

# THREE'S COMPANY



*Engaging Works for Piano Six Hands*

**Music Teachers' National Association**

**Wednesday, March 22, 2017**

**9:15-10:15 a.m.**

**Baltimore, Maryland**

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**Background:**

Keyboard trios (music for six hands at one piano) have been a unique part of piano ensemble repertoire since the development of the piano. Works for three players at separate keyboards can be found in the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries, such as the harpsichord concerti by J. S. Bach (1685-1750) and the “Lodron” Concerto by W. A. Mozart (1756-1791). It was in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century—with the continued development of larger pianos—that compositions for six hands at one keyboard began to appear in the form of both original compositions and arrangements/transcriptions of popular works.

As with piano duets, teachers often composed six-hand pieces for their pupils. Some of the earliest composers of six-hand music include those included on tonight’s program: Wilhelm Friedrich Ernst Bach (1759-1845), Carolus Antonius Fodor (1768-1846) and Cornelius Gurlitt (1820-1901).

In the 19<sup>th</sup> century, *salon* works for six hands gained in popularity, and by the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, the educational value of this ensemble became widely recognized by teachers, pedagogical composers and publishers alike. Many compositions from this period carry subtitles such as “The Three Sisters” or “The Three Amateurs,” reflecting ensemble playing in the home with friends and family. A great example of this is the set of two pieces by Rachmaninoff, written for his cousins, the Skalon sisters.

In addition to a recent upswing in pedagogical works for the genre, Contemporary composers such as Noël Lee, George Crumb, Peter Schickele and Alexander Peskanov have written effective works for the genre. We hope you enjoy today’s presentation and we look forward to bringing you more works for piano six hands!

**Pedagogical considerations:**

- Seating: chairs, benches or a combination thereof.
- Pedalling: Who will do it? Depends on the piece, age/height of players.
- Page turning: Assign this ahead of time based on the activity of the part.
- Shared territory: When players share a key or group of keys, plan ahead geographically, where the hands will go, i.e., inside vs. outside of the key. Hand and finger position are crucial.
- Dynamic considerations for variety of sound and clarity.
- Team Decisions: Articulation, speed of attack, conduct, breathe, release of notes.
- Are the parts even divided in terms of interest or division of the melodic line?

**Sources for Scores:**

Petrucci Library: <http://imslp.org/wiki/> (type piano six hands into the search box)

Sheet Music Plus: [www.sheetmusicplus.com](http://www.sheetmusicplus.com) (type piano six hands into the search box)

Free-Scores: [www.free-scores.com](http://www.free-scores.com) (type piano six hands into the search box)

In addition to the mostly original works listed at the end of the handout, these sites will lead you to numerous arrangements of famous works, as well as more elementary and pedagogical compositions.

**Collections:**

Essential Keyboard Trios. Beard/Mauro (Alfred). [10 pieces]

Grand Keyboard Trios. Boober (Alfred) [6 volumes]

Piano Music for Six Hands. Goebels. (Schott)

Three Times Two. Piazza. (Schott) [10 pieces]

*Works performed as excerpts or in their entirety*

Bolero	Jean Louis Streabbog (1835-1886)
Serenade	Franz Schubert (1797-1828) Arr. Carl Liba
Sonata for six hands, Op. 10 I. Allegro con spirito II. Rondo: allegro	C. Antonius Fodor (1768-1846)
Selections from Op. 192 for piano six hands No. 2 Gavotta No. 3 Capriccietta No. 4 Serenata No. 6 Impromptu	Cornelius Gurlitt (1820-1901)
Andante from Symphony, No. 94 ("Surprise")	Franz Joseph Haydn (1732-1809) Trans. By Renaud de Vilbac
<i>Das Dreyblatt</i> (The Trefoil)	W.F. E. Bach (1759-1845)
Two Pieces for Piano Six Hands Romance Valse	Sergei Rachmaninoff (1873-1943)
From <i>Âmes d'enfants</i> (1917) I. <i>Pures</i> II. <i>Naïves</i> III. <i>Mystérieuses</i>	Jean Cras (1879-1932)
Pizzicato Polka from <u>Sylvia</u>	Leo Delibes (1836-1891) Trans. Bernard Leutherau (b. 1955)
Chinatown Dragons Mischievous	Alexander Peskanov (b. 1958)

### Selected List of Six Hand Works:

- W. F. Bach. (Alfred Collection)  
-*Das Dreyblatt*
- Blanc, Adolphe (Petrucci Library)  
-Ah! vous dirai-je maman  
-Au clair de lune
- Cras, Jean. (Free-scores.com)  
-*Âmes des e'fants* (3 pieces)
- Czerny, Carl. (Petrucci Library)  
-Divertissement militaire, Op. 229  
-Fantasy on Opera Airs, Op. 741  
-Fantasia on *Norma*, Op. 689  
-Military Rondo, No. 6  
-Polonaise brillante, Op. 296  
-Victoria Quadrille, Op. 594
- Croisez, Alexandre. (Petrucci Library)  
-Marche  
-*Les trois Tyroliennes*
- Fodor, C. A. (Alfred Collection)  
-Sonata, Op. 10 in F Major
- Fuchs, Armin. (Petrucci Library)  
-*Oder etwa doch?*  
-*Vielleicht, vielleicht auch nicht*
- Gillock, William. (Sheetmusicplus.com)  
-The Little Sparrow (Willis)  
-Oriental Bazaar (Willis)
- Grainger, Percy. (Petrucci Library)  
-Zanzibar Boat Song (Schott)
- Grill, Joyce. (Sheetmusicplus)  
-Chopsticks Rag for Three (Alfred)  
-Three's a Crowd Rag (Alfred)  
-Triple Dip (Alfred)
- Gurlitt, Cornelius. (Kjos)  
-Six Works, Op. 192
- Micheus, George. (Petrucci Library)  
-*Au pas!*
- Olson, Kevin. (Sheetmusicplus)  
-Out...standing (FJH)
- Panerai, Vincenzo. (Petrucci Library)  
-Sonata No. 23 in F Major
- Peskanov, Alexander. (Sheetmusicplus)  
-Chinatown Dragons (Digital Download)  
-Mischievious (Digital Download)  
-Song of Remembrance (Alfred)
- Popp, Wilhelm. (Free-scores.com)  
-*Les trois amies*, Op. 27 (Verdi Opera Themes)
- Rachmaninoff, Sergei. (Alfred Collection)  
-Valse  
-Romance
- Ravina, Jean Henry. (Free-scores.com)  
-Tyrolienne
- Rowley, Alec. (Petrucci Library)  
-Tambourin
- Shickele, Peter. (Presser)  
-Chapbook
- Schnittke, Alfred. (Sheetmusicplus)  
-Hommage (various composers)
- Smit, Maarten. (Free-scores.com)  
-Petite Suite (Three movements)
- Streabogg, Jean Louis. (Alfred Collection)  
-Bolero
- Vandall, Robert. (Sheetmusicplus)  
-Jazz for Three (Alfred)  
-Rustic Dance (Alfred) (Kjos)  
-Three to Get Ready (Alfred)