, followed by a half note F3, and then a half note E3. A piano (*p*) dynamic marking is present. The system concludes with a *(legato)* marking.