

THE FIRST SONATINA BOOK

FOR THE PIANO

EDITED BY WILLARD A. PALMER

INTRODUCTION TO THE SONATINA

The *sonatina* has been defined as a diminutive *sonata*. In many respects the *sonatina* may serve to acquaint the student with the basics of musical form and style that are characteristic of the classical *sonata*.

A *sonatina* usually has 2 or 3 rather short movements. While these movements provide contrasts of tempo and mood, they also complement one another, combining to fulfill the overall plan for a complete work in several parts.

A *sonatina* movement is generally constructed from two themes or subjects:

1. the principal theme (A)
2. the subordinate theme (B)

These themes are often used in the simple two-part (binary) form A B, which may, because of repeats, become A A B B or A B A B. Some movements are in three-part (ternary) form, A B A. By the use of repeats, this may become A A B A or A B A B A. A short ending phrase, called the *codetta*, is sometimes added to complete a movement in any of these forms.

The student should be taught to recognize and identify the principal and subordinate themes as well as transitional phrases between the two themes, and any short developments of thematic material that may occur. He should also be able to identify the *codetta*. Application of this type of analysis to the *sonatinas* contained in this book will also provide the student with a basic understanding of the elements of composition.

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Oil on canvas, 40 1/4" x 31", 1772
Norton Simon Art Foundation, Pasadena, California

Sonatina in C Major

T. Latour

Allegretto

The musical score is written for piano in C major, 2/4 time. It consists of four systems of two staves each. The first system (measures 1-3) is marked *p* and features a treble staff with a melodic line and a bass staff with a simple accompaniment. The second system (measures 4-6) starts with a boxed measure number '4' and includes a dynamic change to *f* in measure 5. The third system (measures 7-9) starts with a boxed measure number '7' and includes a dynamic change to *p* in measure 8. The fourth system (measures 10-13) starts with a boxed measure number '10'. The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, slurs, and fingerings (e.g., 1, 2, 3, 4, 5).

Latour was pianist and composer to King George IV of England during the early part of the 19th century.