
Six Pieces for Piano Four Hands



Title Six Pieces for Piano Four Hands

Time of Origin 1896

Premiere unknown

Duration ca. 6 min.

1. Andante grazioso
2. Poco allegro
3. Rasch
4. Andante
5. Lebhaft, rasch
6. Allegro molto

Many of Schönberg's early compositions were written for a specific purpose - as part of his work as a choral conductor, as publishing work, or simply for private music making. The "Six Pieces for Piano Four Hands," whose dedicatee Bella Cohn belonged to Schönberg's circle of acquaintances, perhaps fall into the latter group. They were inspired by the Viennese music critic and composer Richard Heuberger, who, after praising two of his songs, advised Schönberg to write piano pieces in the style of Schubert for further practice. Four-hand piano music was very common at the time, whether it involved works by classical composers, pedagogical pieces, or albums containing arrangements of popular works. Schönberg's composition is a collection of character pieces and dance movements, whose technically simple, yet musically original and varied style must have found certain appeal.

© Arnold Schönberg Center, Wien
www.schoenberg.at