

Preface to the reprint · Vorwort zum Nachdruck

Shortly after Sergei Prokofiev's death, the publishing house Edition Peters in Leipzig decided to produce a selection of Prokofiev's works from the state-owned Soviet music publishing house Muzgiz in Moscow as licensed editions for the socialist countries. The initiative was taken by the then chief editor Wilhelm Weismann, who entrusted the management to the editor Christoph Hellmundt. Hellmundt had personal contacts with David Oistrakh, Alfred Schnittke and many others, but not with Prokofiev himself.

The Prokofiev editions were published by Edition Peters from 1956 to around 1974 in new engravings. In 1974, the German Democratic Republic acceded to the 1952 Universal Copyright Convention, followed by the Soviet Union in 1975, so that from then on the Soviet editions were internationally protected. The existing editions remained part of the publisher's catalogue until German reunification in 1990, after which the rights were transferred in full to the publisher Sikorski.

Today these editions can contribute to the dissemination of Sergei Prokofiev's works once again and continue as part of the rich history of the Edition Peters' catalogue.

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After Prokofiev's move to the Soviet Union in May 1936, earlier stylistic characteristics of his Russian period returned to his compositions: robust power, unyielding rhythm and broad flow. The three so-called War Sonatas Nos. 6–8, whose movements and motifs are closely related to or derive from the same stock of ideas, were written within this framework. They were composed in the years 1939–44, while Prokofiev was evacuated from Moscow to Kazakhstan and the Caucasus. The reference to the siege of Leningrad was a prerequisite for the compositions' success with the musical public. However, they continue the tradition of Beethoven rather than conforming to the stylistic maxims of 'socialist realism' in force at the time.

The Sonata No. 6 has a large-scale structure. The first movement exposes stark dissonances, noise effects and merciless rhythms set against impressionistic, yet always clearly formulated intermediate sections that gradually converge on the opening motif that characterises the sonata. In the second movement, the 'cruel seriousness' is replaced by a cheerful march with dance-like vigour and witty variations on the theme. The 'valzer' of the third movement is elegant and grand in its gesture, yet delicate and angular. Like the first movement, the final movement alternates between virtuosity (*Vivace*) and a seemingly menacing introspection (*Andante/più tranquillo*), whereby the opening motif gradually emerges and ultimately stands out. This magnificent music rightly has a place in the piano repertoire of all advanced players.

Dresden, June 2024

Klaus Burmeister
Editor of Edition Peters Leipzig,
1973–1993

Der Verlag VEB Edition Peters in Leipzig beschloss kurz nach dem Tod Sergej Prokofjews, gemeinfreie Drucke aus dem staatlichen sowjetischen Musikverlag Muzgiz in Moskau als Lizenzausgaben für die sozialistischen Länder zu veröffentlichen. Die Initiative ergriff der damalige Cheflektor Wilhelm Weismann und übertrug die Leitung bald schon an den Lektor Christoph Hellmundt. Dieser hatte persönliche Kontakte zu David Oistrach, Alfred Schnittke und vielen anderen, jedoch nicht zu Prokofjew selbst.

So erschienen die Prokofjew-Ausgaben in der Edition Peters in den Jahren von 1956 bis etwa 1974 in neuen Leipziger Stichen. 1974 trat die Deutsche Demokratische Republik dem Welturheberrechtsabkommen von 1952 bei, die Sowjetunion folgte 1975, so dass ab diesem Zeitpunkt die sowjetischen Ausgaben international geschützt waren. Die existenten Ausgaben waren Teil des Verlagskataloges bis zur deutschen Wiedervereinigung 1990, danach gingen die Rechte vollständig an den Verlag Sikorski über.

Heute können diese Ausgaben erneut zur Verbreitung der Werke Sergej Prokofjews beitragen und ein Stück der reichen Geschichte des Peters-Katalogs weiterführen.

