

JOHANN STRAUSS, JR.

(STROWS) 1825-1899

In the 1870's, Vienna had become a center of European culture, especially music. Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven, Schubert, Mendelssohn and Brahms all had lived and composed in this city at different times. There were a large number of wealthy families who patronized all types of music.

Ballroom dancing was an especially fashionable pastime. It gave the nobility and wealthy socialites of Vienna the opportunity to "be seen" and to show off elaborate gowns and uniforms that were in style at that time. The waltz, with its graceful movements and close contact of the dancers was sensationally popular.

Strauss wrote hundreds of waltzes which were performed by his own dance orchestra. His music personifies the elegance of Vienna. This waltz, *Vienna Life*, was written in 1873.



Vienna Life

Johann Strauss, Jr., Op. 354

Allegretto ♩ = 138-160

The musical score for "Vienna Life" is presented in two systems. The first system begins with a piano introduction in 3/4 time, marked Allegretto with a tempo of 138-160. The melody in the right hand starts with a half note G4, followed by a quarter note A4, and then a half note B4. The bass line in the left hand starts with a half note G2, followed by a quarter note A2, and then a half note B2. The melody includes fingerings (2, 1, 5, 4, 4) and a dynamic marking of *mp*. The bass line includes a 5-fingered chord. The second system continues the melody and bass line, featuring a crescendo leading to a dynamic marking of *mf*. The melody includes fingerings (2, 1, 5, 4, 4, 1/2). The bass line includes a 4-fingered chord and a 1/2 note.

Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy

(from the "Nutcracker Suite")

Peter I. Tchaikowsky, Op. 71

Delicato ♩ = 104-112

The first system of the musical score is in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The tempo is marked 'Delicato' with a quarter note equal to 104-112 beats per minute. The dynamics are marked *pp* (pianissimo). The right hand features a melodic line with fingerings 5, 2, 1, and 3. The left hand provides harmonic support with chords and single notes, including fingerings 5, 1/2, 2/5, and 1/5.

The second system continues the piece. The right hand has fingerings 3, 2, and 5. The left hand has fingerings 3, 2, 2/4, and 1. The dynamics change to *mp* (mezzo-piano) in the third measure.

The third system shows the right hand with fingerings 2 and 3. The left hand has fingerings 2/5, 3, 2, 1, and 3. The dynamics are marked *pp* (pianissimo) in the fourth measure.

The fourth system continues the melodic and harmonic development. The right hand has fingerings 1, 2, 3, and 4. The left hand has fingerings 1, 2, 3, and 4.