

Enriching Intermediate Students' Repertoire: Bohuslav Martinů's Selected Piano Works

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Bohuslav Martinů (1890-1959)

- Born in Polička, a small town in Bohemia close to the Moravian border
- Studied at Prague Conservatory: violin, organ, composition
- Worked at Czech Philharmonic Orchestra
 - Exposed to various styles of his contemporaries
 - Inspired by Debussy, Roussel, Stravinsky, and *Les Six*
- Residency in France
 - Broadened compositional styles and combined with Czech elements
 - Impressionist Period (1907-1923): influenced by Debussy. Composed works in the style of impressionism.
 - Neoclassical Period: influenced by Stravinsky. Matured compositional style combined with jazz and popular dance
- Piano works
 - Composed over 180 works for piano solos
 - Wide in difficulty range
 - Intermediate pieces include his significant compositional style in a succinct manner

- **Selected List of Martinů's Piano Solos Organized by Halbreich Number***

Halbreich Number	Title (Number of Movements)	Year Composed	Difficulty Level	Stylistic Elements
92	Lotuky (Puppets, 4), Book III	1914-8	8*	Czech, Romantic, Marionette play
95	Sest polek (Six Polkas, 6)	1916	6-8	Czech, Slavic, Romantic
98	Lotuky (Puppets, 5), Book II	1914-8	8-9*	Czech, Romantic, Marionette play
99	Procession of the Cats on Solstice Night, 1)	1919	6	Czech, Romantic
100	The Little Lullaby	1919	7-8	Romantic, Impressionistic
101	Jaro v zahradě (Spring in the Garden, 4)	1922	6-7*	Czech, Jazz
116	Foxtrot	1920	6-7	Jazz, Ragtime, Foxtrot
122bis	Večer na pobřeží (Evening at the Shore, 3)	1921	8	Impressionistic

123bis	Lotuky (Puppets, 5), Book I	1923-5	7-9*	Marionette play, Czech, Neoclassical
125	Bajky (Fables, 5)	1924	7-8*	Czech, Neoclassical Bartok
127ter	Film en miniature (6)	1925	8*	Czech, Impressionistic, Neoclassical, Tango
129bis	Pro tanec (For Dance, 1)	1927	7	Jazz
132	Three Esquisses	1927	8-9	Jazz: Cakewalk, Blues, Tango, Charleston
137	Black Bottom	1927	7	Jazz, Charleston Dance
140	Par T. S. F (By Telegraphy Without Wires, 1)	1928-9	8	Czech, Neoclassical
154	Borova: Seven Czech Dances (7)	1929	8-9	Impressionistic, Neoclassical, Jazz
158	Esquisses, Book I, (6)	1931	7-9	Czech, Impressionistic, Jazz, Ragtime
173bis	Listek do pamatniku, No. 2 (Album Leaf)	1935	6	Czech, Slavic
178	Dumka No. 1, “Contemplation”	1936	8	Jazz, Neoclassical
181	Dumka No. 2, “Elegie”	1936	8	Czech, Jazz, Neoclassical
195	Fourths and Octaves	1937	7	Jazz, Neoclassical
205	Fenetre sur le Jardin (Window on the Garden, 4)	1938	8*	Czech, Neoclassical, Jazz
221	Dumka no. 3	1941	8*	Czech, Romantic, Jazz, Neoclassical
249	Les bouquinistes Du Quai Malaquais	1948	8*	Neoclassical

- *Difficulty levels are based on Jane Magrath’s leveling criteria.

References

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