

Waltz No 3 from Op 36 by Amy Beach

What does the title mean?

A waltz is a ballroom dance in 3 that has emphasis on the first beat and oom pa pa movement in the bass. This waltz is from a young children's album and has a sweet character in the treble range.

What key is this in?

This is in C major for Section A.

Section B bar 32 moves to E minor (mediant minor). At bar 45 it moves to G major but returns to E minor at bar 49. Bar 59 goes to G major before returning to C major for the final section at bar 65.

What is the form of the piece?

Ternary form ABA. Section A is the same both times. Section A is sweet with long phrases while Section B dances more (has more movement) with 'oom pa pa' feel and shorter phrases.

Period/Style:

This is from the late Romantic period (1897) and has a sentimental Romantic character (see below).

Period/Style - Romantic.

Style - Romantic style - melody has long phrases, melody very important. Harmonic shifts chromatically or to unrelated keys. Accent of dissonance. Homophonic texture (melody in foreground). Epic or small pieces, character pieces typical. Piano development influenced music greatly, many piano pieces written at this time. Romantic style (from 'About Music') - expansive singing melodies; wide ranging melodies, varied with chromatic inflections; rhythmic diversity and elasticity; tempo rubato; increasing chromaticism; expanded concepts of tonality; homophony, turning to increased polyphony in later years of era; genres included symphonic poems, art songs, solo piano works; expansion of forms and interest in continuous as well as miniature programmatic forms; mainly secular works for paying audiences (not sacred for church); wide ranging dynamics for expressive purposes; new instruments; increased virtuosity with more direction from composers in scores; expression concerned with individual emotion, mood, atmosphere; interest in the bizarre and macabre.

Notation:

Cantabile - in a singing style

Metronome marking around 138 crotchets per minute

p - piano - soft

3/4 - simple triple - three crotchet beats per bar

pedal marking - use the damper pedal

ties - hold the notes for the combined values

slurs - play legato (smoothly)

cresc. - crescendo - gradually getting louder

mf - mezzo forte - moderately loud

diminuendo - gradually getting softer

staccato - short and detached

f - forte - loud

piu cresc. - more crescendo - more gradually getting louder

staccato with slur - mezzo staccato - moderately detached

rit. - ritenuto - immediately hold back the speed

a tempo - return to original speed

pp - pianissimo - very soft

espressivo - play expressively