

The Merry Farmer

from *Album for the Young*

Although Robert Schumann's first loves were music and literature he began his career studying law. He soon abandoned this however, and took private music lessons while beginning to compose. He wrote a great deal of music for the piano, including many collections of short pieces such as *Album for the Young*, from which this is taken.

Robert Schumann
(1810–56)

Bright and cheerful

The musical score for "The Merry Farmer" is written for piano in 4/4 time, B-flat major. It consists of 17 measures. The piece is characterized by a bright and cheerful mood. The melody is primarily in the right hand, with a simple accompaniment in the left hand. The score includes various dynamics such as *f* (forte) and *mp* (mezzo-piano), and articulation marks like slurs and accents. Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1-5 above or below notes. The piece concludes with a final cadence in the right hand.

Cradle Song

Wiegenlied

Johannes Brahms's father was a double bass player, and gave his son his first music lessons. As a young man Brahms made his living by playing the piano in pubs and rowdy drinking places. Although he was a composer of the Romantic period, Brahms liked the music of the Classical period, and Beethoven was his favourite composer.

Johannes Brahms
(1833–97)

Dolce, con moto

sempre p

6

11

16

21

Sleeping Beauty Waltz

Some of Tchaikovsky's best-known music, including this piece, is for the ballet. As a composer he was known for his clever and unusual orchestration, and in his popular *1812 Overture* (which celebrates a Russian military victory) he uses a canon and peals of church bells!

Piotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky
(1840–93)

Tempo di valse

The musical score is written for piano in 3/4 time, featuring a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The piece is marked 'Tempo di valse' and begins with a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic. The score is divided into five systems, each with a measure number at the beginning. The first system (measures 1-6) includes a triplet of eighth notes in the right hand and a four-measure rest in the left hand. The second system (measures 7-13) features a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic and includes a four-measure rest in the right hand and a five-measure rest in the left hand. The third system (measures 14-20) returns to mezzo-piano (*mp*) and includes a two-measure rest in the right hand and a two-measure rest in the left hand. The fourth system (measures 21-26) is marked forte (*f*) and includes a one-measure rest in the right hand and a one-measure rest in the left hand. The fifth system (measures 27-30) concludes the piece with a five-measure rest in the left hand.