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Nach Prokofjews Übersiedlung in die Sowjetunion im Mai 1936 kehrten in seine Kompositionen frühere Stileigenarten seiner russischen Zeit zurück: robuste Kraft, unnachgiebiger Rhythmus und breites Fließen. In diesem Gefüge entstanden die drei sogenannten Kriegssonaten Nr. 6–8, deren Sätze und Motive eng verwandt sind bzw. aus demselben Ideenvorrat stammen. Sie entstanden in den Jahren 1939–1944, während Prokofjew aus Moskau nach Kasachstan und in den Kaukasus evakuiert wurde. Der Bezug zur Belagerung Leningrads war Voraussetzung für den Erfolg der Kompositionen in der Musiköffentlichkeit. Sie führen allerdings eher die Tradition Beethovens fort, als dass sie den seinerzeit geltenden stilistischen Maximen des „sozialistischen Realismus“ entsprechen.

Die Sonate Nr. 6 weist eine großdimensionierte Anlage auf. Der erste Satz exponiert auf Basis des sonatenbestimmenden Anfangsmotivs krasse Dissonanzen, Lärmefekte und unbarmherzige Rhythmen gegen impressionistische, doch stets klar formulierte Zwischenteile, die sich beide nach und nach annähern. Im zweiten Satz tritt anstelle des „grausamen Ernsts“ ein heiterer Marsch mit tänzerischem Schwung und geistvollen Varianten des Themas. Der „valzer“ des dritten Satzes ist elegant und groß in seiner Geste, zart und doch kantig. Der Finalsatz wechselt analog zum ersten Satz zwischen Virtuosität (*Vivace*) und einer bedrohlich anmutenden Innenansicht (*Andante/più tranquillo*), wobei das Anfangsmotiv sukzessive plastisch hervortritt und sich letztlich heraushebt. Diese großartige Musik hat zurecht einen Platz im Klavierrepertoire für Fortgeschrittene und Könnner.

Dresden, Juni 2024

Klaus Burmeister
Lektor der Edition Peters Leipzig,
1973–1993

409

Musical score for measures 409-412. The system consists of two staves. The right staff (treble clef) features a complex melodic line with triplets and an eighth-note run. The left staff (bass clef) provides a rhythmic accompaniment with triplets and eighth notes. Dynamic markings include accents and a forte (f) dynamic.

413

Musical score for measures 413-416. The system consists of two staves. The right staff (treble clef) continues the melodic line with triplets and eighth notes. The left staff (bass clef) continues the accompaniment. Dynamic markings include accents and a forte (f) dynamic.

417

Musical score for measures 417-421. The system consists of two staves. The right staff (treble clef) features a melodic line with triplets. The left staff (bass clef) features a rhythmic accompaniment with triplets. Dynamic markings include *molto cresc.* and *fff*.

422

Musical score for measures 422-425. The system consists of two staves. The right staff (treble clef) features a melodic line with eighth notes and triplets. The left staff (bass clef) features a rhythmic accompaniment with eighth notes. Dynamic markings include *cresc.* and *ff*.

426

Musical score for measures 426-429. The system consists of two staves. The right staff (treble clef) features a melodic line with eighth notes and triplets. The left staff (bass clef) features a rhythmic accompaniment with eighth notes. Dynamic markings include *ff*.

93 *Meno mosso*

Musical score for measures 93-96. The piece is in 4/4 time and features a piano accompaniment. The right hand plays a melodic line with some grace notes, while the left hand provides a rhythmic accompaniment. The dynamic marking is *p espr.*

97

Musical score for measures 97-100. The right hand features a triplet of eighth notes in measure 97 and a triplet of sixteenth notes in measure 98. The dynamic markings are *mf* and *p*, with a *poco cresc.* instruction at the end of the system.

101

Musical score for measures 101-105. The right hand has a melodic line with a *dim.* marking. The left hand has a steady accompaniment. Dynamic markings include *mp*, *p*, *mf espr.*, and *mf espr.*

106

Musical score for measures 106-110. The right hand plays a melodic line with some grace notes. The left hand has a rhythmic accompaniment. The key signature changes to one flat.

111

Musical score for measures 111-114. The right hand has a melodic line. The left hand has a rhythmic accompaniment. Dynamic markings include *f espr.* and *vd*.

115

Musical score for measures 115-118. The right hand has a melodic line. The left hand has a rhythmic accompaniment. The dynamic marking is *f*.