

Rondo, 3rd Movement from Sonatina in F Op 168 (Diabelli)

What does the title mean?

A sonatina is a little sonata (meaning 'piece for instrument') and has between 2 and 3 contrasting movements. The last movement tends to be lively and is often in rondo form. Rondo means 'round' and refers to a musical structure ABACADA where A is the theme that comes back around. In this sonatina, the form is compressed because it is a sonatina so is more like a shortened sonata form where the development is missing. Op. stands for opus which shows the catalogue number given by the composer.

Comment on the style of this piece:

This piece is a Classical work shown through the structure used (rondo), homophonic texture, simple diatonic key and modulations, broken chord accompaniment, contrasting themes, ornamentation (eg acciaccaturas), strong cadence points (eg the end), light articulation (eg the staccatissimo), melodic shape (eg use of scales and arpeggios).

Musical period:

Classical period

Musical structures:

Rondo form but in this work is more like a ternary/compressed sonata form because it is a sonatina.

First subject bars 1 to 8 - F major

Transition to F major bars 9 to 15

Second subject bars 16 to 24 - C major (dominant key)

Transition back to first subject bars 25 to 32

First subject bars 33 to 40 - F major

No transition

Second subject bars 40 to 48 - F major

Coda bars 49 to the end

Triads:

Tonic - F major e.g. bar 1 left hand

Sub-dominant - Bb major eg bar 2 left hand (2nd inversion)

Dominant - eg bar 12 left hand

Relative minor - D minor - no examples in this work

Notation:

Allegretto - moderately fast and lively

Time signature - compound duple - 2 dotted crotchet beats/bar

slur - play legato

staccatissimo - short sharp accent (though in this work from this period, probably means staccato)

acciaccatura - short note (ornament) before the main note - in this period usually played on the beat

accent (marcato) - stress the note by playing it loudly

p - piano - soft

crescendo - gradually getting louder

f - forte - loud

rall. - rallentando - gradually getting slower

fermata - pause - hold the note for longer than written

poco a poco - little by little

8va - ottava - play an octave higher than written

ff - fortissimo - very loud

mf - mezzo forte - moderately loud

